

is much also to encourage us to labor for their good. If there is a weakness about their piety which causes them to yield readily to temptation, yet we are often impressed with christian excellencies which many of them manifest—such as strong faith, deep humility, great self-denial, and a constant readiness to make every sacrifice for Jesus' sake and the gospels'. I can speak from experience, and truly say that my own faith has been strengthened, and my heart encouraged in the work of Christ in seasons of great trial, by the example of the native converts around me. There are christians in these distant regions of whose piety there can be no doubt, and who would adorn their profession of religion in any land.

I remain, very sincerely yours,

JOHN GEDDIE.

REV. P. G. MCGREGOR, Sec. B. G. M.,
H. C. L. P."

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General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

THE COLONIAL SCHEME.

The Rev. R. H. Muir read the report of the Committee for Promoting the Religious Interests of Scottish Presbyterians in the colonies.

NEW ZEALAND.—By personal communications with the Rev. P. Barclay, late of St. Paul's Church, Napier, holding a commission from the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand to bring the spiritual wants of the colony under the notice of the evangelical Presbyterian Churches in Great Britain and Ireland, the committee had placed before them the special claims of two localities as presenting important openings for colonial mission work. The committee entered with the fullest sympathy into the spiritual wants of our countrymen in connection with the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand, and to the extent of their ability have contributed to supply these wants.

From New Plymouth the committee receive intelligence of the work done there by the Rev. R. F. Macnicol.

Our congregation at Wellington under the faithful faithful ministry of the Rev. James Stirling Muir, continues to prosper.

No change having taken place in the relations of the committee to the Presbyterian churches of Australia, noticed at the close of last year's report, they pass to.

CEYLON.—The Colonial Committee have never failed to sympathize with the feeling in Ceylon of the want of ministers connected with the colony by birth, able to preach in the different languages spoken in the island. The committee have to announce the accomplishment of their hopes, by the licensing and ordination in this country of the Rev. John D. Van der Straaten, M. A. and B. D.

of the University of Edinburgh, and by the licensing at Madras of the Rev. W. C. Van der Wall, as a preacher of the Gospel.

From the Central Province the Colonial Committee have to communicate the most gratifying report of the constant labours of our missionaries in the Kandian coffee districts—the Rev. Gerard Middleton at Haputale, the Rev. H. L. Mitchell at Gampolla, and the Rev. Joseph Burnett at Matalle. It is gratifying to know that already signs appear of returning prosperity to the Kandy Extension Society.

THE MAURITIUS. as is well known, has been the scene of the most destructive calamities that ever desolated any place. In six months forty thousand people perished; and many thousands more, who were a year before "in comparatively easy circumstances are now, in impaired health, and struggling with poverty." To Mauritius the committee are assured the General Assembly will extend their fullest sympathy.

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.—By the kind assistance of the Falkland Company, the Colonial Committee have opened communication with the little colony of Scotch people in these remote islands; and as some expression of kindly interest in their spiritual welfare, have sent them out a supply of *Bibles* and of the prayers for social and family worship.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—It will be matter of sincere congratulation to the General Assembly, to learn that the work in the hands of all our brethren in the Argentine Republic is reported on most encouragingly.

BRITISH GUIANA.—On matters of vital importance to the prosperity, if not the very existence of the Church of Scotland in British Guiana, which formed the subject of anxious consideration by the venerable Assembly last year, the Colonial Committee are able to report with less authority than they hoped to do. Official documents they expected to have to lay upon the table of the Assembly have not arrived. The recent return home, however, of the Rev. Mr. Slater has put the committee in possession of the unofficial information, that on the 11th of March last steps were taken by the ministers and elders of the Church of Scotland in Demerara and Berbice to form themselves into one Presbytery to be named The Presbytery of British Guiana, in terms of the recommendation of the last General Assembly; and that "there is every probability that the executive will cordially co-operate with the representatives of the Church in the colony in the effort now being made to organise a court of superintendence which shall challenge the respect of all the adherents of the Church and maintain an effective discipline over its own members."

ISLANDS IN THE CARIBBEAN SEA.—With reference to the small grant made by the Colonial Committee, to stimulate the exer-