

would entertain as credible—will see a glorious and harmonious union of the Free Church and the United Presbyterian Church. The recent movement among the "Reformed Presbyterians" or Covenanters points in the same direction. These three churches united, would comprehend about two-thirds of the population of Scotland.

Our Foreign Missions.

MRS. JOHNSTON'S REPORT.

ANEITEUM, Dec. 1862.

Rev. and Dear Sir,—As I did not get last year's school report forwarded, I may give a summary of the two at the close of this year.

Our school has monthly increased in numbers since the commencement; so that the average attendance this year has been 45, while last year it was only 21. The scholars too appear to be more interested in learning, and do not feel the school a task as I think many of them did at first. But this is not surprising when we consider how little they have been kept under restraint. The children here are allowed to roam when and where they please. The parents, I mean the generality of them, have not the slightest control over them, seldom correcting them, except it be done in anger; then it is more to gratify their passion than for the good of the child.

Several of the little girls live on the mission premises under Mrs. Geddie's care, and out of school hours are engaged in domestic affairs, which is a great advantage to them.

We meet at 8 o'clock—dismiss at 10—from 10 to 12 at sewing.

Our scholars are boys and girls from 4 to 15 years of age. There are some very clever little fellows among them. I think our school-room presents a most interesting group of children, pleasing in their appearance and manners—kind and affectionate with each other, and respectful to their teachers. Some have very dark skins, others are of lighter complexion; some have coarse, crisp hair, some soft and curly.

Of the 70 who have been in attendance since the commencement, 5 have died, 4 girls have been married, at the ages of fourteen and fifteen. After they enter this relationship they are expected to attend Mrs. Geddie's school.

We see the want of early education among the children here. Little ones who have been taken in as soon as they were old enough to learn, are almost like another race of people compared with those who have never lent their thoughts to anything else but work and play, until they are fourteen or fifteen years old, then sent to school. We have only a few of the latter, however, at school. But we find such fellows are exceedingly slow to learn, and would try the patience of any teacher to the utmost. Such labour to apply themselves to the study of anything—cannot concentrate their thoughts upon any subject. Arithmetic is the most puzzling—counting and adding up numbers. No unusual thing to ask one to add 4 and 5, after thinking a while, answer 3. Or 6 and 2—5, &c. &c. And generally in adding two numbers, for instance 17 and 2, would commence at 1 and count up to 17, then 18, 19. One drawback in this, is the want of numerals in their language, and the introduction of foreign names. In this language there are only numerals to express as many as *five*. To express more, add another five, and say two fives, three fives and so on. But over four fives were called *many*, and not counted. Hence the necessity of introducing English numerals and the decimal scale.

The branches taught are Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, and the Elements of Astronomy.

The reading is pretty much confined to the Scriptures. Mr. Geddie has made several school books; chiefly Scripture lessons. He has commenced a Scripture history and printed a portion of it, beginning with an account of the Creation; to be continued on in small volumes. It contains a great deal of useful information.

The children in general learn to read quickly. And indeed old people too, have learned to read surprisingly quick; so persevering and eager are they to know the contents of the Bible. I think the natives of Aneiteum