

put forth an effort to acquire religious knowledge is overlooked in large measure, if not wholly ignored. Everything has to be done on the part of the teachers to attract the scholars to the school and to beguile them into the acquisition of Bible truth. Now, as was said before, this would be necessary in the case of children outside the pale of the Church, whose parents are supposed to care nothing for the souls of their offspring: but surely the aid of the parents ought to be invoked when this can be done to press upon their children the duty of preparing their Sunday school lessons. This we say, not because we would have teachers less anxious to make their classes attractive to their pupils; but because we see it must lead to serious consequences if everything must be made pleasant to the young, and the idea of duty be lost sight of. Now this principle marks a difference between our social condition and that of the people of the United States. For instance, we have heard the laugh raised against the well tried plan of imparting religious instruction to the young in our Church and country through the medium of the catechism, because it is unintelligible in some parts to the children; but all we have to answer is that when the new mode of teaching has given as good an account of itself as the old has, by the general consent of mankind, done in Scotland, then it will be time to sneer at the latter.

We acknowledge that those Sunday school teachers who are able to attend these convocations, receive very useful hints, and are greatly encouraged and stimulated by the spirit of enthusiasm often displayed at them. But the same good would be accomplished by smaller gatherings, say of those belonging to each denomination by itself. The last three conventions have been altogether too large, and hence they have been, as all large democratic bodies are, easily controlled by a clique. We may be perhaps thought illiberal in making this suggestion, as if wishing to fortify sectarianism, and break one of the few points of contact between evangelical Christians of all shades of opinion. If we were persuaded that those meeting in these assemblies came there deliberately to cultivate charity rather than to press their own views and procure influence for their sects, we would not offer such a suggestion. But it is quite evident that to some, their peculiarities are all in all, and they have offensively thrust them before the convention repeatedly. Better far not meet with people of other

creeds at all, than to meet them and be disgusted with them. Denominational conventions would accomplish all the good without the accompanying evil. This we know would not meet the views, however, of certain minor religious bodies which always contrive to be prominent in all mixed religious associations, and to obtain office from them if anything is to be made by it. Not having liberality of mind to merge themselves into the larger and more influential denominations altogether, the more ambitious of them seek compensation for the narrow sphere in which their own religious community keeps them, by exhibiting themselves occasionally upon the larger theatre of these religious assemblies.



MISSIONS to India are of comparatively recent growth and even yet their importance is scarcely realized. Two pamphlets now before us,* give us a lively idea of what has been done, and the inadequacy of the efforts yet put forth to rescue India from its bondage to idolatry. In company with Dr. Watson, Dr. Macleod proceeded to India to visit the Church of Scotland's Mission there. At the last General Assembly, Dr. Macleod delivered an eloquent address setting forth the results of that mission. The Foreign Missions Committee of the Church requested Dr. Macleod to correct and publish the speech, but as it was delivered extempore from brief notes, the speaker took advantage of a few weeks' rest, ordered by his medical advisers, to write out the address now before us, following the same line of thought and argument as the speech, but expressing more fully his views on India missions. As the pamphlet contains a hundred pages, it cannot be expected we can do more at present than touch upon a few of the points contained in it, but we shall endeavour to make room for copious extracts in future numbers.

The principal object of the mission was to obtain information, and in the short

* News of Female Missions in connection with the Church of Scotland. Edinburgh: Thomas Paton.

Address on India Missions by Norman Macleod, D.D. Edinburgh: William Blackwood & Sons.