

## "III. BOMBAY.

"At this station the Assembly has three Europeans—Revs. Dr. Wilson. R. Nesbit, and J. M. Mitchell; two ordained native ministers, Revs. Dhanjibhai Nuroji, and Hormazdji Pentonji; and one native preacher, Rev. Narapan Sheshadi. Besides these brethren there is one native Christian teacher, two native Christian female teachers, twenty-four native communicants under the care of the mission, twenty-four baptized adherents not communicants (principally children and young people), and two native presbyterial students for the ministry. The agencies employed at Bombay, according to the last report, are the direct preaching of the gospel, Christian and general education, English and vernacular, public lecturing, and private classes, assisting in translating the Scriptures, and preparing and circulating tracts, itineraries, the pastoral care of converts, and training converts for the Christian ministry. According to the same Report, there are 302 pupils in the Assembly's institution at Bombay, of whom 158 are Hindus and seven are Mohammedans; at the boys' schools, including the Ben-Israel, there are 443; at the girls' schools there are 559; and the latest information gives a total of 1318 connected with the mission at Bombay.

"The return of Mr. Nesbit from Europe in May, and the licensing of Narayan Sheshadi in September, were both occasions for thankfulness; but our brethren there had to join trembling with their joy, for Mr. M. Mitchell was brought low by fever, so low that it was at one time feared it would be requisite for him to return to Europe. By the good hand of God upon him, however, he has been in a great measure restored.

"Could the Committee lay before the Assembly the proceedings of the missionary band at this station for only a single Sabbath, it would be seen with what assiduity the work is pplied. Worship begins at half-past seven on the morning of the Sabbath, and at its close Dr. Wilson examines such of the youth as remain on the subject of the discourse. A prayer-meeting is held at eleven o'clock. At noon the Scripture and tract readers are examined by Mr. Hormazdji or Mr. Dhanjibhai, and at the same hour Dr. Wilson is engaged with 'serious-minded inquirers.' At two o'clock divine service is conducted in Marathi by the European missionaries and Hormazdji in rotation; and during part of the year, at a later part of the Lord's Day, a class for the children of converts is held, while the services of the Sabbath at Ambrolic are closed by an evening class conducted by Dr. Wilson. Two Chaldean Christians, from Mesopotamia, attend on that occasion.

"But we cannot trace in detail the Sabbath services of Mr. Nesbit. Every hour is filled up as in the case just given. Neither can we describe the procedure of Mr. M.

Mitchell, and the other labourers, on Sabbath and throughout the week.

"Connected with Bombay is

## "IV. PUNA.

"Puna contains a population of about 100,000. It is one of the seats of the government educational institutions. For some time the Rev. James Mitchell had been our sole agent there. He has been overtaken and overburdened by an amount of work for which no single labourer is competent.

"Mr. Mitchell's son, a probationer of the Free Church, has been appointed to this station, to aid his father.

"In regard to the operations carried on at Puna, the following facts are submitted.

"The public preaching of the gospel is continued by Mr. Mitchell, aided by Mr. Wezir Beg, a converted Mussulman, whom the committee empowered the Presbytery of Bombay to take on trial, for license to preach the gospel, some months ago.

"During the past year, three out of eight Marathi schools have been discontinued for want of funds to carry them on; but, in their place, a school has been opened at Puna for the lowest castes. That and other seminaries maintained by your missionaries are gradually helping to leaven the minds of men with Christian conviction, and, amid many antagonistic influences, the truth is making way. The five female schools alone indicate the progress which has been made.

"But these are not the only appliances employed by Mr. Mitchell. By lectures on the Evidences, on certain portions of history, and similar means, he has done all that the enfeebled state of the mission would permit—and only an enlargement of the agency appears to be needed to lead to rich and blessed results. To the native church at Puna three adults have been added during the past year. The English congregation at Puna numbered between two and three hundred.

The expenditure for all the operations at Puna during the past year has amounted to 3360 rupees. That sum is raised from friends of the cause in Western India, and our respected missionary has been in straits often in regard to funds for carrying forward his operations.

The number of pupils attending the		
boys' schools, is		412
Do.	do.	girls' schools, 116
In all,		526

## "V. SATTARA.

"For the past three or four years the Rev. James Aitken has been labouring at this station; and his seminaries now contain considerably above a hundred pupils. Various proposals have been made regarding a change of sphere for Mr. Aitken, but nothing has as yet been decided.