

Glasgow Presbytery was presented to the Synod requesting the appointment of a separate paid Secretary for the Home Mission Board, that more attention might be given to Home Mission affairs than could be rendered by one Secretary as hitherto acting for both Home and Foreign Departments.

Prior to this the Rev. Dr. Somerville had stated his inability to overtake the onerous duties devolving on him as Secretary for both Departments, and expressed a wish that a colleague should be appointed to take a share in the labours. This matter being taken into consideration by a sub-committee, the Board of Missions agreed to recommend to the Synod to appoint one to act as Home Secretary, it being understood that he should be charged not only with the work at present connected with Home Missions, but that he should visit the Congregations of the Church, and do all in his power to strengthen a Missionary spirit, and to raise funds for both Home and Foreign purposes.

The Synod in 1857 appointed a Committee to take this matter into consideration, and the result was that three individuals were proposed, among whom was the Rev. Mr. Ker of Glasgow, "whose extraordinary attainments, high moral character, great truthfulness and amiability, and wonderfully persuasive eloquence, make him admirably fitted for the duties of the office." The other two individuals withdrew their names, and Mr. Ker, by the unanimous voice of the Synod, uttered in a most impressive manner, was chosen. During this procedure Mr. Ker laboured under deep feeling, but he immediately intimated, most respectfully, but firmly, his resolution not to accept of this invitation. The consequence is, we understand, that the amiable and accomplished Rev. H. McGill, of Glasgow, has been invited to undertake this office, has given his consent, and has entered on his important duties.

We now proceed to present a brief view of the Foreign Missions of the United Presbyterian Church. This is by far the most important and popular subject of Synodical action; and, in concluding our historical sketches, we shall consider its progress and present condition. The subject was before us in our narrative of the United Secession Synod,—and there we found that a wonderful spirit of Christian liberality and zeal had been awakened throughout the length and breadth of the Denomination, and that much was done in spreading the glad tidings of Salvation over distant regions of the earth.

It can easily be conceived that the Union in 1847 not only enlarged the field of Foreign Missions, but gave greater facility and greater impulse for the prosecution of such labours of love. By the surrender of the Caffrarian and Jamaica Missions, which were partially, at least, under the management of Societies made up of various denominations, to the charge of the United Presbyterian Synod (to which we have already referred), the field for Foreign Missions was very