

II. It will essentially promote the orderly building up of those who are converted, and the establishment of them in the faith. It hazardeth our whole work, or at least much hindereth it, if we do it not in the proper order. How can you build if you first lay not a good foundation? or how can you set on the top stone when the middle parts are neglected. The second order or class of Christian truths have such a dependence on the first that they can never be well learned till the first are learned. This makes many labor so much in vain; they are "ever learning but never come to the knowledge of the truth," because they would read before they learn to spell, or to know their letters. This makes so many fall away: They are shaken with every wind of temptation, because they are not well settled in the fundamental principles of religion. It is these fundamentals that must lead men to further truths; it is these that must actuate all their graces, and animate all their duties; it is these that must fortify them against temptations. He that knows not these knows nothing: he that knows them well doth know so much as will make him happy, and he that knows them best is the best and most understanding Christian. The most godly people, therefore, in your congregations will find it worth their labor to learn the very words of a Catechism. If, then, you would safely edify them, and firmly establish them, be diligent in this work.

III. It would make our public preaching better understood and regarded. When you have instructed them in the principles they will the better understand all you say. They will perceive what you aim at when they are once acquainted with the main points. This prepareth their minds and openeth a way to their hearts; whereas, without this, you may lose the most of your labor; and the more pains you take in accurate preparation the less good you may do. As you would not, therefore, lose your humble labor see that you be faithful in this private work.—*Raxter's "Reformed Pastor."*

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(From the Presbyterian.)

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND MISSION IN INDIA.

The following report has been received by the India Mission Committee of the Church of Scotland, from the pastor of the Native Church at Madras. It gives a very gratifying account of the work done by the native congregation. Such statements should be the most powerful appeals to all to prosecute with increased zeal and faith the work of Christianising India. The agencies employed, and the systematic assiduity with which they are piled, could not be exceeded by any

of the best worked parishes in Scotland. May God grant His blessing upon all the efforts of this active and devoted native Christian Church!

In drawing up this report we would not unnecessarily enlarge, but confine to as few remarks as possible. The congregation, for the most part, consists of adult converts from Hindooism and Roman Catholicism, and their families; it amounts at present to 335 souls. We are thankful to say that the congregation is in a healthy state. I have had the privilege of proclaiming Christ in His fulness, and of endeavoring, according to the grace given me, to build up my people in faith and holiness. We are happy to say that their conduct has been such as becometh the Gospel of Christ. In no instance has there been any need for the exercise of discipline among them during the year.

Services.—There are two services held on the Sabbath, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. Almost all the people, with their little ones, regularly attend. Sometimes the Church is so full that some of them are obliged to stand here and there, especially on communion Sundays and other particular occasions; consequently we greatly desire to have a separate building for our own use, and we trust that the God of all blessings will give us the desire of our hearts in His own good time.

Communicants.—We stated in our last report that our communicants amounted to 143. During the year 21 new members were added to the number, as they amount at present to 164. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper has been administered regularly, as usual, every quarter.

Baptisms.—I have had the happy privilege of administering this ordinance to 7 persons and 6 children. They were admitted into the fellowship of the Church after much careful investigation and training. They are now being instructed in our religious truths, pure morality, and elevating doctrines. May God keep them steadfast unto the end!

Inquirers or Candidates for Baptism.—There are 8 inquirers, who are under our immediate Christian instruction. We hope, by the grace of God, to receive them soon into the fold of Christ by baptism.

Weekly Prayer-Meeting.—Besides the usual Sunday services, prayer-meetings almost every evening have been held for the spiritual growth and edification of our members. On Monday and Tuesday evenings we have meetings in the chancel. On Wednesday evening, from 4 to 5, we have a female meeting as usual, and another meeting from 6 to 8 p. m., at Nungumbankum. On Thursday evening at New Town. On Friday a social prayer-meeting is held alternately in the houses of Christian brethren in connection with our church. May God, in His infinite kindness, bless our meetings and hear our prayers, so that he may pour out His Spirit