

not soon forget. Some of the natives were affected even to tears, and all felt it to be a solemn season. My own heart was rejoiced by the event; and my earnest prayer is that the Lord may dispose the hearts of others to follow the example, and openly profess their faith in Christ."

#### LADIES' ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AMONG JEWISH FEMALES.

*Extract of Letter from Mrs. Benoliel to Mrs. Hunter, dated Smyrna, January 23d, 1857.*

"The religious and moral state of the Jews here is deplorable; they seem to be in a fearful state of indifference, and the prejudices which becloud the mind, together with the possibility and almost certainty of reduction to destitution by becoming converts to the saving doctrines of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, are powerful impediments to the progress of Truth; among these people, nevertheless, there are some who persevere amid cruel persecution, and attend a Bible class, as well as the service on the Sabbath. My dear husband has had much difficulty in delivering some of the inquirers from prison, and shielding them from the tyrannical interference and enmity of the rabbies, who compel them to leave the Jewish quarters and seek accommodation elsewhere, which involves them in considerable difficulty, for the Armenians and others are equally bitter in manifesting opposition, so that, but for the protection and interposition of the Missionary, they would be houseless and without the means of subsistence; and you may imagine how much wisdom and prudence are requisite in such cases. But amidst discouragements and perplexities we are cheered and stimulated to perseverance in this good work, by tokens of God's blessing resting on our endeavours to enlighten the minds of the Jews in the knowledge of the Messiah; several are inquiring after the truth as it is in Jesus, and we prayerfully hope that they may not be deterred by difficulties and trials, but be led cordially to embrace Christ. The ignorance of the lower classes of Jewesses is almost incredible; few of them can read, and their children, especially the girls, are sadly neglected. We feel anxious to make some arrangement for the instruction and education of the inquirers' families, but, as some live at Voorla, and others at a distance, they would have to be boarded and clothed. The urgent requests of the parents for the instruction of their children have been so pressing that we have even contemplated taking them for a time under our own roof, but this would involve expenditure that we could not defray without assistance.

"There are four girls, and the same number of boys, who might be selected as a commencement, and we regret that they are neglected, for Jewish children do not hear of the Saviour's love unmoved—their young minds, void of prejudice, are easily impressed by the force of simple truth. I have an interesting instance of this in the son of our native agent, an intelligent boy of 12 years of age, whose name is Joseph, and under my care and instruction, who by his desire to learn repays me for my time and trouble; he speaks Spanish, Turkish and Italian, and can now speak and read a little English intelligibly. A few days since, whilst reading the 15th chapter of Mark, he was deeply affected, and entreated me not to read to him about Christ's crucifixion, for he always felt so sorrowful afterwards when he thought of the cruelty of the Jews. He is fond of committing hymns to memory, and, in repeating those verses, "I'm but a stranger here," his countenance glows when he comes to the concluding lines, "Heaven is my fatherland." May the energies of his youthful mind be consecrated to that Saviour who once took up Jewish children

in His arms, and blessed them, saying, "Of such is the kingdom of heaven." I am happy to say there is an excellent institution established here for all classes, and conducted by German deaconesses, who impart instruction in all branches of literature. They have now about fifty boarders, and as many day scholars, and contemplate taking a few gratuitously. The superintendent of this establishment is a most admirable character, and, notwithstanding her arduous duties, is constantly devising schemes of benevolence. She has recently been soliciting the aid and co-operation of ladies here for the purpose of making clothes for the poor, and I have cheerfully contributed and devoted one afternoon in the week to this object. With a view to meet the continual necessities of poor Jewish families, occasionally a box of old materials is sent from Prussia, which enables us to extend our distribution, and you will allow me to suggest that, if the ladies of the Committee would kindly remember that the refuse of their wardrobes would gladden the hearts of many a poor Jewish mother, who grieves to see her children half-clad, they would render us considerable assistance, and such materials would be most gratefully received."

#### DEATH OF THE REV. DR. STEVEN.

It is our painful duty to record the death of this excellent and esteemed clergyman, which took place on Thursday at his house, No. 23 Great King Street, in the 61st year of his age. A native of Peebles, he was brought up and educated in Edinburgh, having attended the High School and studied at the University of this city. In 1826 he was appointed assistant to the Rev. Dr. Anderson in the Scotch Church, Rotterdam. On the death of his reverend colleague he was unanimously elected his successor. In this charge he remained, much respected by his congregation and by all classes in the community, till 1839, when he was chosen to be House Governor of Heriot's Hospital, in which position, by his fidelity in discharging its important duties and by his paternal affability and kindness to the boys of the Institution, he gained the respect and confidence of the governors and of every one connected with the Hospital. In 1843 he was presented by the Town Council, who had an opportunity for four years of knowing the value of his services and of appreciating his character, to Trinity College parish in this city, in which capacity he continued till his death, beloved by his people and respected by the public. His parochial and congregational duties he discharged with equal unostentation and efficiency. Dr. S. was, even at an early age, distinguished for literary and ecclesiastical research; and of his eminence in this department a mere enumeration of his published works affords sufficient evidence. He is the author of 'The History of the Scottish Church in Rotterdam,' 8vo; of a 'View of the Dutch Ecclesiastical Establishment,' 8vo; of a 'Memoir of George Heriot,' 12mo—; "History of the High School of Edinburgh;" works of great ability, which will not allow his name to die. Dr. S's character in a personal and private capacity did honour to his position as a clergyman and an author. He was distinguished by simplicity of manners, by an unsuspecting estimate of the character of others, and by great and active benevolence. He never made and never had an enemy. There was a degree of kindness about him that made him esteemed in all circles and by every individual. Of his domestic character it would not be delicate to present to speak. Suffice it to say that, as a husband and a father, he was happy, liberal and benevolent. He was happily married to Miss Gibson of Rotterdam, and leaves behind him three daughters and two sons to mourn his death.

Some weeks ago Dr. S had a severe attack of illness, from which he had so far recovered as to

be able to resume his ministerial duties. About the end of last week, however, the reverend Dr. sustained another shock, from which his enfeebled constitution did not rally, and, as above stated, he breathed his last on Thursday afternoon.—*Edinburgh Advertiser.*

GRASSMARKET CHURCH.—This place of worship for the poor, to which they may resort in their working clothes, was opened on Sabbath the 29th ult., when the Rev. Wm. Robertson, of New Greyfriars, the minister of the parish, preached, and introduced to the congregation then assembled their future minister, the Rev. Wm. Ferguson, lately one of the Government chaplains in the Hospital at Scutari and in the Crimea, who has been appointed to the Church, and who preached in the evening, the Church being completely filled. It must have been exceedingly gratifying to Mr Robertson (by whose zealous exertions this humble but, we doubt not, most useful little church has been erected) to see so many of that class of the inhabitants of the district for whose use it is specially intended present on these occasions, listening with marked attention to the discourses, and joining with great propriety of demeanour in the other sacred services of the sanctuary. On the two succeeding Sabbaths the Church was quite filled and we cannot doubt that, through the blessing of God upon the zealous missionary efforts of Mr Ferguson, it will continue to be so, and much good may confidently be anticipated therefrom to the poor people assembling within its walls. We wish it God speed, and heartily commend it to the Christian liberality of all who take an interest in the spiritual and moral well-being of the masses.—*Edinburgh Paper.*

THE NEW GREYFRIARS SCHOOL, VENNEL, GRASSMARKET.—The report as to this school for 1856 records its continued prosperity and efficiency. Mr. Robertson and his Kirk-session observe:— "When they look back to the time when this school was first opened in Merchant Street, upwards of ten years ago, and remember the coarse, disorderly and unruly children who were then admitted; when they recollect the moral and physical difficulties they had then to encounter from the character of the parents and the habits of the children; when they reflect, especially, upon the extreme filthiness of the poor young creatures themselves, which made the teachers shrink from their task, and even the charwoman who cleaned the schoolroom declined her employment; and when they now examine the school in its present order, discipline and cleanliness, they have some difficulty in persuading themselves that they have to deal with the same class as heretofore. The truth is, this school has in an eminent degree contributed, in conjunction with other valuable parochial agencies, to the manifest improvement which has taken place in the parish generally. Poverty, wickedness and filth do indeed still prevail to a lamentable extent; but, though the poverty may perhaps be still as great, the same amount of open, shameless and desperate profligacy is not now to be found; and the well-washed hands and faces, and clean, though often tattered garments of the children bespeak a domestic improvement of no unimportant character. The parents are themselves greatly benefited by the improvement in the habits and education of their children, and the rising generation are not what their parents were. Such is the testimony of the minister, missionaries, elders and visitors, and it is amply confirmed by persons of the highest respectability, who have known the Grassmarket for twenty years and upwards. Those who took an interest in the school at the beginning, and occasionally visited it, were shocked at the condition in which they found the children then. Stranger visitors at the present day are astonished, and sometimes disappointed, to find neither the squalor, nor rags, nor wretchedness which they