

cieties. This announcement was made on the occasion of his laying the foundation of a new Free Church Female Normal School, to which a Government grant of of £1500 has been made, and our readers will see at a glance how immensely the new policy must enhance the importance of our various institutions.

The Allahabad Conference.

Dr. Murray Mitchell, writing to Dr. Duff, from Calcutta, says :

Even after it was agreed that the Pan-Indian Missionary Conference should be held, not a few were still a little afraid of the result. Would there not be acrimonious debate—a hopeless division of opinion, if not, perhaps, conflicting propositions, attended with a severance of hearts? But if many fears were entertained, many prayers were offered; and now we see, and all rejoicingly declare, that the prayers have been heard and the fears completely disappointed.

Nineteen Societies were represented, our own Church sending a fair proportion of delegates—twelve. There were eighty-eight foreign and twenty one native missionaries, besides nine laymen. They came from all parts of this great continent—almost from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin. A most interesting assemblage; and very striking was the great compound of the American Mission overhanging the bank of the Jumna (one of India's most celebrated rivers, which here joins the Ganges), the compound being filled with tents, in which the members of the Conference lived. You have seen the programme, and you have doubtless noted the number and important character of the topics discussed. On each topic one or more carefully prepared papers were read, and then a discussion ensued. Europeans, Americans and Asiatics all mingled freely in the debates, which were uniformly animated, and sometimes eloquent. I listened with admiration to many of the papers and speeches; they were full of information, full of thought, full of feeling. There was full, frank, manly utterance on all sides; conflicting views were, no doubt, expressed; but there was nothing of asperity in the language even when opinions diverged most widely. Perhaps the question on which there seemed the greatest diversity of opinion was that of higher education. Some in the Conference would have gone the length of saying that education, as an evangelistic agency, was of exceedingly little value; yet I was struck, after the discussion was over, by the remark of an accomplished American missionary, who had spoken against education, to the effect that, till now, he had had no conception of the weighty character of the

arguments on behalf of Christian schools as an evangelizing agency. The Conference has enabled Indian missionaries fully to realize the great fact that all the varied forms of missionary agency are mutually auxiliary. We feel more than ever that we are one great embattled host combating for one Lord and one faith.

There was much prayer at the Conference, and a deep sense of man's inability to do aught effectual without the grace of the Holy Spirit. This last topic was especially dwelt on both at the beginning and at the end of our Assembly.

And now the brethren who attended this first of general missionary councils ever held in India have returned to their various spheres of labour. So pleasant was our intercourse that we could have wished to stay on, saying with Peter, "It is good to be here;" but it was better—it was necessary—that we should part. But each missionary brother has left Allahabad with a rich store of happy memories: he has seen many brethren; he has heard them speak of their joys and sorrows, and in return has communicated to them his own; and now he will pray for many for whom he did not pray before, and will in return be prayed for. I cannot for a moment doubt that, with the holding of the Allahabad Conference, a new era of Indian Missions will commence.

Look at it!

Christ has commissioned His people to go in the world and make disciples of all nations. This command lies upon us,—upon all Christians. How do we carry it out? In Great Britain the people give £800,000 sterling for Foreign Missions, and they spend in tobacco £14,000,000 sterling, and in intoxicating drinks, £128,000,000. The disparity of what people give to extend the Kingdom of God and what they waste in hurtful luxuries is appalling. How would we in these Provinces stand the test? Do we give for Foreign Missions as much as we waste on tobacco? Many, we are glad to know, deny themselves the use of all hurtful luxuries for the sake of Christ and the Gospel; but many, alas, waste on appetites that enslave them more than they give to the Lord!

London Missionary Society.

On a recent evening, the Hon. A. Kinnaird, M. P., and Mrs. Kinnaird held a *conversazione* for the purpose of diffusing information in regard to the work of the London Missionary Society. The Rev. Mr. Fleming having opened the proceedings with prayer, Mr. Kinnaird said their object was to give a hearty welcome to