

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The report was tabled. The income of the Committee (including a balance in hand at the beginning of the year) has been £13,548, 11s. 10d. This is a decrease, as compared with last year's income, of £2738, 19s. 8d. It is to be observed, however, that this decrease is pretty nearly all in the department of legacies. The report spoke most favourably of the success and progress of the mission in CAMBODIA. The state of the mission in BENGAL, as reported by Dr. Duff and Dr. Mackay, is upon the whole satisfactory. The number of pupils attending the various institutions and schools connected with the mission in Bengal is 2654 males, and 537 females; in all, 3191. Of these schools, one of the most interesting is Dr. Duff's day-school for high caste girls, which was established nearly three years ago and continues to prosper beyond the expectation of the most sanguine. At MADRAS, the native church, under the pastoral care of the Rev P. Rajahgopal, contains ninety native members, and fifty four baptized children. The attendance of pupils at the institutions and schools in this Presidency is, males 1906; females, 795; total, 2701. The number of patients treated at the Dispensary during ten months was nearly 5500, and Mr. Pater-on's household visitations had been gladly received by many, and even by some Brahmin families. The average attendance at the Schools have been 481, out of a roll of 692. At PUNA the number of pupils in the various schools was about 1300 of whom 470 were females. There have been eight baptisms of adults during the year. At BOMBAY the native congregation have resolved to build a church. The attendance on the Institution schools has been 1035, of whom 400 are girls.

COLONIAL AND CONTINENTAL REPORT.

Dr. Bonar gave in the Report of the committee. It gave a most satisfactory view of the progress of the churches associated with the Free Church in CANADA, NOVA SCOTIA, NEW ZEALAND, &c. It contained a long account of the Union of the Churches in AUSTRALIA; and after quoting the formula of the new united body said:—"There can be no doubt that a Church formed upon the basis quoted, is a Church maintaining our principles, whatever position they may occupy as to other bodies. Though they no longer bear the name of Free Church, they still maintain her principles, and rejoice in her communion. There appeared to the committee, therefore every reason for continuing to maintain with them all friendly relations, and to assist them in their evangelistic labours by every means in our power." In treating of Continental operations, the Report gave an interesting sketch of the remarkable work now going on in many parts of the Continent.

Professor King of Nova Scotia described the preparations for union which were in progress in that part of the world. The basis of union would thoroughly maintain the principles of the Church.

Dr. McLeod, Cape Breton, described the great progress made by the Free Presbyterian Church in that colony, to which many Highland emigrants, driven from their fatherland, had gone.

Mr. King, of the Buxton settlement in Canada, Mr. Glass of New Bruns-

wick, Mr Sutherland of Gibraltar, Mr. Fisch of Paris, and Mr. Elijah Salesby also briefly addressed the Assembly.

A very long discussion took place in the Assembly as to receiving Mr. Millar of Melbourne as a representative of the Free Presbyterian Church—the dissentient body—in that colony. He claimed to be received in that capacity alone. It was decided by a large majority, that he should not be so received. He was afterwards heard in his private capacity, as a minister of the Free Church of Scotland.

CONVERSION OF THE JEWS.

Mr. Wood, of Elie, gave in the Report. The collection for the year had been £2896; the donations £256; and the legacies £870. In regard to AMSTERDAM, Mr. Schwarz's health had quite recovered from the shock of the attack made on him. The committee had to lament deeply the death of their venerated friend, Dr. Da Costa. In BRESLAU, Mr. Edward continued to labour as in previous years, and there was little new to report. In PESTH, Van Andel, our earnest and zealous missionary, is labouring with much success. In their last report the Committee furnished details concerning the school under his superintendence, which they do not now repeat. At present the school is attended by 230 Jewish children of Christian parents, making in all 320 children. At CONSTANTINOPLE, various matters had interfered with the mission. The Italian female school was prosperous. Mr. Meyer had many discouragements, and much bitter opposition at GALATZ, on the Danube, but was evidently making progress. The Report made the following reference to the present ecclesiastical struggle in Hungary, and the influence of the former mission in that country. This approximation between us and the Hungarian Churches is very much to be traced to the impulse given to evangelical religion, and to the interest awakened by the first establishment of our mission at PESTH, at the time when Drs. Duncan and Keith, and Messrs Smith and Wingate, resided there. It is even questionable whether the same amount of good would have been caused by a direct mission to the Christians of Hungary as has been indirectly wrought by our seeking the good of Israel among them. These Churches have lately been severely tried, not does the season of trial appear to have entirely passed away; and the committee have been greatly encouraged by observing from the scanty reports which have reached them, that by the Grace of God they have been enabled to remain faithful to their Divine Head."

TRICENTENARY OF THE REFORMATION.

The Moderator first addressed the Assembly. He commenced by alluding to the valuable purposes which such a commemoration as that they were engaged in was fitted to serve. What was the true impelling power of the Reformation movement? Not, as Guizot puts it, the mere yearning of the human mind after intellectual freedom. All such theories give too much to man, and too little to God. Had no other forces risen in the beginning of the sixteenth century than those that belonged to the revival of letters, the darkness of the middle ages either would never have been dispelled, or would long since have returned. The human conscience, stirred and roused by the Word and Spirit of

God, was the true moving force. The movement had its source, not in science, but in Scripture; not in philosophy, but in the truth of God. Of the fact thus asserted, ample proofs were brought from the history of the Reformation in various countries. The following out of the great principle of the Reformers, man's right and duty to think for himself in matters pertaining to conscience, led to results of immense importance to civil liberty, to science, and civilization. It drew a striking picture of the state of Scotland previous to the Reformation,—the power, profligacy, and ignorance of the priesthood, and the crushing weight with which the church bore upon the whole community. He adverted to the causes which gave its specific character and distinctive aspect to the Scottish Reformation. Those causes were three; first, the fact that it arose among the middle and lower classes of the people; secondly, the connexion of Knox with Calvin and the Church of Geneva; thirdly, the peculiar situation of the Scottish Government at the time. Glancing at the remarkable history which Providence has assigned to the Church of Scotland, he argued that it had had been given to her to demonstrate the right relation between the civil and the spiritual power.

Professor Gibson of Belfast gave a sketch of the origin and history of the Irish Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Murray from the United States, the well-known author of *Kirwan's Letters*, drew a graphic picture of what Europe owes to the Reformation. He enforced with great emphasis the necessity of upholding every one of the doctrines of the Reformation. He referred to the descent of the Spirit on America, Ireland, and Britain; the opening up of China, India, and the Continent to the gospel, and the crumbling of Popery. Was not the concurrence of these things a call from God to them, at this tricentenary of the Reformation, to arise and give the doctrines of the Reformation to the whole world? Let them seek a baptism with the Holy Ghost,—such a baptism as was given to Apostles and Reformers.

Principal Cunningham said that he had agreed to address the Assembly on the Theology of the Reformation. The doctrines of the Reformation were just Calvinism and Presbyterianism—the Calvinism and Presbyterianism of God's own Word. He gave a rapid sketch of the work which Calvin accomplished. He traced the connexion of Calvinism in doctrine, and Presbyterianism in church government, and pointed to Holland, to the Puritans, to Scotland, to America for the result of these systems on both men and nations. He argued the importance and necessity of maintaining their Calvinistic and Presbyterian principles.

Professor Lorimer, of London, illustrated the nature of the connexion which existed between the Scottish Reformation and the Reformation in England. He said he had discovered evidence that what Wishart recanted was not any part of Protestant truth, but some serious errors into which he had fallen when his opinions were only forming.

Dr. Hetherington addressed the Assembly on the attainments of the Scottish Reformation.

Dr Begg said that the struggle with Rome must not be looked upon as a thing merely of the past. They had that struggle