

widow and three children to deplore his loss, besides his aged mother, with all of whom the members of the Society will feel much sympathy. He was buried on Thursday, the 10th, at Mount Pleasant Cemetery, the funeral services being conducted by the Revs. George Cochran and S. J. Hunter.

A JEW BROUGHT TO CHRIST BY THE SCRIPTURES ALONE.

The following is an extract from the Journal of the Rev. R. Bruce, the Society's Agent in Persia :—

"Four marches, the last a double one, brought us 80 miles from Sultanabad to Hamadan. Nothing very remarkable occurred on the way. My time here for five days has been taken up with the converts from Judaism to Christianity, of whose trials, and persecutions, and steadfastness in the faith, I send you a separate report."

"Hamadan (Achmetha, or Yahbatan) is the head-quarters of the Jews of Persia. There are about 3,000. In the year 1875, Hezekiel Hyim, a son of one of the richest and most influential Jews there, was led by the *Word of God* alone to the conclusion that the Messiah ought to have come and been put to death while the second Temple was still standing. He soon found a brother in the faith in a Cohen, or descendant of Aaron, Dr. Aga Jan. Hyim is a young man of remarkable ability, deeply read in the Hebrew Scriptures, the Gemara, the Targums, &c. The two friends got a New Testament, and became firm believers in Jesus of Nazareth. They openly confessed their faith, and reasoned in the synagogues, and from house to house, from the Old Testament, that Jesus is the Christ. In the same quarter resides an old chief of the Jews, Dr. Elijahu, two of whose sons are also doctors of great repute among the Mahomedans. Though the eldest of his four sons was for some time a bitter enemy of the brethren, yet before long Dr. Elijahu, Dr. Moosha, and Dr. Rahamim (and now the two other sons also) were convinced by the arguments of Hyim. A shopkeeper named Reuben, and Solomon, Hyim's younger brother, also joined them. Hyim's father, who is a wealthy and bigoted Jew, offered him a present equal to £100 to a native of Persia, if he would keep his new faith secret, at the same time threatening to disinherit him if he continued to preach and speak of Jesus. He firmly declined the offer, and he and his brother were disinherited.

"For some time the Jews listened attentively to the arguments of Hyim and his friends, but after a little the Mollah issued a proclamation that anyone who associated or conversed with them should be put out of the synagogue. The rank of Drs. Elijahu and Aga Jan's families, who, with Hyim's families, are three heads of the Jews, did not save them from persecution. It would be impossible to relate here one-tenth of what they suffered. Dr. Rahamim was once beaten so severely in the street that his arm and ribs were broken, and his gold watch was taken from him and never recovered.

"In October, 1878, the Rev. J. Bassett spent a week in Hamadan, and baptized Hyim and Drs. Rahamim and Moosha. Dr. Aga Jan was absent at the time, and was baptized a week later by the native pastor of the Protestant Armenian Church. This is the only visit which has been paid to the Jews from the commencement of the movement (i.e., for more than five years) by any American or European missionary, though Teheran is only three days' journey off by post. Hamadan is more than 6,000 feet above the sea, and a good sanatorium. In 1878 Yair, a poor neighbour of Dr. Aga Jan, who used to treat him with abuse, was overcome by the doctor's mildness and kindness, and became one of the most earnest believers in Jesus. The Jews caught him in the synagogue and told him to abuse Jesus, and on his refusing beat him severely, and turned him out. The Mollahs then collected the whole popula-