

The journals of our Missionaries on almost every page contain urgent solicitations for the prayers of God's people—in their behalf. Shall we in vain present their requests? Oh that there were multitudes who, unable themselves to go out into the Missionary field, would "give themselves unto prayer," and "cry day and night" unto God, that He would cause the day-spring from on high to visit our benighted population, who are now sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death and guide their feet into the way of peace!

The following extract of an interesting letter from the Rev. Dr. Duff, in the August number of the *Home and Foreign Missionary Record* of the Free Church of Scotland, and the Editor's remarks are so appropriate to the subject, that we cannot refrain from inserting them. After referring to the successful efforts to obtain a suitable building, etc., Dr. Duff says:—

"But what we pant and long and pray for is the outpouring of Divine grace. We feel we can do everything but—*convert*. We can communicate Divine knowledge, silence objections, remove prejudices, produce the clearest *intellectual* conviction of the truth of Christianity;—but, we cannot *convert* a single heart to God. We can come up so sharply to the very edge of conversion, that it seems as if we were not separated from it by a hair's breadth. And yet, after reaching and touching, as it were, its very border, that apparently infinitesimal line we cannot cross. There we stand still—gazing on helpless—impotent, and consciously incapable of further progress. And standing there, with such consciousness, it is with us not a cold deduction of reason, however valid, or a bare inference from Scripture, however sound, but a *positive sensation*, that nought but omnipotent grace can cross the line, and savingly convert a soul to God. Oh! then, let the Church's prayer be offered up unceasingly for the vivid and copious manifestation of Jehovah's grace in the midst of us."

The Editor of the *Record* thus responds:—

"The great duty in reference to the present aspect of this world, is that of wrestling at the throne of grace for the outpouring of the Spirit. Everywhere we perceive error struggling for the ascendancy, presenting its unblushing front in every way, and in every land, and threatening to overbear and overwhelm alike the truth and its adherents. Witnessing for the truth, and contending for the truth, is not *all* the duty devolving upon the people of God. Prayer unceasing and persevering is the means appointed by the Lord for drawing down the promised blessing. But how little is there of *special* supplication on the part of God's people? How far are they generally from realizing the character of the times on which we are cast,—and from taking hold in strength of faith upon the assurances of the living and changeless Word, that days of gospel triumph and enlargement shall succeed the days of darkness, during whose continuance the Church is languishing. Let the "hands which hang down" be lifted up; let the Lord be "inquired" after by them that dwell in his house—and, then, as the earnest of better and greater things to come, a fuller evidence of usefulness shall be given to those who now bear the burden and heat of the day—and they shall be strengthened more patiently and more courageously to prosecute those labors which we know assuredly must issue in the subjection of all to the Messiah's sway."

CONCLUSION.

This sketch of the Society's history has been made, not only to show what has been done through its instrumentality, but, while giving the whole praise and glory to God, to render honor to those laborers—whatever their position—who have well used their talents in the Master's work. The re-perusal of the forty-