

been, in the forenoon, 90; afternoon, 25; evening, 50. At the Sabbath School there have been 20 children in attendance. There is a prayer meeting on Thursday evening with eight of an average attendance; five assist in conducting the devotional services. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed for the first time in British Columbia, after the Presbyterian mode, on the 8th February. Fifteen names were placed on the roll, six of these having been admitted by examination."

### MISSIONS OF FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

MISSION EXTENSION IN BENGAL.—Dr. Duff, in an article which appears in the Free Church Record, gives an account of the way in which the mission work in India is being extended, and in which it might be still more extended, were there men and means for the work.

"With a view to commence an experiment in a purely rural district, we planted about three years ago, a native mission agency at Mahanad—about 12 or 14 miles to north-west of Chinsurah and Hoogly, and 4 miles westward from the line of the railway—under the superintendence of the Rev. Jagadishwar Bhattacharya, assisted by catechists and teachers.

Our original purpose was that the ordained missionary and catechists should devote their own time almost exclusively to the teaching and preaching of the gospel throughout the whole neighbourhood, being only required to take a general oversight of any schools which might be established, and all of which were intended to be purely vernacular. And to this work the missionary and catechist have all along mainly devoted themselves.

But as to the schools, a modification of the original design was soon forced upon us. Our first school was a vernacular one; and it so continues to this day. But, after being at work a few months, the people began to urge most vehemently the establishment of an English school alongside of it. This urgency we for a while stoutly resisted. But, at length, the pressure became so strong that, in order to retain our hold of the people and exercise any wholesome influence over them, we felt ourselves constrained to yield, but on somewhat stringent conditions. One of these was that they would agree to pay such fees for English education as would cover the main part of the expense. The conditions having been agreed to, an English school was established, and has continued ever since greatly to prosper. And out of it already spiritual fruit has come in the conversion of at least one soul to God, while hundreds have been effectively taught the saving truths of the gospel.

During these years the missionary and the catechists have been laboriously and unceasingly at work among the surrounding villages. At first, and for a long time, they were viewed with suspicion by all, and regarded with deadly aversion by many. Hostile prejudices against the truth were in many ways manifested. But by dint of perseverance and the manifold exhibition of kindness and good will, prejudices were gradually softened and conciliated, and aversion changed into respect. Throughout the whole district there is no man now who commands greater respect and even confidence than our native missionary.

Thus, then, after years, the ground seemed to be prepared for extension. Accordingly, last cold season, various native labourers were employed in making a more minute and detailed survey of the whole district, with a view of fixing on the most central and promising villages as the seats of new branch missions. For this end the whole region around Mahanad, to a distance of ten or twelve miles, has been carefully surveyed; and the more central and promising villages have been marked out. Some of these I have, on several occasions, visited and inspected in person, holding conferences with the inhabitants. Everywhere I found the most friendly spirit manifested towards us, with an intense desire for schools, vernacular or English, or both; the people