

## Our Mission.

ISSUED ON THE FIRST AND THIRD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH.

Subscription Rates, per year, (post paid).

Single Copy, 50 cts.; Six Copies, \$2.50; Ten Copies, \$3.50; Twenty-five Copies, \$7.50; Fifty Copies, \$12.50; One Hundred Copies, \$25.00.

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Original or selected articles intended for insertion in the paper, should be addressed to ALF SANDHAM, Editor, at same place.

but they had not abated the strength of intellect or spiritual power, for he spake in 1876, as in 1845, with fiery eloquence and wondrous results.

Dr. Somerville was born in 1813, and was educated at the High School and University of his native city of Edinburgh, where he made the most of his time and opportunities. In his student days the evangelistic fire burned within him, and he burst the bonds of academic restraint, and laboured with the sainted McCheyne in the highways of his native city. He was ordained to his first full charge of Anderston Church, Glasgow, in November, 1837. As might be expected, he threw himself with whole hearted consecration into the duties of his pastorate, and his pulpit soon became a centre of inspiration and blessing. In the trying times attendant upon the disruption in 1843, he took a prominent part, and when the culmination was reached, he was one of the 474 ministers who gave up everything for conscience sake. His teaching and example so influenced his people that, when the day of trial came, they stood faithful almost to a man. The whole of the office-bearers, all the Sabbath-school teachers, and nearly the entire congregation followed him in joining the Free Church. The exodus was solemn and striking. The minister lifted the Bible, which had been given to him personally, from the pulpit desk, put it under his arm, and marched out.

A new church was built without delay. It soon got too small to hold the crowds that flocked to hear the earnest and eloquent preacher, so the large and handsome building, now known as Anderston Free Church, was erected. It was the scene of Mr. Somerville's labours during all the after years of his pastoral life.

The revival of the year 1874 drew the Christians of Glasgow together, and filled them with an earnest desire to do good. They banded themselves under the name of the United Evangelistic Association, and resolved to give other lands the benefit of the blessing they themselves had experienced. They were led to ponder more deeply the command of the risen Redeemer: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature." They could not go themselves, as duty called them to stay, but they could send a substitute. Whom could they send? Their thoughts turned to Mr. Somerville. They unanimously invited him to resign his pastorate, which he had held for forty years, and undertake the mission to regions beyond.

This request came to a man old in years and full of labours, who might now legitimately think of spending the evening of his life in well-won leisure. It involved much travelling and hard work. It meant perils on land and by sea, and separation from home and friends. Yet it was cheerfully granted. Mr. Somerville could not refuse it: "the love of Christ constrained him." Before he went forth on his mission, he received the honorary degree of D.D. from Glasgow University. This was a tribute to the man and to his work. The record of three years of labour have been fully laid before the public.\*

The limits of our space forbid any lengthy account of his labors as the "world-evangelist." The British Isles, France, Spain, Russia, Greece, Africa, India, Australia, Tasmania, America, have alike been visited by him. While on a visit to Africa, serious illness brought him to the verge of the grave, but God spared his life; and though in his seventies, he entered on an apostolic journey to the East, beginning at Athens. At Corinth he met with strenuous opposition, but he fared better at Smyrna. He afterwards went through the other villages on the site of the Seven Churches of Asia, proclaiming afresh, with fire-tipped tongue and loving heart, the Gospel that had been sounded forth there 1800 years before. His mission extended to Constantinople, Bithynia, Thessalonica, Thessaly, and Eubœa.

The secret of the life, the leading events of which we have briefly sketched, has been that, like Enoch, he has walked with God. The spirit of devotion he caught in early life, along with his friends McCheyne and the Bonars, has burned bright and steady through his whole career. He loved God and souls, and that love gave him strength to do the work he has done. Dr. Somerville loves to preach as the brook loves to run and the birds to sing. The power which accompanies his words can be traced to no natural causes; it is the result of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. He realizes that "it is not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord."

It is an evidence of the esteem in which he is held by the church of which he is such a prominent minister, that in May last he assumed the office of Moderator of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland, the highest office given to the ministers of that Church to fill.

**D**R. MUNHALL'S meetings at Denver, Col., continue to attract immense audiences. His services for men only gave an opportunity for speaking plainly to some thousands of all ages, while the gatherings for ladies were improved by giving some equally needed and pointed advice. The general evangelistic gatherings have been much blessed. Hundreds have risen for prayer, and of these a goodly proportion have professed faith in Christ.

\* The interested reader can turn up old files of THE CHRISTIAN, published by Morgan & Scott, London, to learn the venerable preacher's experiences. From that paper we have selected material for this article.