

24th February, in the 70th year of his age. He went South for the benefit of his health. He stood the journey to London very well, but the shorter journey to the South coast exhausted him very much. He sank gradually and rapidly till he passed away in the deepest peace on the day named. Dr. Guthrie's services to the Free Church, and to the churches generally have been very important. He has left a most fragrant memory. Space will not allow us to say more this month of this great and good man who has left no equal as a pulpit orator in all Scotland.

### A GREAT MISSIONARY CONFERENCE.

During the last week of last year a Conference was held at Allahabad, India, by the leading missionaries in that great country. Nineteen Missionary Societies were represented. There were present 118 members, of whom 88 were foreign and 21 native missionaries, and 9 were laymen. Of the 100 missionaries 33 were Englishmen, 32 Americans, 17 Scotchmen, 3 Irishmen, 2 Germans, 1 a Norwegian, and 21 natives of India. They belonged to the following societies. 22 to the Church Missionary Society, 17 American Presbyterian, 13 American Episcopal Methodist, 12 Free Church of Scotland, 11 London Missionary, 9 Baptist Missionary, 4 American Board of Foreign Missions, 3 Church of Scotland, 3 Irish Presbyterian Church, 3 American United Presbyterian Church, 3 United Presbyterian Church of Scotland, 1 Christian Vernacular Education Society, 2 German Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1 Wesleyan Missionary Society, 1 American Dutch Reformed Church, 1 Local Mission at Chumba, 1 Medical Christian Union, 1 Bible Society, and one Local Mission among the Santals.

These men took sweet counsel together day by day. All were refreshed by tidings of the progress of the Redeemer's Kingdom. The work of the past was reviewed, and plans were proposed for more effective operations in the future. The Patriarch of the assembly was Dr. Wilson, the vener-

able Free Church veteran. The American Missionaries were nearly all young men.

Nothing was read in Conference more cheering than a paper on the Santals by a Missionary who has labored among that interesting race. He said :

We do not tell them to preach: when they are converted, they go of themselves and say to their friends—'Come, we have found something good!' People come by whole villages to see the missionary. Many villages have been entirely christianized and support their pastor as they formerly supported their priest, by allotting him a portion of land to work. One single man among them has brought no less than five villages to Christ."

It appears that there has been an increase of 61 per cent in the native Christianity of India in ten years, a most gratifying rate of progress. Ten years ago there were in all India 138,731 Native Christians. Now, there are 224,161. During the preceding eleven years the increase was 53 per cent.

In the Northwestern Provinces, the Christian community has doubled. In Oudh the increase has been at the rate of 176 per cent.; in the Punjab, of 64 per cent.; in Central India, of nearly 400 per cent.; and in Bombay, of 64 per cent. The greatest aggregate increase in all India has been in the Madras Presidency, where there are 160,955 Christians, in contrast with 110,078 ten years ago. In Burmah the Christian community has continued almost stationary, the numbers being 59,366 in 1861, and 62,729 in 1871. In Ceylon the increase has been about 15,000. Altogether, the increase in the three countries has been upwards of 100,000.

The number of central mission stations has increased in ten years from 319 to 423, and the native ordained ministers from 97 to 226. The low caste and aboriginal tribes furnish three fourths of the converts. The number of Foreign Missionaries in India has continued about the same during the past ten years. Some British Societies have reduced their home agents. There are 32 Presbyterian Missionaries from the United States in India now—an increase of 10 in ten years. The number of pupils in Mission school has reached 122,372. Education is making very rapid progress in the