

the world in their sphere, perhaps their brightest hues are caught from the sheen of the returning glory of Zion. And hence we may well believe that our efforts for the ingathering of the children of Israel shall be crowned with a peculiar blessing. But if we may thus obtain encouragement from the future, not less powerfully are we impelled, by motives of true Christian love arising from the history of the past, to go forward among the dispersed of Israel, and with loudest and latest voice proclaim the coming of the Lord, no longer in the accents of prophetic vision, but in the sober and truthful words of past realization: "Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." We are glad to say that such claims have found a willing response in the establishment of the arduous but important Mission for the

CONVERSION OF THE JEWS.

Various stations have been selected as best fitted for carrying out this work. We subjoin a short notice of the progress at each:

Cochin.—In consequence of arrangements made for the appointment of an additional missionary at this station, Mr. James Bonthorne, a licentiate of the College of St. Andrew's, was ordained to the office, and arrived at Cochin in January last. Mr. Laseron has also returned to the scene of his labours, although by untoward accidents he was for some time delayed on his voyage.

Although, during Mr. Laseron's protracted absence, the schools attached to the mission have suffered greatly, he states that the school in the *Compound* has now fifty-eight on the roll,—the average attendance being forty, and new pupils are received almost daily; that the *Ameravedy Tamul* school, at which there had been, previous to his return to this country, an attendance of thirty boys, and which had been shut during his absence, is again opened, and is attended by above twenty; and that the *Jeatown* school, which he had found in a very depressed state on his arrival, is now giving indications of decided improvement. Mr. Laseron has received an interesting letter from the Metropolitan of the Syrian Church at Malabar, congratulating him on his safe return to the sphere of his missionary labours.

Germany.—The labours of the three missionaries in this country, the Rev. G. F. Sutter at Karlsruhe, the Rev. J. C. Lehner, at Darmstadt, and the Rev. Rudolph Stern, at Speyer, are viewed with peculiar satisfaction. We regret to say that Mr. Sutter has been suffering under the pressure of heavy domestic affliction from the death of his wife.

During the year two instances have occurred of persons being admitted to the fellowship of the Christian Church by baptism, and interesting accounts have also been received of other two who are anxious to be baptised.

At *Darmstadt* Mr. Lehner has been prosecuting his labours with zeal and

devotedness. But we regret to state that these have been arrested by indisposition, and from his last letter, dated 26th. April, it appeared that he was entirely laid aside from active service.

At *Speyer*, the work of the mission has been steadily progressing under the care of Mr. Stern.

The German Missionary Board, have held three meetings during the year for the fellowship of prayer, and the study of the Scriptures bearing on the condition and future prospects of Israel. The meetings took place at Karlsruhe, Speyer, and Darmstadt.

Extension of the Mission.—In regard to a proposal formerly made for employing a missionary at Paris, it may be stated that the subject is still engaging the anxious attention of the Committee.

Ladies' Association.—At *Cochin*, the Association maintains a school for the instruction of young Jewesses, and also an orphanage in connexion with their branch of the mission. In London, Mrs. Rosenfeldt, and, in Germany, Miss Mitselbach at Karlsruhe, and Miss Huth at Darmstadt, have, during the past year, continued their labours with all their accustomed fidelity, and not without tokens of encouragement and success.

The whole income of the Scheme during the past year has been £356, 17s. 1d. less than the income of the previous year; while the expenditure was £3396, 15s. 5d., or £980, 12s. 2d. above that of the previous year. It is a fact to be deplored that there has been a decrease in the church-door collections of £157, and there are no less than 265 parishes which have not contributed. It will be observed that the Education and Home Mission schemes have also suffered from the want of that liberal support which is usually extended towards them. It is, perhaps enough to set these facts before a Christian people, since, heavy as may be the pressure of other claims, no real philanthropist can ever rank them above such urgent appeals to labour for the welfare of countless human souls.

We have thus pointed out the chief means by which the Church of Scotland endeavours to scatter the precious seed of the Word of life among those beyond her precincts both at home and abroad. As usual, we annex a note of the entire voluntary aid extended to the Schemes. This amount of contributions, is, however, exclusive of many private acts of donation, and instances of benefaction, of which a knowledge can only be acquired from the good which they accomplish. But in such a state of matters, we fear the Church has little cause for congratulation. It is true we cannot tell to what extent she has advanced the cause of Christ during her labours for another year. We cannot tell what changes she may have wrought on many a dreary heart, nor with what blessings of increase the dews of heavenly grace may visit the scenes she has traversed,—causing, even now it may be, the solitary place to be glad, and the desert to rejoice

and blossom as the rose. But leaving, in humble faith, the results of the work in the hands of our Heavenly Father, it is for us to inquire whether we have used the best and most efficient means for the promotion of His cause. In some measure, indeed, we may satisfy ourselves that the outward machinery is complete and well adapted—but let us think of what rests with ourselves as regards its application. We may give the accustomed contribution, and direct it to the wonted channel, but how often do our individual exertions go no further? How often does the hand which gives find no guidance from the heart, and the voice of the prayer which accompanies the gift remain altogether untouched by a holy and noble enthusiasm, dignified by the importance of the objects to be attained? If we would but act in opposition to this, if our hearts were full of the work, if our prayers were earnest for its success, not only might our contributions be greater, but more productive of good. The struggle in which we engage is a long and arduous one; the enemy strong and indomitable. If we have been often victorious, we have not less frequently been repulsed. We rejoice to think, however, that we are not single handed. On the earth we have many allies full of courage and vigour, and we are follow-workers with Heaven itself. We have only to advance the might of faith to renew assault upon assault, and we are assured that, though the siege be protracted, the strongholds of the powers of darkness shall inevitably fall at last, and the banners of salvation wave from the battlements of a pure and holy world. "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light," are the inviting accents of our Lord to every soul wayworn and oppressed. What Christian heart does not feel the beauty and truthfulness of that saying, while the same voice which uttered it described the burden of the cross as the peculiar characteristic of his disciples? To bid adieu to the pleasures of earth, to cultivate holiness, to encounter reproach, that is a cross which the worldly man has no power to bear. But to do this, ay, and to live no longer to ourselves; to walk in the beauty of holiness; to kindle the star of hope for the lost, and to shed abroad the light of the love of Heaven—these are the highest joys of the Christian. We cannot, however, disguise the fact, that in the eye of the world, he has much to accomplish full of toil and peril—much that appears to be the bearing of a cross heavy with sorrow. But to the soul fraught with Christian love, this thought affords only new delight in doing the will of Heaven. Before the light of a mere earthly affection, suffering and danger oftentimes take wings and flee away—nay, they may furnish but fresh impulses to the sinking heart. Ah! little can we feel of that heavenly love which is nobler and deeper far than any which gladdens the world, if we find not that under the kind and loving smile of Heaven, our labour is joy, and our yoke light and gentle, and easy to be borne! But again