

expected. Now this improvement has not been effected merely on individuals, for the children who first came under the discipline of the school have long since grown up and gone out into the world. It is, therefore, the improvement of an entire class within the parish." From Mr. Butler's, the head-teacher's report, we notice that the number of children on the roll is 235, 90 of whom belong to the infant department; and that out of the 235 scholars 185 receive food.

We invite the attention of our readers to the following report. It is in the Orphanage of this Association that our schools are supporting Hindoo girls.

SCOTTISH LADIES' ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF FEMALE EDUCATION IN INDIA.

The annual meeting of this Association was held in Queen Street Hall, Edinburgh, on the 2d June, the Right Hon. Lord Belhaven and Stenton in the chair. His Lordship was accompanied to the platform by Rev. Dr. Robertson, Moderator of the General Assembly; Colonel McDonald, Powderhall; Principal Tulloch, St. Andrews; Rev. Dr. Gillan, Glasgow; Rev. Thos. Gordon, of New-battle; Rev. John Cunningham, of Crieff; Rev. J. Elder Cunningham, of Perth; Rev. William Lockhart, of Queensferry; Rev. Patrick Beaton, of Mauritius; Revs. Dr. Balfour, Paul and Hunter; Rev. Mr. Miller (Castle); Rev. Mr. Horne, Mr. Tweedie Stodart, W.S., and Mr. Cochrane of Balfour.

After a hymn had been sung, and prayer offered up by the Rev. Dr. Robertson (in room of Dr. Craik, convener, who was necessarily absent), Lord Belhaven called upon the Secretary to read the report.

The report stated that in Calcutta the day-schools had maintained their average attendance of children throughout the past year—the number usually in attendance was 125. The "Mixed School" was given up in August last, in consequence of another school, "The Calcutta Girls' School," having been opened in the immediate neighbourhood of the place where the "Mixed School" used to be held, and for the very class intended to derive benefit from that school. From an epidemic and other causes the number of children in the Orphanage was less than for some years past; and, in consequence, they have been unable to supply the increasing demand, from Sabbath-Schools and private individuals, for these children as the objects of their charity. The number of girls in the Orphanage on 7th March, 1857, was forty-five.

In Madras the attendance had increased during the past year, the majority of those attending being *caste* girls. On 30th December, 1856, the numbers on the roll were reported to be 414.

In Bombay and Ceylon there has been a diminution in the numbers attending the schools. The income of the Association for the year 1856-7 amounts to £1683, 17s. 1½; the expenditure to £1382, 13s. 9d.—leaving an excess of income of £301, 3s. 4½d. The committee acknowledge the receipt of a legacy of £30 from the late Miss Margaret M'Ewen, Manse, Kirk-michael, Ayrshire. The committee urged the claims of this Association upon the ministers of the Church of Scotland. Many parishes were contributing through their Sabbath-schools, or the juvenile members of their churches, by supporting an orphan at one of the Orphanages of the Association; but a great many of the parishes in Scotland were still non-contributing. The report concluded by stating that the supporters of the Association in Canada maintained twenty-two children at Calcutta, Madras and Bombay, and were making collections for

sending out a library to the children at the Orphanage, Calcutta.

The Rev. Mr. Gordon proposed the first resolution:—"That the report of the committee, now read, be adopted as the Nineteenth Annual Report of the Association: That it be printed with an abstract of the accounts, and a list of contributors: That the office-bearers, per list now submitted, be approved of as the office-bearers of the Association for the ensuing year: And that the thanks of this meeting are due to the various auxiliary associations throughout the country; to the clergy of the Church; and to the ladies' committees, corresponding boards, and others, in Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, Ceylon, Canada, and Liverpool, for the support which has been extended to the Association during the past year." He did not think it necessary, he said, to enter at any length into the report. There was enough in it to incite them to thank God and take courage, and to stir them up to renewed labour in that great and good work in which they were engaged. It was indeed a great work, and great was the responsibility which their relations with India had entailed upon them. They had met to commemorate the centenary of British power in the East. A century ago the only settlers were few and weak; a century ago there was perpetrated the great crime which had made the Black Hole of Calcutta memorable because of its atrocity, and the stern retribution that had followed. Since that 23rd of June, 1757, how unbroken had been the career of British conquest. Kingdom had been absorbed after kingdom. It was well known that the successes of the wisest statesmen and greatest generals that the world had ever seen had consolidated our empire in India. The military skill of Wellington, the statesmanship of Hastings and others, and in our own day, the indomitable bravery of Hardinge and Napier, and the talents and courage of that noble lord who had just returned after an administration which had placed him on the topmost level of British statesmanship, had extended the name of Britain over lands where, before the battle of Plassey, the name of Britain had been unknown. Look then, he then continued, at this marvellous career. Did not the question at once occur to them, Why had God assigned to Britain such power? Why had he given to Britain the gorgeous East in fee? Had it been merely to satiate ambition that the echoes of our victorious cannon had been heard from Burmah to the snowy summits of Himalaya! No! God had assigned to us a great work. Dare they say that they had enriched themselves with heathen gold, and that they would do nothing to heathen souls? Woe betide them if they neglect their duty! He did not say that they had not already done something for the welfare of India now, the course of civilization would be wofully stopped. Something had certainly been done for the material and spiritual well-being of India; much had been done towards making life and property more secure, so that with words of an Indian metaphor, the traveller might go through the length and breadth of the country with "his gold on the palm of his hand." The girl-widow no longer mounted the smoking pile. The Gospel had been preached to multitudes; missionary schools had been established, in which Christianity was openly and effectually taught. Many new converts had been made, some of whom were preaching to their fellow Indians; while, the existence of an Association like this, which declared that woman should no longer occupy that position which she had hitherto done, gave strong proof that the mighty citadel had been shaken. Still the work in which they were engaged was only a preparatory work. There was very much land to be possessed, and this should lead to renewed prayer and exertions. Would it not be a right

acknowledgment to God were they to inaugurate that glorious conquest to His glory? a warfare not undertaken to add new territory to Britain, but to discharge the debt they owed to India, and of which the trophy would be a sixth part of the human race brought under the power of the Gospel. What a glorious work, were infidel fastnesses cast down, and Hindostan made one of the Kingdoms of the Lord and His Christ! Were they but to bring to that great work the energy, determination, self-sacrifice and devotion which the men of valour who had subjected that country to British rule had brought to their work, what a glorious result might they not expect! But affection as well as duty should lead them to engage in it. Moreover, the conference of missionaries held at Calcutta had declared that, unless the education of females kept pace with that of males, Christianity could take no lasting hold there. Let them remember that India had in no respect been changed more than in the condition of women. The report did not speak of marked success, but the times and seasons were with God. One sowing and another reapeth. Others had laboured in India, Buchanan and Schwartz perilling their lives in the field; while others had entered into their labour, and so might it be with them. The rev. gentleman sat down amid loud applause.

The Rev. Wm. Lockhart of Queensferry, seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

The Rev. John Cunningham, of Crieff, proposed the next resolution:—"That this meeting acknowledge their unfeigned gratitude to Almighty God for the success which has attended the efforts of the Association, both at home and abroad, during the past year; and resolve, under Divine assistance, steadily to prosecute a work in which it is alike their imperative duty and their high privilege to labour." He said—Efforts at home and abroad must go hand in hand if that Association was to prosper. They must collect money in Scotland to have missions in India. Some men seemed to regard their efforts there as in a great measure failures. But they had forgotten what India is; they had forgotten its wide-spread territory, and its superstition. They had forgotten that 1000 years came and went before Europe was Christianised. Religion was not easily plucked up. He would just have them to call to mind that human sacrifices in India were now almost disallowed; that Sutteeism was disallowed; and that within a very recent period self-immolation had been punishable by law. These results had sprung from the East India Company; but it was missionaries who had prepared the minds of the people for them. Their Association had two kinds of schools—day-schools and orphanages. The greater number of the orphans had been children got from the magistrates, and every child grew up a Christian. Evangelisation must go on; effete and impure superstitions never could withstand the power of the religion of Jesus. It remained for them to determine whether they would take share in that work, or sit idly by. Let them not imagine that God had given victory to Britain merely that she might trample on her fallen foe; it was rather that the Gospel might be preached. Let them feel their responsibility and discharge it—making Christ's empire equal with their own. (Applause.)

The Chairman having left the meeting, the chair was filled by Colonel Macdonald.

Dr. Gillan seconded the resolution.

The Rev. Patrick Beaton, of Mauritius, in a brief address, pointed out the importance of Mauritius in any schemes for the successful evangelisation of India and expressed a hope that it might be to that country what Icolmkill had been to Scotland.

The motion was then put, and carried unanimously.