

he had to break what was called the golden chain of *Casté*. This extraordinary system was founded deep in the religion of the natives, and affected all the relations of life. But this was not all. The Hindoo was acute and argumentative. He delighted in the exercise of his ingenuity, and he required to be met with equal acuteness, and to be fought with his own weapons. This the Assembly well knew Dr. Duff was eminently qualified to perform. Another quality of Hindooism was, that this superstition enters not merely into the common relations of life, but into their history, their philosophy, their literature—all their feelings, their actions, and their views, are artfully bound up in this one principle. It coerces the mind and absorbs the faculties; but this very circumstance afforded an opening to an enlightened Christian Missionary. He who is versed in European learning and science knew how to assail the very foundations of Hindooism, by assailing the facts, or rather the palpable errors on which it is founded. He could show to demonstration that their history, their philosophy, their literature, were utterly false and frivolous; and thus, as their minds gradually opened to the truth on these subjects, their religious creed, before they were aware, was wrested from them. This had been admirably illustrated in this place on former occasions by Dr. Duff, and it was unnecessary to dwell on it. He (Dr. Duncan) mentioned it now, merely to show that such a man as our first Missionary was required for the situation to which the Great Head of the Church had raised him; and then all these rare qualities required, above all, to be sanctified by religious principle. There were elements at work sufficient to secularize a common mind. Among these was the very position of the Indian government, which was at last disposed to give facilities to his Christian enterprise. An ordinary mind might have been seduced by the worldly prospects and views which were thus presented to it. Not so Dr. Duff. He held on in the even tenor of his way looking only to the one glorious object he had in view—the salvation of immortal souls, perishing for lack of knowledge. And now see the fruit of his Christian labours—all the barriers which opposed his progress had been successfully assailed. The Scottish Mission had been placed on a remarkable vantage ground, acknowledged even by its enemies. The effect of European instruction was such that we were confidently assured that in a few years the capital of India will no longer be Hindoo, and in a few years longer, perhaps, but not less certainly under the continued enlightening operation of our Mission, it must become Christian. But our task was not yet accomplished; it was but beginning. There was everything indeed to encourage us. Heaven was smiling on our labours; and if we were not wanting to ourselves, we could not but succeed. [The Rev. Doctor here referred to the Report, and noticed some particulars which had especially struck his own mind in hearing it read. He then proceeded.] One thing more he must notice before he concluded, and that was

the account contained in the report of the youngest of our Establishments—the station at Madras. Mr. Anderson, the missionary, who arrived at that station so late as the end of February last year, had already effected much; and he was not surprised to hear it. He was personally acquainted with that excellent individual. He knew him to be a man of God, devoted to the cause of the Cross, who was resolved to spend and be spent in the service of his Divine Master. His talents were not less eminent than his zeal, and if it should please Providence, who so eminently endowed him, to spare his life, he could not but anticipate that his labours in the great cause to which he had devoted himself would not be inferior to those of Dr. Duff himself, whom in many qualifications he resembled. Before sitting down, he must not forget to warn the house, that amidst the multiplicity and magnitude of the objects before them, there was danger lest this great object might not meet with the attention which it deserved, and the high place in their affections and patronage which it so urgently demanded. They had, by the providence of God, been this year deprived of the irresistible eloquence of the eminent individual who had on former years awakened their sympathies and animated them to active exertion. Let not his absence cool them in the prosecution of an object of such unspeakable importance! Let them remember why he was absent—that his health had broken down, for a time, under his unwearied and invaluable exertions in this great cause. But, above all, let them remember the nature of the claim which India has on their Christian sympathies, and the amazing field which Providence has opened up in that interesting quarter, which may be said, in the plan at least which has been adopted, to be exclusively their own. As a great Protestant Church they had taken the lead in Missionary labours. All the schemes were eminently worthy of support—some of them, perhaps, more nearly touched their affections, being more intimately connected with the spiritual interests of our own countrymen; but let them beware lest the very nearness of these objects should deceive their vision, and give to them an undue magnitude. India has paramount claims on the inhabitants of Britain, both in what we have achieved in our conquests, and what we have neglected in its moral renovation. Let us not forget that the providence of God has thrown so many millions of heathens under our temporal dominion, and thus laid us as a Christian country under such a fearful responsibility as to their spiritual welfare. The Rev. Doctor concluded by moving that the Report be received and approved of.

Mr. Cook of Laureneekirk rose to express the high gratification he felt at the rapid advancement of their scheme of instruction in India. He trusted he would be allowed to bear testimony, similar to that borne by the Rev. Gentleman who had just sat down, to Dr. Duff, Mr. McKay, and Mr. M'Ewan, all of whom he knew intimately. They had prosecuted their studies