

mated, ordained by the respective presbyteries to which they belonged. But, as this example shows also that the sending forth of missionaries is a time for special prayer, the Mission Board wished to give as many members of the church as possible an opportunity of meeting with these seven brethren, and of uniting in earnest supplication, that the Lord would pour out on them the richest influences of his grace, go with them on their great errand, and make them the messengers of light, life, and salvation to those among whom they are going to labour. Three meetings were held, of which we shall give brief notices.

*The first meeting* was with the Board of Foreign Missions. This took place at the regular monthly meeting, on the afternoon of the 3d of February, when after a pleasant season of friendly intercourse, singing Psalm xlv. 3—5, and reading 2 Cor. iv. 1—15, the Board engaged in prayer,—the Rev. John Cooper of Fala leading their devotions,—and commended these esteemed brethren to the guidance, protection, and blessing of the Lord of missions.

*The second* was a public meeting, held in the Rev. Dr. Peddie's Church, Bristo Street, Edinburgh, on the evening of the 3d of February,—William Duncan, Esq., the chairman of the Mission Board, in the chair. The spacious church was densely crowded, many being unable to find admission. As it was the day for the meetings of the Board of Missions, and of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, there was a very large attendance of ministers, among whom was the Rev. Dr. Duncan, one of the professors of the Free Church. Psalm lxviii. 6—11 being sung, the meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. J. McGavin of Dundee. The chairman in addressing the meeting, drew a comparison very happily between the appointment of the seven deacons, as recorded in the sixth chapter of the Acts, and the sending forth of these seven missionaries,—remarking that, besides other features of likeness, as of the former, six were Jews and one a Greek, so of the seven before them, six were of this country, and one a native of Africa. After Dr. Somerville, the Mission secretary, had explained the circumstances which gave rise to the sending forth of seven foreign missionaries at this time, the venerable Dr. John Brown, who evinced the deep interest which he took on the occasion by coming out in the evening, offered up the DESIGNATION PRAYER, a peculiarly fervent, rich and impressive service. Hymn 283, beginning,

“Speed thy servants, Saviour, speed them,”

being sung, the Rev. Dr. George Johnston addressed the seven missionaries in a very affectionate, fervid and suitable manner: urging upon them to keep in view the salvation of souls as the grand aim of their mission; to preach, as the means of securing that end, the truths connected with Christ crucified; and to do this in the spirit of love, and with a continued dependence on the promised presence and blessing of their Divine Master: and, then turning to the Rev. Tiyo Soga, he said, “You do not make, in one sense, the same sacrifice as the other brethren do. You are going home to your fatherland, and to the tents of your own people. You came amongst us a stranger with your heart filled with love to God. You have studied in our college and in our hall, in order to prepare yourself for the great and glorious work of the ministry: and your career through our college and hall has been most honourable to yourself, which I am sure your fellow-students are ready to testify. Now that you are about to return to your own land to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ to your countrymen, I am sure that every heart in this assembly is beating with the deepest interest towards you, and sending up the earnest prayer in your behalf, that you may secure the hearts of your countrymen—that you may be the means of converting thousands of them to the faith of the gospel—that you may be honoured to be the founder of an enduring and prospering church in Caffraria—and that generations yet unborn may arise and pronounce the name of Tiyo Soga with blessings on his head.

To this address the Rev. Tiyo Soga replied, in behalf of himself and of Mr. Johnston, who are going to Caffraria: and the Rev. Daniel McLean, for himself and those who are going to Jamaica and the Caymanas. The Rev. William Reid then addressed the audience in a very telling speech, dwelling chiefly upon the gratitude which is due to God for the gift of these seven devoted brethren: upon the progress which has recently been made in the missionary cause, stating, that by the close of this year, our church will have, since 1845, sent out to the colonies and to foreign