

McLeod stated these facts to the students, and after considerable deliberation, it was decided that they should support this mission. Negotiations were commenced with the Missionary Societies of the other universities, and they agreed to co-operate in maintaining it. The matter was then brought before the General Assembly, and received their approval. Two missionaries have since been engaged by the Foreign Missionary Committee, and are to leave for India in October or November. Active operations for raising the necessary funds have also been commenced by the students. The aborigines of India are said to number not less than *thirty millions of souls*. When the Hindus crossed the Indus, the aborigines of India were expelled from Hindustan, where, it is said, they only left a few barbarous hordes in the hilly tracts of the eastern side. They embrace several races, which differ from each other in language, customs, and religion. The missionaries, I understand, are to be sent to those inhabiting the hill country in Northern India. Large tracts of territory there are inhabited solely by the aborigines. Among the mountains and forests they still maintain a kind of independence. They are governed by their own chiefs, and having very little intercourse with the other races of India, they retain their "primitive habits, physiognomy, and religion, unmixed by connexion with the Hindus." Of course, there is occasionally to be found some tincture of the Hindu religion, acquired, undoubtedly, from Brahmans who have been among them. Among other things in which they differ from the Hindus, we may mention their entire disregard of caste—their patriarchal institutions—their marriage with widows—the bloody sacrifices which accompany their religious rites—their eating of all kinds of flesh without distinction. These things are utterly abhorrent to the Hindus. Travellers also tell us that "the aborigine is not more distinguished in his other habits than he is in his moral virtues from the Hindus. The man of the ancient race scorns an untruth, and seldom denies the commission even of a crime that he may have perpetrated, though it lead to death. He is true to his promise, hospitable and faithful to his guest, devoted to his superiors, and is always ready to sacrifice his own life in the service of his chief." The movement to establish a mission among the aborigines of India owes its origin to Dr. McLeod. The noble addresses which he gave on his return from India has put considerable life into the church, and awakened the people to a sense of their responsibility with reference to India. We are certainly not saying too much when we say that no other man in the church could have done the work which he has done for India. Till lately, the church was gradually losing confidence in her Indian missions. There was a feeling that the most suitable men had not been sent out—that only those had been sent out who would not have succeeded in the church at home, and had to go abroad somewhere. This cannot be said now. It has been shown by Dr. McLeod, that, though progress has been slow, it has been as rapid as any reasonable person could expect. There are great obstacles which hinder rapid progress in the outset. When these are overcome, progress will be more marked. Besides, many of those who are going out *now* as missionaries are men of distinguished scholarship—men who have held good positions, and have resigned them at great personal sacrifice to go to India. The church in Nova Scotia must have felt greatly the loss of Mr. Grant. The university of Fredericton in New Brunswick, will also feel the loss of Prof. Jardine, who, I understand, has offered his services to the Foreign Mission Committee. They should, however, rejoice in the fact that these men are devoting themselves to a great work, and from their great talents and distinguished scholarship—their zeal and earnestness, will be the instruments of doing much good in their new sphere. All is due to Dr. McLeod. When he speaks to any one on India, he seems to inspire them immediately with the desire to do something for India. We trust and sincerely pray that he may be long spared in health and strength to discharge the work of convener for the Foreign Mission Committee.