

pressible hardships; still there are additions year by year to the communion roll. The Blue Mountain and Barney's River congregation are making the most creditable progress. Many of the people show evidences of the most earnest piety. There are found the "fathers" of the Church—men bowed down with fruit ready to be gathered into the garner of the Lord. The young also are exemplary. The New Glasgow congregation have lately volunteered to increase their minister's salary by one-half. They are as forward as any church within the bounds of the Synod, according to their ability. Additions are regularly made to the communion roll. Pictou—no one minister can do justice to that extensive congregation; services are regularly held at four stations. Sixty members have been added to the communion roll within the last three years. In some places deep concern is manifested for the interest of souls, and instances of true conversion are not wanting. The Pictou Missionary Association has raised the amount of £23 17s. The sum of £350 was raised for the college fund. Only £569 were raised last year for support of the ministry!

BROWN'S CREEK.—Mr. Munro related that in his charge true religion was progressing. The young are becoming more attentive and decorous. The attendance at all the Sabbath schools is increasing. At Wood Island, Mr. Donald Sutherland, one of the divinity students, labours this summer with much diligence and acceptance. The church at Wood Island was commenced by seven adherents; thirty have now taken share in it, and the attendance is about 300.

SYNOUS FUND.—The collections for this fund, as appeared from the convenor's report, amounted last year to £66 2s. 4d.; while the expenses of Synod amounted to £76 10s. 7d. The report was received, and a special committee was appointed on the subject to devise means to raise the income in the same proportion with the expenditure. That committee, at a subsequent diet, reported recommending that ministers bring the state of the matter very clearly before their people; that an early collection be made; and that one member of each presbytery be appointed to take charge of the collections and transmit them to the treasurer. The committee also shewed how present difficulties could be overcome. The Synod adopted the report also.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.—Report on Foreign Missions was next read by Rev. J. Stewart, convenor of committee. It commended Turkey as a field of operation; also that a missionary be employed whenever the fund in the committee's hands should amount to £300. The sum in the committee's hands at present is £135 7s. 9d. This was collected by the Associations in much less than one year. From 400 to 500 dollars per annum would sustain one missionary in Turkey.

HOME MISSION.—Professor King read the report of the Home Mission Committee. The amount received last year was £244 17s. 8d. Of this amount there were expended £128 14s. 4d. It is to be hoped that next year the amount will be still larger; but one cannot help seeing the noble advance already made through the instrumentality of the associations formed in course of last year by the agent. The prosperity and extension of the Church depend mainly on the success of the home mission fund.

COLLEGE.—Professor King read the report of College and Academy Board. The total amount now collected is £6756 17s. 2d. Of this there were collected last year £1165. £800 sterling are now invested in the Nova Scotia Railway; and 220 shares have been taken in the new bank. The college is £40 in debt for current expenses. The collection for that object is always inadequate. The academy is in a highly flourishing condition. Mr. Munro, the rector, deserves the highest praise for his diligence and success in managing the academy, and raising it to such a pitch of respectability and efficiency.

Rev. Murdoch Sutherland called attention to the sustentation of the ministry.

A committee was appointed with instructions to aim at raising ministers' salaries to a minimum of £150, with manse.

MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE—INDIA.

BOMBAY.—Recent letters convey the intelligence of the application of four Parsi youths for admission into the Christian Church. The application was made to Rev. Dr. Wilson and Rev. Adam White, in the following terms:—

BOMBAY, 13th June, 1856.

REVEREND SIRS,—We, the undersigned young men attending the Elphinstone Institution, take (the) liberty to express to you our sentiments relating (to) the Parsi religion and Christianity.

We are fully convinced by the grace of God, that Parsism is a false religion; and it consists of vague and extravagant principles. It is the invention of man, not the revelation of God. We have found out, after enquiring nearly two or three years after the true religion, that every comfort, joy, hope, success and every good thing in the world, as well as in the world to come, are (is) concentrated in the Lord Jesus. We have now the greatest pleasure to inform you that, as we are fully convinced of the truth of Christianity, we wish to be baptized, and to be admitted into the visible church of Christ. It gives us the greatest pleasure, by the grace of God, to say that we have resolved to come out in the light which enlightens the heart and comforts the soul. We are now in a position where salvation is at hand and also very near to us. We have now resolved to come in (to) a religion which is revealed to us by the only begotten Son of God. —Up to this time, dear sirs, we are so blind, that although we had eyes to see, we did not know the way of righteousness and truth. We are prepared by God's help to suffer the hardship and trials that await us for the sake of our Lord. Whatever sufferings we may have to undergo, —whatever the want of our daily food and clothing, or the separation from our dear relatives and friends, or shame and persecution, or any tribulation whatsoever,—we, trusting in God and having him on our right hand, shall, we do pray and hope, be able to follow the Lord fully. We are much moved by the sorrows and sufferings which shall befall our parents by this public step of ours; but what can we do? Salvation we must have. We leave them to God, and pray to him to support them in the midst of their afflictions, and open their eyes to know that what we have done is nothing but right. If we stay with our parents we are sure we shall not be able to walk according to our conscience.

We, therefore, humbly beg of you to give us shelter in your house and defend us from the hand of our relations. Nothing has led us to join the Christian church but the pure hope and desire of the salvation of our souls. We know and are sure that there is none other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved. —We remain, Reverend Dear Sirs, yours obediently,

BAIRAMJI KERSAJI,
DARASHIA KATTONJI,
BHICHAJI AKBASERJI,
NASSARWANJI BARJORJI.

In accordance with their request they were received at the Mission House. Having sent communications to their relatives, they were besieged by them, and urged in the very strongest way to return with them. The result is thus told by the correspondent of the *News of the Churches*.

• • • The relatives embraced, kissed, fell down at the feet of the young men, and wept bitterly over them, beseeching them to return,

and the young men responded with equal affection and with many tears. That day they stood firm, thanking God that they had withstood trials whose intensity they had not calculated upon. Next day came the female relatives, and then followed scenes which harrow every thought and feeling to describe. Native females have not much thought about them, but their feelings are only for this the more intense and unregulated, and in forms indescribable did their feelings manifest themselves. They stood this ordeal too, till they nearly fainted under the physical exhaustion of it. The third day parties were sent with a report that the mother of three and the father of the fourth were dying, and proposals were made to the young men that they should live in a house where they would be left to the exercise of their own convictions, and where they could be more easily visited by their female relatives. There was no sincerity in these proposals, and as to the dying state of the relatives it was only a manoeuvre, to say the least of it; for the sickness of the relatives only amounted to mental depression and anxiety in the absence of the young men. From seven o'clock in the morning till four o'clock were these young men worried by these people, all of them occupying a very respectable place in the Bombay community. One of the young men at last yielded, having been worked up to quite a frenzy of feeling about his mother, and wished to go home, on the promise being given him that he should be allowed to return after an hour. But every promise, assurance, and proposal, given were insincere and faithless. There was one object to be gained, and that was to get the young men away from the mission-house, and no means, however unscrupulous, were overlooked for that purpose. For afterwards every influence would be brought to bear upon them which would quench their religious wishes and fears, at least till the grace of God, if their hearts had indeed been touched, would assert its sovereignty.

On the fifth day two others yielded to a similar course of statement. The fourth, Bairamji,—the oldest and most advanced of them, with a wife and child too,—keeps to his original choice, and hopes to be able to confess Christ. He has had much to undergo, and there is yet more in store for him, for he is not abandoned, but plied with an energy and perseverance worthy of a better cause.

Let us hope and pray that those who have for a time turned back, may yet be saved from final apostasy.

APPEAL IN BEHALF OF INDIA.

An appeal has been drawn up by the General Conference of Bengal Protestant Missionaries, addressed to the Committees and Boards of Management of the various Missionary Societies in Europe and America. We insert some extracts from this deeply interesting appeal, as it appears in the *News of the Churches*. After referring to what has been done for India, the Missionaries proceed:—

It is not that we find fault with efforts in the past, or with the results which they have produced. It is not that we are dissatisfied with what is being done, or with the modes in which missions are carried on. But we turn to the other side. We contemplate with profound awe the vast, the indescribable amount of labour yet to be accomplished. We know that the Lord has blessed us. We look on our converts, and on other fruits of missions with pleasure. But the more we know India, the more we are overwhelmed by the consideration, that millions upon millions never hear the gospel, and that millions upon millions die unconverted.

Can you wonder, then, that we ask larger