

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

GLASGOW SCUTARI MISSION.

We publish portions of Mr. Fergusson's Journal, though of an odd date, in order that our readers may be able to realize the various interesting conditions of mind in which a chaplain finds our soldiers to be when laid on a sick-bed, and also to show what a blessing it is to have one to minister to their spiritual wants.

March 23d.—Heard yesterday from his medical attendant that one of my men could not get better. Resolved to endeavour to lead his mind to thoughts suitable to his position. The poor fellow has been lying wounded since Alma. I feared he might be clinging to life, but was glad to find him otherwise minded. He said he had been praying to be taken away; and that, if an angel from Heaven should give him the choice to live or die, he should prefer the latter. He was religiously impressed in early life. He told me he used, when about 12 years of age, to retire for prayer behind one of the trees on Glasgow Green at 5 o'clock in the summer mornings. But he learned to frequent the tavern, and then he gave up prayer; and from bad to worse he went on till no one would employ him, he was such a drunkard, then he was obliged to enlist. He appears sincere in his profession of attachment to Christ. Weeps inconsolably; says his sins have been so great that he cannot expect mercy. Was invited by a doctor to minister to a man apparently drawing near his end; he turned out to be an Irish Presbyterian whom I had not seen before. The poor man wept when I asked for him, and seemed truly thankful for my visit. There is scarcely a case but is full of interest. Took a pot of jam to a young man for whom I feel a strong affection; he is spoken of in report of 10th inst. A few seem so hardened that I can make nothing of them.

24th.—One young man awakened to a sense of his danger as a sinner by the perusal of Ryle's tract, "Do you pray?" He said he had been taught to read his Bible, and to say his prayers, but that he now felt he had never in reality prayed. He had read the tract three times over, and it had made a deep impression on his mind. Was apparently indifferent to all I said to him before; now the tears steal down his cheeks. Many are thus impressed when death seems approaching; but, what gives point to this case, the young man is getting better. Visited the Harem Hospital. Several inquirers there. One with tears asked me to come back soon. Several Roman Catholics begged for tracts, which I gave them.

25th, Sabbath.—The Harem Hospital at 11. A much smaller attendance than usual, in consequence of Mr. — having given a second service in the form of the Church of England last Sabbath after mine. Distributed 6 Bibles, and visited those Presbyterians in their respective wards who were unable to leave their beds. Afterwards visited special cases in General Hospital. Found the young man, mentioned in note of yesterday, reading with deep interest "James's Anxious Inquirer," which he received from me. J. M.G. still weeping over his sins. He says he has known to do right, but has done wrong. Was surprised to hear from —, alluded to in note of 23d, that he had thought of becoming a Roman Catholic. He had asked one of the orderlies to call a priest in the morning; but the medical men, getting notice of it, judged it proper to examine him to see whether he was capable of judging for himself, and they resolved to send for me. Meantime, having come uncalled, I found the patient very glad to see me. I learned from him that some time ago his nurse had advised him to pray to the Virgin, and that he had been thinking that some advantage might attend their ceremonies. His professed reliance upon Christ is, I fear, all pretence. After having spoken some time to him, and read a portion of Scripture and prayed with him, I was about to depart, when unsolicited he offered me his hand that he would

not join the Roman Catholics. I tried to convince him that his Protestantism would not save him, but loving Christ only; gave him a Bible, which he promised to read or get some one to read to him. Boniface House (Female Hospital) at halfpast 2, attentive hearers; and, again, at General Hospital at 4, — a small but attentive audience. After service visited — again. Found that the nurse had been with him, and had tried to prevail upon him to become a Romanist. He told me he had made up his mind to remain a Protestant. Must investigate this case.

26th.—Visited the whole of General Hospital. — quite resolved to die in the Protestant faith. M.G. better in health, and more cheerful in mind. When I gave him a Bible, he exulted as a child would at the reception of a toy. W. B. says he is able to say, "The will of the Lord be done." T. B. apparently dying amid true peace. When I began to repeat to him the XXIII psalm, he took it from me, and went on himself; but his emotions choked him, and he was unable to proceed. I helped him; and he repeated, amid a flood of tears and with joy unspeakable and full of glory, the last verse, —

"Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's House for ever more
My dwelling-place shall be."

It is indeed a glorious sight to see the frail and feeble tabernacle of clay thus lost sight of, amid the glory of even the threshold of the home of many mansions.

27th.—Visited first the special cases; in the General Hospital, and then went with my bag, crammed full of books and tracts, to the Harem and Palace Hospitals. Several cases of great interest at both of these places. One man, recovering from fever, wished particularly to be instructed how he could be saved. He seems truly humble, and fears he has committed the sin against the Holy Ghost. While I addressed another, who is exceedingly fond of my visits, I observed his neighbour apparently suffering much and remarked that he was very poorly. "Yes," he replied, "but your words are precious." I replied that they were not my words, but the words of the Holy Spirit; and I took a Bible and read a portion. The whole ward listened with the most profound attention, Catholics as well as Protestants. I then kneeled down between the two men to whom I had specially addressed my remarks, and prayed for them and all present. Tears of gratitude flowed, and I was entreated to return soon. In the Palace Hospital I went into a small ward merely to inquire for the health of the patients. I knew none of my men were there. I had called twice before, and spoken a few words into the ear of a young man to all appearance dying. The second time I saw him he was able to speak a little. I said I hoped the chaplain had been calling upon him. He replied that he had never seen but one gentleman; he did not know it was he who now addressed him. As he appeared rather anxious to receive instruction, I spoke to him freely. To-day I found him still weak, but much better. There were only himself and a Roman Catholic, apparently asleep, in the room. After I had conversed with him for a few minutes, he requested me to shut the door, and fasten it, lest any one should disturb us. He then said, "I shall be very much obliged to you, Sir, if you will offer up a short prayer. I know there is some little difference between our church and yours, but I don't mind that." After prayer I gave him something suitable to read. This is a truly hopeful case. One of my men in another ward showed very great interest in the spiritual welfare of his neighbours, which makes me hope he may be himself one of the Lord's hidden ones. He took me to see another man of the Church of England ill of fever, whom I spoke to and prayed with. Another of my people I found very ill. He told me he was dying, and must prepare to leave this world; but that he was not fit to die, for he had been a great sinner. I tried to set before him the fulness and freeness of the Gospel offer. He was much moved, and showed his acquaintance with

the Scripture by saying, "Yes! Christ is the Way; for in the 14th chapter of John, He says, 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father but by Me.'" When I left him he gave me his hand with great satisfaction. These are only a few of the day's blessings in the course of my labours.

28th.—Visited the whole of General Hospital. — died yesterday. He had lain since Alma. The orderly, a Romanist, thinks he must have gone at once to Heaven, he suffered so much here! One man, who expected to embark for Home this week, has been taken very ill; but generally there is much improvement among the men in point of health. 140 new patients received to-day from the Crimea, only 6 of them dangerously ill.

29th.—Visited the whole of my field of labour — the General, the Harem, and the Palace Hospitals. Of the 140 fresh arrivals only 6 are Presbyterians. One, who expected daily to sail for England, died last night, another of the many fearful instances of the uncertainty of life.

30th.—Did some little things for D., then went to the Palace with a dozen Bibles, expecting to have too many, but found I had too few. It was very great pleasure indeed to distribute the Word of Life to such grateful recipients. Spent two hours in the wards of the Barrack Hospital in the evening with the medical officers, and witnessed the death of a poor fellow just come in from the Crimea.

31st.—Went to the wharf with a fatigue party, carrying two boxes of Bibles and a parcel of tracts, and saw them shipped for the Crimea. Afterwards visited the whole of the General Hospital. One of my people died about noon in great peace, apparently the peace of God. The rest of my men seem all getting better. There are many hardened cases, but some, I doubt not, will remember their vows. One, who has been brought up from the gate of death, wept when I reminded him of the Lord's goodness, and said, "I should not soon forget it." Another, after I had prayed at his request, said, "May the Lord bless you, Sir, with everything that can sweeten life; and, when you leave the world, may you be received into those mansions where there is fullness of joy and pleasures for evermore."

We rejoice to say that Mr. Fergusson's health is so re-established that he returns speedily to his old labours.

GLASGOW SCUTARI MISSION.

Mr. Macnair's Journal.

We beg to assure our readers that they may place the most perfect reliance upon the unadorned and unexaggerated truthfulness of every statement recorded by our Missionaries in these journals, as they are sensitively alive to the bare suspicion of their colouring their stories in the slightest degree by way of giving what is called "interest" to details, supposed possibly by some to be otherwise too prosaic and matter-of-fact. We cordially agree with them in thinking that a Missionary's journal loses all its "interest" unless above the suspicion of being "cooked" for the public, instead of being a plain, honest narrative of things as they really occurred.

July 1.—Sunday. Preached in Palace Hospital at 10. Attendance smaller than formerly, several of the men having been sent Home, and some having returned to duty during the past week. Preached for Mr. F. in the Barrack Hospital at 2 to an audience of about 20, and in the General Hospital at 4 to about the same number.

2.—Visited in General Hospital. Saw C. J., and had some interesting conversation with him. He speaks affectionately of his relatives at Home, seems to have been piously brought up, and says that, if spared to join the family circle again, his return will be hailed like that of the prodigal son. He is