

<i>Ottawa.</i>	Lanark, Rev. Jas. Wilson....	10 00	John Oliver, Tatamagouche, N S	5 00
J B Donaldson, Bal on 100			Duncan McKay, Baddeck, C B, in full.....	3 00
Total to 31st Oct, 1883			Alex J Hatter, Union Centre, N S	3 00
			Robt Forbes and wife, Union Centre, N S	1 00
WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND, <i>In connection with the Church of Scotland.</i>	THEOLOGICAL HALL BUILDING AND ENDOWMENT FUND, FARGUEAE FORREST & CO., AGENTS, 173 HOLLIS ST., HALIFAX, TO OCT. 31st, 1883.		W M D Pearman, Halifax, N S	25 00
JAMES CROIL, Montreal, Treas.	Already acknowledged ..	\$:0969 95	Chas Robertson, Halifax, N S	25 00
Rev. John Rannie, New Amsterdam	Springside Cong N S.....	5 00	NS	25 00
Stonewall, \$3.00. Grassmere *2 25; Rockwood, \$1, per..	Rev A S Wyllie, Halifax, N S	50 00	Springside Cong, N S.....	4 00
Rev. Alex. Campbell.....	Bessie McKeen, Gays River, NS	0 25		
	Mabou, C B, per Louis McKeen.....	21 55		
	John McDonald, Halifax, N S	10 00		
				\$71122 75

BULBS

MY AUTUMN CATALOGUE FOR 1883, OF CHOICE HYACINTHS, TULIPS CROCUS, NARCISSUS, LILIES, SNOWDROPS and other fall planting BULBS will be mailed FREE to all applicants. The collection is the finest in Canada, and all Bulbs will be sent FREE by mail. WM. RENNIE, SEEDMAN, TORONTO.

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Persia.

PERSIA contains an area 610,000 square miles, and has a population of 7,653,600, a little more than one-fourth of whom reside in cities. The largest cities are Teheren, with 200,000; Tabreez, with 165,000; Meshed, with 60,000; Ispahan, with 60,000; Kerman, with 42,000; Resht, with 40,000; and Yezd, with 40,000. The present ruler, or Shah, was born in 1829, and succeeded to the throne on the death of his father in 1848. He is the fourth of the dynasty of the Kadjars, which took possession of the crown after a civil war that extended over fifteen years, from 1779 to 1794. The vast majority of the inhabitants of Persia are Mahomedans, the total number of dissenters only numbering 74,000. The latter consists of Armenians, Nestorians, Jews, Koords and Guebres or Parsees. The Mohammedan faith is held by the Persian or dominant race and the Koords. The Jews and Guebres are few in number and suffer under great oppression.

THE NESTORIANS are a small remnant of a branch of the ancient Christian Church. They derive their name from Nestorius, a native of Syria, who was made Bishop of Constantinople, A. D. 428. He was deposed by the General Council at Ephesus in 431, on the ground of heresy, one of the charges being that he refused to apply the term *mother of God* to the Virgin Mary. His cause was warmly advocated by many young men from Persia who were attending the famous school at Edessa, and the Nestorians rapidly increased in number, and for centuries they maintained missionaries in Tartary, China and India, attaining their greatest prosperity

in the beginning of the eleventh century; but about the year 1400 a large number of them were destroyed by the fierce conqueror Tamerlane, the remainder finding refuge in the mountains. Since that time they have, for the most part, merely continued in existence, having lost the earnest missionary spirit that once characterized them. At the present time the main body of the Nestorians are living in the western part of Persia and eastern part of Asiatic Turkey. They number probably one hundred and twenty thousand, one third of whom are in Persia and the balance in Turkey. "The language is a modern dialect of the ancient Syriac, the language used by the Saviour when on earth."

The Nestorians, who are under Turkish rule as well as those in Persia, all acknowledge the patriarch at Oroomiah as their ecclesiastical head. They profess great reverence for the Holy Scriptures, and are orthodox respecting the person and character of Christ, but seem to understand but little of the nature and necessity of repentance, justification by faith and regeneration. Their worship consists chiefly in chanting portions of the Psalms, and reading their liturgy, and in most cases it is a heartless form.

THE ARMENIANS in Persia number 43,000, and are under two bishops, one of them Roman Catholic, and both residing at Ispahan. "They adhere to the seven sacraments of the Romish Church, perform baptism by trine immersion, believe in the mediation of the saints, the adoration of images, and transubstantiation, and administer the holy communion in both kinds to laymen. They deny purgatorial penance, and yet think the prayers of the pious will help the souls of the departed."—*The Gospel in its Lauds.*