

seat of learning. His course of Theological study was prosecuted under the Professorship of Mr. Paxton, who had been a minister at Kilmaurs, but who, on his appointment by the Associate Synod to the charge of their students, had been loosed from his congregation that he might devote all his time to the preparation of his lectures and his other professorial duties. Having completed the prescribed course, and satisfied the Presbytery of his gifts, attainments and piety, he was licensed to preach the gospel in 1814.

At an early period of his life Mr. Christie had his thoughts turned to missionary work, and was desirous of engaging in it. During the years of his preparatory training, this desire acquired strength. He had, however, to contend with the fear that he was not called to it of God. In his straits he was frequent and earnest at the throne of grace, asking that light might be made to rise upon him in his darkness. In his father's garden there was a large tree, under the shade of which he had often poured out his heart to God; and on one occasion, when the perplexities to which we have referred were agitating his mind, he made it a place of special resort for supplication that God would give him some mark of his will in reference to his becoming a missionary. While thus engaged, he was made to realize most powerfully the gracious presence of his Master; and the command given to Paul was so strongly suggested to him as to make him imagine that it was addressed to himself in an audible voice, "Depart, for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles." He retired from the spot under the persuasion that it was the will of Christ he should go forth as a missionary, and ready to go wherever a door might be opened to him, assuredly gathering that God would be with him.

Carrying out the cherished desire of his heart, Mr. Christie went, shortly after he was licensed, to Orkney, which had been taken up as a mission field by the Secession Church about the year 1797. That Church was led to enter upon this field in consequence of the spiritual destitution of its people. After being there for a time, he received a unanimous and most cordial call from the "Elders and other members of the Associate Congregation of Holm, who had seceded from the Established Church of Scotland and the Judicatories thereof, and acceded to the Lord's cause and testimony, as professed, witnessed for and maintained by the General Associate Synod and the several Presbyteries in Scotland subordinate hereunto, and as the only lawful and right constitute Courts of Christ to which we can submit in the Lord," to undertake the office of Pastor among them and the charge of their souls. The call was signed by seventy-two persons, all males, fifty-five of whom, the certificate of the Moderator bears, subscribed with their own hands, and seventeen who could not write, took the pen and gave it to the Clerk, who did it for them. On being laid before the Presbytery at Edinburgh, it was sustained; and, on being put into Mr. Christie's hands, it was accepted. His ordination took place on 21st November, 1816, the Rev. M. Ramage presiding, who preached from Judges iii, 20, and addressed both the newly ordained minister and the people, and the Rev. Mr. Wylie concluding public worship by a sermon from Tim. vi, 20. For a period of sixteen years Mr. Christie labored with great zeal and acceptableness in the congregation over which he had been settled. It increased greatly under his ministry, and he had many a token besides that the Lord was with him and blessing him to the edification of his saints and the saving impression of the careless.

In September 1831 the United Associate Synod resolved to enter upon a Foreign Mission, and instructed their Mission Committee to look out for