

itants of uncivilized regions would use it as a handle for the most flagrant violation of justice and morality!" Mr. Hamilton closed his curious speech by saying: "On the whole, while we pray for the propagation of the gospel, and patiently await its period, let us resolutely unite in rejecting these overtures."

The instant he sat down, the venerable Dr. Erskine rose, and pointing to the table on which lay the Bible and Confession of Faith, uttered in his broad Doric Scotch, that brief but ever memorable sentence, "Moderator, rax (reach) me that Bible." It was the text of a speech which Mr. Hamilton never forgot to his dying day. He was one of those bland, courtly gentlemen of the old school, who deemed it a solecism in politeness to lose temper in company. But the story goes that if any one wished to see Mr. Hamilton blush and get silent in his gayest moods in society, he had only to whisper in his ear those four little words—Rax me that Bible.

Dr. Erskine was followed by the now famous ALEXANDER CARLISLE, of Inveresk who was the ideal of the polite, courtly, elegant, clever and witty Moderate Scottish Clergyman. His speech was so short that we can quote it entire:—

"Moderator, my reverend brother (Dr. E.,) whose universal charity is so well known to me, has just been giving a new and extraordinary instance of it—no less than proposing as a model for our imitation the zeal for propagating the Christian religion displayed by Roman Catholics! When we see the tide of infidelity and licentiousness so great and so constantly increasing in our own land, it would be indeed highly preposterous to carry our zeal to another and a far distant one. When our religion requires the most unremitted and strenuous defence against internal invasion, it would be highly absurd to think of making distant converts by external missionaries. This is indeed beginning where we should end. I have on various occasions, during a period of almost half a century, had the honor of being a member of the General Assembly, yet this is the first time I remember to have ever heard such a proposal made, and I cannot help thinking it the worst time. As clergymen let us pray that Christ's kingdom may come, as we are assured it shall come in the course of Providence. Let us as clergymen also instruct our people in their duty; and both as clergymen and Christians, let our light so shine before men, that seeing our good works they may be led to glorify our Father in heaven. This is the true mode of propagating the gospel; this is far preferable to giving countenance to a plan which has been well styled visionary. I, therefore, do heartily second the motion made some time ago by my young friend, Mr. Hamilton—That the overtures be immediately dismissed." Of course the overtures were dismissed by a decisive majority.

This was the estimation in which missions to the heathen were held in the Scottish Assembly sixty years ago. What a beneficent change! Even the Church of Scotland as now by law established does not discountenance missions to the heathen; and the several Presbyterian Churches of Scotland are now supporting several scores of missionaries in foreign lands. In 1798 we are not aware that any Presbyterian Church had a mission to the heathen; in 1861 our missionaries may be counted by the hundred. There is a Presbytery in Egypt, and no fewer than three in other parts of Africa. There is a Presbyterian Synod in Northern India, Presbyteries in China and Siam, and one is ready to be formed in the New Hebrides—all the result of Foreign Missionary effort. These things are so, and none of the predicted evils have followed. The home field is better cared for than when no eye looked abroad; the doctrine of salvation by faith has produced the same results in the case of the Hindoo or the Polynesian as in the experience of Saul of Tarsus, and "philosophy and learning" have followed after, not preceded, the knowledge of a crucified Redeemer.

While every intelligent Christian must rejoice at beholding the beneficent change to which we have called attention, we must not flatter ourselves that