

choked utterance of their great bereavement, and then again with subdued feelings of exultation, as he led them to contemplate the state of holy joy and rest into which their beloved friend and pastor had gone. At the conclusion of the sermon, the 5th hymn, commencing "The hour of my departure's come," was sung, and the solemn services concluded by the choir singing the anthem, "Weep, Christians, weep," and the pronouncing of the benediction, when with sad and solemn feelings the large congregation departed.

Articles Contributed.

Why so few Missionaries for India?

We have lately heard of a new missionary for Sealkote; but the remarks which such an offer and acceptance of service call forth from the Church, only tend to show, in more appalling nakedness, the utter want of workers for the Indian field. It is evidently all that the Church of Scotland can do to keep her ground in India; and we would not be surprised to hear on any day that instead of extending her sphere of operations, she has been obliged, from want of men or money, or of both, to contract it by abandoning one or more of her present stations. If we rightly remember the drift of a personal conversation with the late lamented Dr. Macleod, the committee had serious thoughts, a few years ago, of taking such a retrograde step as we have referred to. It was only fear of the bad effects that such an open avowal of failure might have on the future work and prospects of the mission, and the talk perhaps which it might occasion in rival denominations, that prevented them from taking it, and we do not see that there are now any greater prospects of success than then.

Now why is there such a want of laborers for the Indian field? There may be also a scarcity of men for the Colonies and other away-from-home situations; but you will get twenty for the Colonies when you may not be able to get one for India. And why is that? Is it because India is so far away—so

very far from home? It may be partly that, for there is a genuine home-feeling and love of country in most of us; but you will get as many as you like to go to India to lucrative situations, and the chaplaincies are always eagerly desired and sought for. Is it, then, because the salary is so small and the work so hard? That may keep some from offering themselves, for the mercenary spirit of the age has not left the preachers quite untouched. There is a rush and unseemly striving generally for places with plenty of pay and little to do, and with sorrow do we often hear our ministers talk as if money was the only thing worth living for. But we get men to come to Canada where the work is just as hard, and salaries on an average are relatively as small, if not smaller. Is it the climate, then, that frightens preachers from offering themselves for India? Not climate entirely, surely; for, as we have already said, the chaplaincies do not need to be vacant long. No: not any one of these can be assigned as a sufficient reason for the scarcity of missionaries for India; but put them all together, and you get something like a reason. Hard work away from home for small pay, with the chance of losing one's health in a year or so, it may be—the prospect is bleak enough; and it is not for you or me, my readers, to affect to despise it till we have proved our courage sufficiently by facing it ourselves.

It may be also that there is something in the nature of the work itself which is uninviting, and which, apart altogether from pecuniary and other considerations, puts the missionary on quite a different footing from chaplains, merchant clerks, bankers, and the like, as well as from those who come as missionaries to our shores. When a chaplain goes to India, he goes to minister to a christianized community—goes to preach to his fellow-countrymen who are prepared to receive him as their teacher in spiritual things; and he has not to struggle with the same forces of discouragement and opposition as the missionary so-called. And so with clerks and those in the civil service. They are likely to be welcomed as fellow-workers by all, both British and Hindoo, and the religious state and opinions of the natives are as nothing to them in the way of busi-