

The school department is taught almost entirely by native teachers, of whom there are only about five or six who are Christians. The college department is conducted almost entirely by the missionaries. The pupils are of all ages, from five up to twenty-one or twenty-two, and at various stages of progress, from the alphabet on to Butler's Analogy, and the higher mathematics. Every morning they are assembled at ten o'clock, and the Divine blessing is invoked on the whole work of the day, after which they pass off in regular order to their respective classrooms with their respective teachers. Then begins a scene in every class-room which never fails to awaken the deepest interest in all who witness it. The presence of every one of these 1000 or 1200 pupils is not only an index of the value put on the education we provide, but also a proof that there are so many influential members of the native community who are willing to incur the risk of their children being converted rather than let them grow up without the benefit of the secular knowledge imparted in our institution. And this strong desire on the part of the parents, communicated to their children, is visible in the eagerness with which they receive instruction. Many of them have come to Calcutta from remote districts of Bengal, and are living with some friend or relative, for the express purpose of attending our institution, and many walk from their home four or five miles every morning, in the scorching sun or drenching rain, and return again after four o'clock when the institution closes. Some, I believe, whose native villages are on the banks of the river, and can avail themselves of boats, come distances of nine or ten miles every day. Once assembled in our class-rooms, our great aim as missionaries (which we by no means conceal from them or their parents) is to bring the Word of God so to bear on them that they be convinced of their sin and danger, and constrained, by the love of Christ, to cast in their lot with his people.

PUNA.

ANNUAL EXAMINATION.

The Rev. J. M. Mutchell transmits a gratifying account of the institution and other schools at Puna, which appeared in the *Puna Observer*. He says (16th Oct.):—

There were several things of a gratifying kind in connexion with the Examination. We had not, indeed, the presence of the Governor as we had last year, his Lordship being in Bombay when the Examination took place; but the Chair was occupied by an admirable man, Mr. Reeves, Provisional Member of Council. We were also happy in having the Director of Public Instruction, Mr. C. J. Erskine; but I need not particularise names. Considering the season of the year, our friends mustered strong.

You will see that our numbers stand high—somewhat above one thousand. At our Examination last year, they did not quite amount to even hundred. That there should be a considerable increase in our highest seminary, the English Institution, is also very encouraging; the numbers in it now approach three hundred, and will, I doubt not, soon exceed that mark.

Vernacular education, too, in Puna, can be of a very thorough kind. In several other places vernacular schools languish; not so here.

The Examination seemed greatly to interest, not only the European, but the Native visitors.—It certainly passed off remarkably well, and afforded abundant proof that our teachers and their pupils had entered with energy and heart into our plans.

Besides being present at the Public Examination, Mr. Erskine, the Government Director of Instruction, recently spent four hours in examining the classes of the Institution.

He is a man of high character and thorough mental culture; and we are thankful that our communication with government on educational matters will be through such a man.

MISSIONS TO THE JEWS.

A MISSIONARY PREACHING IN A JEWISH SYNAGOGUE.

The same correspondent adds:—Before closing, and even at the risk of exceeding the ordinary limits of a letter, I cannot refrain from communicating to you a remarkable occurrence which was a source of wonder to us, being both novel and quite unexpected. Several weeks ago the officiating Rabbi of these Jews, in a conversation with Mr. Imery, lamented the perpetual quarrels among their families, and grieved to attribute these disagreements to the very bounties which they were receiving from the English.—Mr. Imery hazarded the inquiry, if he might be permitted to address a few words of exhortation to them on their approaching Sabbath! The young Rabbi seemed at first rather startled by the proposal, but finally consented; and it was agreed that on the Saturday Mr. Imery should make his appearance in the Synagogue immediately after the reading of the law. We knew of it on Friday, and could scarce credit the fact. At the appointed hour Mr. I. entered their place of worship, where upwards of seventy Jews were assembled. All eyes were turned towards the stranger, whom the Rabbi now introduced as 'a gentleman who would address a few friendly words to them.' Mr. I. took for his text Ps. 133,—"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." He afterwards told us that he had felt great liberty in speaking to them from these words, and was enabled fully, and without reserve, to unfold to them the whole gospel plan of salvation for the ruined and lost. He was listened to with riveted attention; and as he proceeded to quote from the New Testament, several nodded acquiescence, and exclaimed, 'That is good.' A crowd of women, attracted by the novelty of the scene, ventured within the forbidden precincts, and stood silent listeners. After discoursing for an entire hour, Mr. I. closed, and received from many the outstretched hand, and hearty expressions of thanks; and one aged Jew said to him, 'You have counselled us as a father his children.' We have all felt the deepest interest in this precious opportunity, being thus afforded for witnessing for the truth before so many of the house of Israel, and we trust it may yet be found that this word has not yet returned void, but that it has prospered in that whereto it was sent.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

FORMATION OF A PRESBYTERY.

We have only within the last few weeks received intelligence of the important fact, that our brethren in S. Australia constituted themselves into a Presbytery, on 9th May, 1854. We have great pleasure in presenting to our readers a large extract from the authorised narrative of the proceedings. They are remarkable for distinctness in the enunciation of fundamental principles, and in every respect highly creditable to the Church in South Australia.

"The Rev. John Gardner of Chalmers' Church, Adelaide; the Rev. John Anderson, of Strathalbyn; the Rev. John Strachan Moir, of Smith's Creek and Gawler Town; with Messrs. George Young and James Benny, elders, having met and deliberated, it was unanimously resolved—that a Presbytery should be formed, to be called 'The Presbytery of the Free Presbyterian Church of South Australia.' Preparations to this effect were duly made and intimation given from the respective pulpits, as well as by means of the press, that on the evening of the 9th of May, 1854, the Presbytery would be formed. A very large and deeply interested audience met in Chalmers' Church on that evening. Divine service was conducted by the Rev. John Gardner, who preached from Joshua xxii. 28, the middle clause, 'Behold the pattern of the altar of the Lord which our fathers made.' At the close of the services

Mr. Gardner descended from the pulpit to the platform, and, receiving the cordial sanction of the ministers and elders assembled to the formation of a Presbytery, did constitute the same by prayer, seeking specially the presence, guidance, and blessing, of the Great King and Head of the Church. The court being thus constituted, and a roll of members made up, it was moved by the Rev. John Anderson, and seconded by Mr. George Young—'That the Rev. John Gardner, of Adelaide, be elected moderator of Presbytery for the ensuing six months,' a motion which was unanimously carried. It was then moved by Mr. James Benny, elder, and seconded by the Rev. John Anderson—'That the Rev. John S. Moir be appointed Clerk of the Court,' which motion being carried, Mr. Moir cheerfully accepted office and promised all faithfulness in the discharge of his duties as clerk. The Moderator, having obtained permission to vacate the chair, submitted a "Draft of Constitution" that it might be adopted, if approved, as the Fundamental Act of the Presbytery.

NATIVE CHRISTIAN AGENCY IN ABYSSINIA.

A few months ago, there was given in the *Record* some account of the missionary efforts in Abyssinia, of the two brothers Gabriël and Mariakä Warké; and the simple eloquence of the former in an address, delivered at a prayer meeting at Bombay, could not fail to awaken the sympathy of our readers. Gabriël Warké was then on a visit to Dr. Wilson, in Bombay, with a view to obtaining additional supplies of the Holy Scriptures, and other means for advancing the cause of gospel truth in his native land, to which he returned last January. In the midst of many difficulties they are steadfast in the faith, and diligent in teaching the children to read the Bible and in distributing it. They have devoted themselves to this work in preference to every opening of secular advancement in their own country, and only ask a small competence for the support of themselves and their families from Christian benevolence. We would call attention to the opportunity now afforded of aiding this mission, by sending contributions of money or work for the bazaar in Bombay, of which the advertisement will be found in another column.—*Home and Foreign Record*.

PATAGONIAN OR SOUTH AMERICAN MISSION.

A lecture was delivered by the Rev. George Packenham Despard, on Monday evening, in the Free New North Church, on the present state and future prospects of this Mission; and a public meeting of the friends of the Mission was held yesterday afternoon, in one of the rooms of Queen Street Hall, presided over by Bailie Brown Douglas. The meeting was well attended. The Chairman referred to the past history of this Mission, observing that it was only four years ago, since the public mind was thrilled by the publication of the melancholy deaths of Captain Gardiner and his Christian associates on the inhospitable shores of Patagonia; and said, that the lesson which he drew from what had occurred was, not that they should abandon the Mission, but that, profiting by the experience of the past, they should persevere, and adopt another plan of bringing the gospel within the reach of the natives of that part of the world. The Rev. Dr. Thomson introduced Mr. Despard, who had, after the parent Society had for years vainly endeavoured to find a clerical superintendent for the Mission, agreed to undertake the responsible and arduous duty himself. Mr. Despard, in adopting this step, was about to leave many earthly comforts, and to give up a lucrative position; and this was, he said, enough to gather around him the sympathy, and prayers, and support of every person present.—Mr. Despard, in the course of his address, referred