



# MONTHLY RECORD

## Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia and the adjoining Provinces.

"IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET HER CUNNING."—PSALM 137, *ic.*

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### THE CHURCH AT HOME.

General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

SATURDAY, June 2.

The Assembly met to-day at half-past seven—the Moderator in the chair.

**FOREIGN MISSIONS.**—Dr. Macfarlane, Riddington, gave in the Report of the Foreign Mission Committee:—

Dr. Charles, Kirkowan, in moving the approval of the report, complained of the inadequacy of the funds, whether as compared with the resources of the members of the Church or the sums raised by other Christian bodies engaged in the same great work. He ascribed the comparatively limited success of the mission to the deficiency of the Church in faith, zeal, and earnestness; and never, until she shook off carnality, selfishness, and sloth, attained a higher measure of Christian life, and woke up to a higher sense of her responsibilities, would she rise and shine as she ought on a dark, troubled, and sin-slaying earth. The Moderator then spoke of the result of the efforts of missionary labour in India, and expressed his conviction that the various agencies employed there were telling on the human mind, in a way that sooner or later must issue in the moral and spiritual regeneration of the people.

Dr. Craik, in seconding the adoption of the report, eloquently enforced the principles on which alone they could expect to prosper in the great work of evangelising the heathen, and said that the great object which the Church of Scotland was pursuing was that she might send forth the knowledge of the Gospel to every one that would listen to the sound.

The Moderator then conveyed the thanks of the Assembly to Dr. Macfarlane for his very interesting report.

**SABBATH SCHOOLS.**—Dr. Craik read the report of the committee on Sabbath schools, in which it appeared that in the bounds

of twelve Synods there were 1283 schools, with 90,546 scholars on the roll, an average attendance of 67,577, and 7030 teachers, showing in all these respects a marked increase since 1851. Instead of 1283 schools now reported for only twelve Synods, the number in 1851 was 1095 for all the parishes then reporting; instead of 90,546 scholars now on the roll, the number then was 63,179; and instead of 7030 teachers now reported, there were then only 4927. The committee having had under their consideration the subject of providing one uniform system of lessons for the schools, recommended that this should not be gone into, and they concluded by stating that the examination of the various schools in the twelve Synods that have been reported, gave evidence of such influence and vitality in the Church of Scotland "as might well put to silence the assertions of her open enemies, and correct the misrepresentation of those who seem to imagine that because division and dissent exist in Scotland, the Established Church ought quietly to retreat from her prominent position and distinctive character."

Mr. Horne, Corstorplive, in moving the adoption of the report, remarked that he looked on this as one of the most valuable schemes of benevolence in which the Church was engaged.

Dr. Robertson seconded the motion. He considered that the progress of Sabbath Schools was one of the most hopeful signs of the times.

The thanks of the Assembly were then conveyed, through the Moderator, to Dr. Craik.

**EDUCATION IN INDIA.**—Dr. Bryce moved that the overture on this subject be now read.

The overture from the Synod of Fife, having been read by the Clerk.

Dr. Bryce further moved that the official communication from the Government of Bengal, addressed to the missionaries, be also read.

This having been agreed to, and the communication setting forth the conditions on which the government of Bengal were prepared to grant aid out of the public treasury to the schools and missionaries of the Church of Scotland, at Calcutta, read,

Dr. Bryce said—I rise, Moderator, to direct the attention of the Assembly to the very important subject now brought by these overtures under your consideration.

I have to move that "the General Assembly having had before them a despatch on General Education in India, and duly considered the same, and also having considered the conditions on which the Indian authorities are ready to afford aid in carrying out this object to the Christian institutions now engaged in the work of native education, resolve that these conditions as such as the Church of Scotland may accept for her schools in India."

Dr. Grant, as one of the majority in the Mission Committee, stated the reasons which he had formed his opinion that the grant should not be accepted. His conviction was that in consistency with their principles as Christian men, and as a Christian Church they must refuse the so-called boon. He had read the despatch of the India Board with unaffected surprise, as he did not meet in the course of it one line which proved that it had been penned by men who believed in the Christianity of our land. The Bible was practically pushed into a corner. True, it was in the school library, but it was not in the school room, and if it had to be consulted, it must be consulted privately. This was just the principle on which many individuals and Government were at present acting—they found that men differed in opinion on religious matters, and their course for this was to ignore religion altogether. He asserted that the operation of these grants would tend directly to prevent the Christianising of India.

Dr. Robertson moved that, "having learned the terms of the Despatch on the subject of Education in India, of January, 1854,