

MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

OUR EAST INDIA MISSIONARY—DR. DUFF.

It is delightful to contemplate the sublime in Nature. It is more delightful, especially to the Christian, to contemplate the sublime in mind. No where can this be met with in so perfect a degree, as in the noble array of Apostles and Martyrs, who have laid down their life for the testimony of Jesus, or slowly consumed it, amidst toil and hardship, to make known, in the region of dark and degraded Heathenism, the unsearchable riches of his Gospel. The place which such men occupy in the history of the Church, is bright and glorious—more bright and glorious in the eye of faith, which sees, in embryo events, remote and eternal consequences—than that occupied by heroes and conquerors. The time is approaching on earth when the labours of such men shall be duly appreciated. They were never unappreciated before God, with whom is the recompense of the just.

It is one of the abiding evidences of the power of Divine Truth, and the presence of Christ with the Church, that instruments for preaching the Gospel of his Kingdom are continued to be raised up, animated with the spirit of their master, and worthy successors of those, who reckoned not their own life dear unto themselves, so that they might finish their course with joy, and the Ministry which they have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the Gospel of the grace of God. British Christians, since they began to feel it their duty to impart to their fellow-subjects of heathenish descent, the knowledge of Divine Truth, have sent forth some eminently distinguished Missionaries. Among these, not to mention the Danish Swartz, whom we are almost inclined to reckon our own; we may enumerate, Martyn,

Heber, Turner, Carey, Marshman, Currie, and others; some with title, and some with none; but the noblest title, equally appropriate to them all, is, that they were the Missionaries of the Cross in a heathen land! Under the sky of Hindostan we lose sight of the discriminating shades of sect and party. There we regard only the pure light and essential features of the Christian. On such a field, with so many to pity and teach, and pray for, we are not cumbered with little things:—we rejoice in the same Gospel, and can unite with all our hearts, with our fellow-Christians of different names, in their operations to diffuse it.

One of the most distinguished Missionaries in our Eastern territories, is Dr. Duff—whose talents, eloquence, and firm devotedness, have been the admiration of a portion of the British Church, than which none other is better qualified to judge. Mr. Duff was chosen by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, in 1830, to superintend their Mission in the East. On his voyage to the scene of his labours, he was shipwrecked at the Cape of Good Hope, and suffered the loss of all his property—himself and wife escaping only with their lives. In 1835 he was obliged to return to his native country on account of his health. He has employed the intervening period itinerating throughout Scotland and England, urging, with an eloquence never surpassed, the claims of the Heathen in our Eastern territories upon British Christians. We present our readers with the following letter, written by him, stating the reasons of his declining to accept a pastoral charge in his native country, that with us they may adore the grace of God in raising up such an agent for his work, and with us may pray that the number of such agents may be greatly increased.—

1st. There is no foundation whatever