

membership of the Church of Scotland, a claim on their assistance which no words can be needed to enforce.

Let every minister, loyal to the honour of the Church of Scotland, obey the injunction of the General Assembly, and give his people an opportunity of contributing to the Colonial Committee's funds; let every member of the Church contribute as God hath prospered him;—above all, in view of existing difficulties, let united prayers from both ministers and people ascend to Him who loveth a cheerful giver, who can enlarge the liberality of His Church to the full extent of her greatest needs for advancing His cause; and while the people "rejoice for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the Lord," abundant means shall not be wanting for a work of ever-widening blessing to our fellow-countrymen in distant lands.

In name of the Colonial Committee.

ROBERT H. MUIR, Convener.

F. THE MANSE, DALMENY,
EDINBURGH. February 1880.

MISSION WORK IN CHINA.

Recent letters from missionaries in North China give intensely interesting accounts of the sudden and grand inauguration of medical missionary work in Tientsin, on a grand scale, and under very remarkable auspices. The importance of this advance movement can hardly be overestimated, and it is not too much to be hoped that it will give a new impetus to every department of missionary effort.

The Rev. A. H. Smith, of Tientsin, writes as follows: "Dr. Mackenzie, a medical missionary of the London Mission, was transferred to this city last spring, with a view to opening an extensive medical work here, which has never yet been done. A petition was presented to His Excellency, the Governor-General of the province, Li-hung-chang, the most influential man in China, asking his co-operation. Owing, perhaps, to the arrival of General Grant and the ensuing excitement, no reply was made. A few weeks since the wife of His Excellency, long an invalid, was so low that native physicians gave her up after

administering all the most expensive drugs in the Chinese pharmacopiee, and as they told the Governor-General, knew nothing else to do unless to begin and give them all over again! In this emergency two foreign physicians were summoned, who saved Madame Li's life. As Chinese prejudice forbids much that accidental civilization allows, it was necessary to a complete cure to summon a lady physician, which was done with the assent of His Excellency, the Governor-General.

"Miss L. A. Howard, of the American Methodist Mission, arrived here early in August, took up her quarters in a suite of three rooms near to Lady Li in the yamen, or official residence. Missionaries have occasionally been in the yamen of viceroys before, but it has generally been either in the capacity of beggar or as prisoners, never as physicians in charge. Miss Dr. Howard has lived in the yamen about three weeks, and Madame Li is so far recovered as to be considered well. The fame of foreign medicine has gone abroad with the highest endorsement. The foreign physicians operated in certain surgical cases in the yamen, and the patients made a successful recovery. As native doctors know nothing of surgery this is looked upon as a wonderful art. The Governor-General has not formally granted the petition referred to, but he has opened a dispensary in the largest temple in Tientsin, in that portion of it used as a memorial temple to his predecessor, the late Tseng-kue-tan. The medicines are furnished by the Governor-General, and the missionary physician in charge has full liberty to preach the gospel to every patient. A few weeks ago such an event would have been considered utterly improbable. Its consequences can hardly be foreseen. Li-hung-chang is the statesman who last year remarked, during the famine relief, that there must be something in religion which induces men to lay down their lives for total strangers of a different nation. Little by little the great wall of Chinese prejudice is falling in pieces. As it falls Christianity enters.

The Rev. Isaac Pierson, of the Pao-ting-fu station, who spent some weeks at Tientsin, writes at a later date: "A