

been, in consequence, a very considerable expansion of the work of *direct preaching to the natives by native labourers*. Not merely are several thousands of the youth of India under daily training in the knowledge of God's word—thousands of their parents and other adults are, moreover, addressed from Sabbath to Sabbath, or from day to day, in village after village, in the things which belong to their everlasting peace.

Further, the Committee to whom the General Assembly has intrusted this department of the Church's work are taking measures, we understand, at all the eastern presidencies, for at length forming native congregations, with native ministers, as speedily as possible. By the blessing of God, we may thus hope that the Church will hear, in time, of this station and that station planted with at least the germ of a Christian community, and though all is even yet but elementary, or though the day of the redemption of India may still be far away, yet who hath despised the day of small things? The little one will yet become a thousand. The handful of corn on the top of the mountains will yet shake like Lebanon. God will yet be glorified, and so man will be blessed.

Moreover, in glancing over the state of the Missions for only a few months past, we may notice much there to encourage the Church, and shew that the Lord's blessing is resting on her labours. At Bombay a recent movement among the Parsees, and the baptisms or inquiries which ensued, have not merely deeply stirred the native communities, but also been so much as to attract the attention even of the secular press of Europe, while they have gladdened all who seek the conversion of souls. In addition to the Parsees, the Mohammedans of Bombay, Madras, and other places, have also been stirred. At Calcutta, moreover, the last intelligence from Dr. Duff announces no fewer than five baptisms there—so that, in every point of view, the Church is encouraged to work on in hope for her Head. Love to Him and to souls allures her onward—a feeling of duty urges—success, granted in mercy, rewards; so that, on all hands, we may resolutely push forward the Lord's work.—*Free Church Record*.

EXAMINATION OF FREE CHURCH INSTITUTION AT CALCUTTA.

The twenty-sixth session of the Central Institution of the Free Church of Scotland was closed on Wednesday last. On Monday and Tuesday the school classes, amounting in number to no fewer than *twenty*, were examined, and on Wednesday the College classes were examined, and the prizes distributed. The occasion was rendered unusually interesting, as the first public annual examination at which Dr. Duff has been present, after a residence of some years at home, and as the *twenty-second* and last at which Mr. Ewart has been present, ere leaving the scene of his great and long-continued labours for his native land. The principles on which this institution has for upwards of a quarter of a century been conducted, are too well known to require now to be stated; we would only remark that the programme prepared for the occasion bears witness, as well in the amount of work done during the past year as in the list of subjects for which prizes have been awarded by the missionaries, to an effort to impart an enlightened and liberal education, in all its branches, from the very alphabet to the highest department of science, accompanied at the same time by a full and laborious instruction in the Christian religion. The roll of attendance seems still, by a report of nearly 1,400 pupils, to attest the fact that this institution, as an educational missionary,

stands, at least in point of numbers, at the head of all others in India, whether Government or Missionary.

The numbers on the roll for the present year somewhat exceed the numbers on the roll for last year. There are 73 students in the college department, and 1,252 scholars in the school department, making a total of 1,325. The average daily attendance for the first seven months of the year has been 1,083; and the highest average daily attendance for one month was that for the month of February, which amounted to 1,103.

THE CHURCH INSTITUTION, and the BRANCH INSTITUTIONS at *Bansbaria* and *Culna* have been attended by about the same number of pupils as in former years. The number of orphans attending the FREE CHURCH FEMALE INSTITUTION is somewhat smaller than that of last year; and the school known as Mrs. Ewart's *Free School*, for Armenian, East Indian, and Jewish girls, has received several accessions. So that we may safely estimate the number of young persons receiving education, on Christian principles, in the institutions and schools of the Bengal Free Church Mission as amounting very nearly to 3,000.

On Wednesday there was a large attendance of highly respectable and influential visitors. Mr. Cecil Beadon occupied the chair. The proceedings commenced with prayer, and the singing of a hymn by some of the younger classes; and we dare say there were not a few present who felt, as they listened to the familiar words and sweet air sung, that it was not a little to send even this into the heathen homes of Bengal. Afterwards, the examination of the College classes was proceeded with, Dr. Duff examining in Bible theology, political economy, &c., Mr. Ewart in the higher mathematics, and two of the native teachers in mechanics and the steam-engine. Portions of several essays were read; among others might be specially mentioned one on female education in India, and another on the evils of Koolin polygamy. The latter was in Bengali, and drew forth, both for the sentiments it contained, and the style in which it was written, the warm approbation of those present. It was pleasing also to observe in the list of subjects for essays for which prizes were given, that of "Moral Courage," a virtue requiring not a little cultivation in the present stage of Bengali society; and we trust that the healthy influence arising from a consideration of such objects may yet be manifested in the character of the students of this institution.—*Free Church Record*.

MADRAS—EXAMINATION OF INSTITUTION.

The chair was occupied on this occasion by Sir W. W. Burton. During the course of the evening, the programmes of some of the higher classes were read aloud, and exhibited a large amount of work accomplished during the year. The studies on which the pupils were publicly tested were, the Scriptures, Christian Evidence, Theology, History, Geometry, and Mensuration, while an opportunity was also afforded of ascertaining how the senior pupils succeeded in composition, by portions of three essays being read aloud.

During the course of the proceedings, the Rev. J. Bradwood took a short but instructive survey of this mission's work, now twenty years old. The past year, he said, had been marked by enlargement, in some cases almost against the will of the missionaries. But when liberal Christian friends provided the means, they could not refuse to enter. Out of two thousand six hundred and fifty-one pupils, above seven hundred are Hindu and Mohammedan girls, and the number of Mohammedans, male and female, under instruction, are about

three hundred and twenty. The places where new schools had been opened are Saisy Street and Yegntah Covil Street (in Madras,) Caligherry among the Teloooons, and Walluhjabad among the Tamil population. Evangelistic work is steadily pursued in the Central Institution, on the Mount Road, and in a spacious building in Black Town. To large audiences at all these places the gospel is preached every Sabbath and Wednesday. Noisy and unreasonable opposition has largely given place to attention, not unmingled with an apparent desire to know Christian truth. Amid their varied exertions, the missionaries are persevering and praying, in the hope that fruits will increasingly be gathered in.

In connexion with a set of prizes given by the Rev. D. Ewart of Calcutta, for Essays, the Rev. A. Campbell opened the sealed notes which accompanied the successful papers, and announced the names of those who stood first. The subject prescribed to the Madras School was the Evidence for the Resurrection of Christ; that to the Triplicane School, the Character of the Apostle Paul. A few extracts from the best essays were then read; and we are safe in saying that, alike in vigorous reasoning, clearness of statement, and the skillful portraiture of character, these essays would bear comparison with the majority of college exercises in Great Britain. It was in the delineation of Paul's moral features especially that the highest Triplicane prize man, a Mohammedan, excelled.

After nearly four hours of busy occupation, and when the prizes had been distributed, Sir W. W. Burton (much more fully than we can report) expressed his pleasure in having been then present, to take farewell of an institution and work in which he had been long deeply interested. Delineating the influence of a sound European education, even when merely secular, upon young Hindus, he raised his thoughts to a far higher and wider result, the regeneration of India. This was to be accomplished not by the rulers of the land, but by the missionaries. They were spreading the seed of God's own Word. Other institutions might break up the fallow ground and prepare the way for their effort, but they were communicating the true light, and on this ground they were entitled to the hearty support of those who witnessed their work.—*Abridged from Madras Spectator*.

THE KARENS—REMARKABLE PROGRESS OF THE GOSPEL.

We have oftener than once brought under the notice of our readers the remarkable work now in progress among the Karens of Burmah. The Karens are a people of simple habits and kindly dispositions, and being bound in the fetters of no immemorial system like that of Brahminism, they are more open to the truth than the Hindus. The work of God has made rapid progress amongst them of late years, mainly through the instrumentality of our American brethren. We give below some most interesting sketches from a private letter from Calcutta, sent us by the kindness of a friend in Liverpool, of the commencement of that work at two spots in the Karen territory. The first is a place called SHUAH GEEN, where, three years ago, there was not a single Christian, and now there are not fewer than 800 baptized adults. The work was begun there by Mr. Harris of the American Mission in the following remarkable manner:—

About three years ago he was requested by the deputation who came out from their Society to occupy a new station on the Sitang river, among the mountains to the north of Rangoon, called Shuah Geen. He and his dear wife and four children accordingly started in a country