



Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia and the adjoining Provinces.

"IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET HER CUNNING."—PSALM 137, 16.

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THE CHURCH AT HOME.

The Church of Scotland in the Mission Field.—1854-55.

To the mighty impulse upon the exertions of the Church, arising from the common necessity of salvation to man, there has hitherto, in the schemes we have noticed, been added an appeal to our patriotism. But our hearts have responded, with any depth of Christian love, to the calls of our countrymen, they cannot fail to be touched also with zeal for the cause of

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

We know well that, in prosecuting such a Scheme, there are many difficulties to be overcome. It is no easy task to level the strongholds of human power, and establish a temporal sway in opposition to the might of nations, however righteous be the cause and desirable the end; and yet how insignificant is such an undertaking when compared with the attempt to subdue the powers of the human heart, even although our aim be to emancipate from a thralldom worse than the most terrible of despotisms, and to let the soul go free amid the light and liberty of eternal hope and endless happiness. No such influence on earth can be successful in such an enterprise; and while with her noble instrumentality the Church goes forth to heathen lands, and displays the banner of the Cross among the benighted regions of the world, it is in believing that He who turneth the hearts of men will bless her efforts for the advancement of His cause and kingdom in the earth. The Foreign Mission is principally directed to the youth of the vast territories of India, for many years it has been leavening an extensive body of the young with the noblest scriptural knowledge. We can note a few particulars of its progress in the past year in the various Presidencies. In *Calcutta* the Mission has been prosecuted with steadfast zeal and ability by the Messrs. Ogilvie and Anderson. Mr. Wallace, who was ordained by the Presbytery

of Edinburgh, has also for several months been engaged in the work. By their exertions hundreds receive religious instruction in the Institution, and by preaching and otherwise they endeavour to bring young and old to the knowledge of Christianity. A single instance of the baptism of a native convert has occurred during the year.

From the Presidency of *Madras* we have the cheering intelligence of the conversion of eight natives, and of their subsequent admission by baptism into the Christian Church; and the Rev. Mr. Grant is still continuing, with unabated vigour, to prosecute the work in which he is engaged. In this Presidency the erection of presbyterial bodies in India has already been productive of good, and Messrs. James Sheriff and Alexander Walker, two of the European missionary agents of the General Assembly there, have been admitted as licentiates of the Church of Scotland in India.

In the Institution at *Bombay* there is at present only one ordained missionary, Mr. Wallace. The Institution, however, is in a generally prosperous condition. The total number of names enrolled is close upon 500—including the Marathee preparatory school. The number of pupils daily present in the English department is from 320 to 350, shewing a considerable increase as compared with former years. The importance of sending out another missionary to aid Mr. Wallace has not been overlooked; and during the present month Mr. Thomas Hunter, who had acquired a competent knowledge of the Hindustanee language, has been ordained with the view of immediately proceeding to *Bombay*. Mr. Hunter has, however, been especially set apart as the first missionary of the Church to the *Punjab*—a mission provided for by the munificent gift of General and Mrs. Campbell of *Lochnell*—and his ultimate sphere of labour will be at *Lahore* or its neighbourhood. Within a year, during which time he will remain at *Bombay*, it is hoped that suitable associates in their work will be found both for Mr. Wallace and Mr. Hunter.

The important auxiliary Scheme of the Ladies' Association for Female Education in India, and the Missionary Institution at *Ghospara*, endowed by the congregation of *St. Stephen's*, *Edinburgh*, are still successfully and zealously engaged in the mission work. To the corresponding boards of the various Presidencies the thanks of the Church have been tendered for their united sympathy and co-operation.

It is interesting to notice that contributions have been received in aid of the Scheme from *Montreal* and *Buenos Ayres*, examples well calculated to provoke the liberality of the Church at home. The call upon that liberality is becoming louder every day. It is impossible to over-value the good which might be accomplished by the mission, if ample means were placed at its disposal. The clouds seem to be already breaking in the East. The tumult of war, and the gathering together of the nations may be no more than the thunderstorm heralding the approach of a brighter sky and a purer air. There, at such a time as the present, when the brotherhood of danger in the struggle for liberty is linking together the adherents of the Cross and the crescent alike, the services of the Church might prove invaluable; for while we do not seek to unravel the hidden mysteries of the future, we can scarcely fail to recognise the importance of diffusing, by the knowledge of heavenly truth, the love of a freedom nobler than emancipation from the fetters of any earthly thralldom. It is a cheering fact that already other churches are hurrying to the field, and we hope the Church of our land will not be the last to lend her aid in the work.

In all her missionary efforts the Church looks for strength and encouragement to the numerous promises of Heaven, as she endeavours, by her humble influence, to hasten the coming of the glorious era when "the earth shall be covered with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." But while these heavenly promises, like a brilliant rainbow of mercy, encircle