

MISSIONS OF THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

MISSION IN CAFFRARIA.—DR. DUFF'S TESTIMONY TO ITS EFFICIENCY AND SUCCESS.

We have pleasure in transferring to our pages the following testimony borne by Dr. Duff to the efficiency and success of the mission of the United Presbyterian Church in Caffraria.

'MY DEAR SIR,—Having, in the course of my recent journeying through South Africa, purposely turned aside to visit the Caffrarian Mission of the United Presbyterian Church, I deem it at once a duty and a privilege to bear emphatic testimony in its favour.

'The difficulties and obstacles in the way of successfully conducting such a mission are of a totally different kind from those which we have to encounter in India. Nevertheless they are, in the aggregate, of a very formidable description; and the men who have to face them have very special claims on the sympathies and prayers of God's people.

'For the last thirty-five years I have regarded it as merely a truism, that, while the gospel must be *introduced* into a heathen land by *foreign* agents, it is by *native* agents that it must be *propagated* so as to *reach and pervade the masses of the people*. In order to insure a race of *qualified native* agents, common sense and experience dictate that substantially the same means must be employed which are found necessary in raising up teachers, preachers, and ordained ministers in Christian lands. Now it so happens, in the good providence of God, that to the United Presbyterian Church belongs the honour of having in its service *the first native Kaffir* who has ever been *ordained* to the ministry of the gospel, in the person of the Rev. Tiyo Soga. It was, therefore, with me a matter of immense desire to visit the station of this native minister, and confer with him face to face. And this desire was, if possible still further intensified by the consideration that, in the training of this truly excellent man, the United Presbyterian Church and the Free Church—as if in anticipation of a future blessed union—had actually contributed each its due share. The early education which fitted him for receiving the higher theological training in Scotland, was obtained in the Lovedale Seminary of the Free Church in British Caffraria.

'Mr. Chalmers, another missionary of the United Presbyterian Church, and the son of a former missionary, whose acquaintance I had the privilege of making at Lovedale, very kindly came to King William's Town, the capital of British Caffraria, to conduct me to Umgwali, Tiyo Soga's station, distant a good day's journey to the N. E. of the capital.

'Never can I forget the joy which thrilled through my soul on first meeting with the first native Kaffir ordained minister of the everlasting gospel, in his own comfortable manse, close to a spacious and well fitted-up church, and surrounded by Kaffir kraals, partly Christian and partly heathen. It was, altogether, a spectacle which I felt it was worth while travelling all the way from Cape Town to witness.

'And the pleasure was enhanced when, on the following day, I found a goodly number of the native Christians, male and female, assembled in the church, in decent attire, and manifesting all the decorum and propriety of an audience in the long christianised British Isles. On the same occasion were assembled the boys of two schools, and the pupils of the Central Girls' School. All these were examined in the subjects of their respective studies, and showed that the foundations of a good elementary education were laid. It is to be hoped that means will be found for raising the more capable or select few to a higher standard.

'After this examination, I was asked to address the adult audience, which I did at some length, through Mr. Brownlee, the magistrate, who acted as interpreter. And here, in passing, I cannot help remarking that in this gentleman the mission has one of its ablest and most powerful supporters. His devoted