

MISSIONS OF THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

A COMMUNION SABBATH AT PORT MARIA.—The Rev. John Simpson, of Port Maria, gives the following interesting account of a communion Sabbath:—The Lord's Supper was dispensed in the congregation on the last Sabbath of April. We had a large attendance, the weather being fine, and there being no service at the parish church. Every pew was filled, and some did not get seats.

All classes and colours were represented. We had, at least, a few whites of the planter class,—one the head of a fine family, with several of them present. The mercantile portion of the town was well represented by the presence of a number of the clerks. A goodly number of coloured and black tradesmen were present from town and country. The marine portion of the community was also represented. Three vessels were in the harbour—one a Danish vessel, another British, and one from Nova Scotia; and a pew was occupied with the captains and sailors from these vessels. The subject of discourse was, 'The gospel of God,' from Rom. i. 1. The import of the name gospel was dwelt upon, and its appropriateness—its comprehensiveness, as embracing all the great facts in relation to Christ, its subject, being the gospel 'concerning his Son,' and the system of Christian doctrine and duty founded on these facts, as well as the promises, invitations, and warnings addressed to us in connection with this manifestation of the character and doings of God towards man in his fallen state.

Our Summary of Principles is being distributed among the members and adherents at this time, and the discourse had a reference to this. Last Sabbath, in the afternoon, I directed the attention of the congregation to the Summary itself in its different heads and sections.

The discourse was listened to by the large congregation, apparently with devout attention; and would that it might be the power of God and the wisdom of God to some, to a goodly number, if not to all.

One hundred and fifty joined in the communion in the afternoon. Two were from the Baptists and Wesleyans, the rest being our own people. This communion contrasted greatly with what it has been for the three or four last occasions of observing the Supper. The weather had been most unfavourable, and caused a very small attendance both of the general congregation and of communicants. Our attendance and our collection were both larger on this occasion than for a long time past.

Fourteen new members were received from the catechumen class. They are all young persons; they can all read, and belong, nearly all of them, if not all, to families where the Scriptures are read daily. They have been long in attendance on the class, and have generally given much satisfaction. But they are greatly exposed to temptation. May they be helped by the prayers of those who are God's remembrancers.

My own health, through the divine mercy, keeps good. I have weekly meetings at Port Maria and Galina, and others from time to time in the country.

OLD CALABAR.—ORDINATION OF MISSIONARY.—The Rev. Wm. Timson, who taught the school of Creek Town, Old Calabar, for several years, and studied under the care of the Presbytery of Biafra, and especially of the Rev. A. Robb, and was licensed in Jan. 1862, was, by authority of Synod, then on trial for ordination, and, on 21st July, was ordained by the Presbytery of Edinburgh as a missionary for Old Calabar. The Rev. A. Gardiner, of Dean Street Church, the Rev. W. Croom, and the Rev. Dr. Somerville took part in the ordination services.

INDIA.—The Rev. Mr. Shoolbred, from India, expresses his joy at hearing that three missionaries are to be sent out. He expects that they shall be able to occupy two new stations. Mr. S. gives an interesting account of a visit to the Thakoor of Reypoor. On the occasion of this visit he had an opportunity of preaching the gospel in a heathen temple.