

suaed that it was final for this world. No one ever left home, friends and country more cheerfully for his MASTER'S sake; yet he felt that he was making a great, an overwhelming sacrifice, for his heart was sensitive and his feelings tender as a child's. But through the strength of his faith, hope and love he overcame :

When the good pilgrim's staff he took,
To follow Christ from shore to shore,
Gladly for Him he all forsook,
Pressed on, and only looked before ;
Though humbled nature mourned her loss,
The spirit gloried in the cross.

We must speak of his career as a Foreign Missionary in a future number.

CONFERENCE ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

At the close of the November meeting of the Free Church Commission a deeply interesting Conference on Foreign Missions was held in the Assembly Hall. "Difficulties of no common kind," said Dr. Tweedie, "have recently beset both the Missions abroad and the Committee at home," and the object of the Conference was to cope with those difficulties, to give a fresh impetus to the glorious work of spreading the Gospel, and to awaken a profounder interest in Missions throughout the whole body of the people. The attendance of ministers and elders was very large—somewhere about 400. Dr. Tweedie commenced the proceedings by giving an account of the present state of the Mission in INDIA. 9132 of the heathen youth of India are now under christian instruction in the Free Church Mission alone. 501 intelligent converts, trained in the schools, have been baptized. While the missionaries pay special attention to education, they at suitable seasons of the year make long preaching tours, proclaiming the Gospel in five or six of the different Indian languages. Other Churches are now adopting the *educational system* of the Free Church, deeming that it is the surest way of undermining the stupendous fabric of Hindu superstition. Vernacular preaching is the great aim of the Mission, but it reaches its object mainly by training native converts. The hindrance to the progress of the Mission has been lack of *men*. The old missionaries are dying at their post or returning home invalided. On the second day of the Conference Dr. Candlish read portions of a long letter from Dr. Duff, showing the absolute necessity for an efficient High School conducted on christian principles in Calcutta. He tells that thousands of educated Hindus are becoming rampant infidels, concluding that all religions are as false as they have found their own to be. Those trained in the Government Institutions are generally infidels; on the other hand, those trained in the Mission Schools are either christians or have a strong preference for true religion. He says:—

"Accustomed, as our young men were, to the examination of historic and other Christian evidences, they saw and could prove that the Vedas had not a shred of solid evidence to vindicate their divine authority. Accordingly, very few indeed from our institution, either directly or indirectly, joined the ranks of the great and numerous Vedantic party. At last, the real nature of these books and their contents—often as puerile and false as the popular Peranic fables—came to be better known, and it was felt that their high pretensions were untenable. Then they entered on a new career, and formed a new-fangled system of 'theism,' still