

Persia we have tidings of a very remarkable religious revival. The churches have been refreshed and strengthened as they never were before, and after long persecution they are enjoying much-needed rest. The news from Africa is partly sad and partly very joyous. Some brave young men—missionary pioneers—have fallen at their posts, and others are prostrated by illness. But the work of exploration and of planting mission stations goes bravely on. The Congo, greater than the Nile itself, is now regarded as a highway to the heart of Africa. The usual proportion of missionaries went forth last year to heathen or papal lands; and if we may judge from what we have read, the labours of missionaries have been crowned with more than the usual share of blessing and success.

The Jews.

By REV. PRINCIPAL MACVICAR, LL.D.

S we have had a good deal of talking and writing of late about "the lost tribes" allow me to offer a few practical thoughts respecting the whole Jewish nation.

THE JEWS ARE A MUCH NEGLECTED PEOPLE.

This is manifestly true so far as any action by the Presbyterian Church in Canada is concerned, and, I suspect that the conduct of many others is very like our own. Few think about them, or pray for them. They are seldom mentioned at the family altar or in the public services of the sanctuary. We have no distinctive mission to this people, and few and small are the contributions in their behalf which go from this great Dominion. It may be thought that this is owing to our poverty, or to our having already so many things in hand. But this is a mistake. We are perfectly able to do far more than has yet been attempted. Let the vast wealth now thrown away on sinful indulgences, and laid out for political ends and selfish purposes, be set free and consecrated to the Lord, and let his people, specially the wealthy among them, realize that they are only His stewards and there will be abundance of means at command to carry on missions among all the nations of the world, including this long and much neglected people.

THE JEWS ARE A PEOPLE TO WHOM WE OWE MORE THAN TO ANY OTHER.

It is enough in this connection to say that from them we have received our Hebrew and Greek Scriptures. "Unto them were committed the oracles of God." "To whom pertained the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises: whose are the fathers and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever." To all these we are served heirs through the Jews. Their God is ours. Their Christ is ours. Their Bible is ours. And what would the world be without the Bible? It is the foundation of our religion: the foundation of our literature, philosophy, and science; for when science refuses to accept its truths as the starting point it becomes unmeaning jargon: the foundation of social, political, and national freedom and greatness. Should we treat the people to whom, under God, we owe so much, with neglect in our prayers or our offerings?

THE JEWS ARE A PEOPLE POSSESSED OF NOBLE ATTRIBUTES.

I know that an opinion the very opposite of this is widely entertained and often expressed. They are put forward as the incarnation of meanness, treachery and cruelty—as if Shylock were the typical man of the nation. I know, too, that Scripture discloses more than a little misconduct on their part; but were the sins of other people as faithfully recorded as theirs have been, possibly some might have more cause for shame than the Jews. In spite of all their wickedness, they are a marvellous people, and furnish many of the highest types of mental, moral and religious excellence which history records—we cannot forget Abraham, Moses and the Prophets. And where can we find in our day, or in all our history, such a man as the Apostle Paul—tender-hearted, generous, firm, intrepid, self-sacrificing, learned, patriotic, powerful,—in every sense a great and good man. Not a few of his qualities belong to the whole race. *They are learned.* Probably a larger proportion of the whole nation are profound scholars than of any other people in the world; and in proof of this they are found in every country connected with the Schools and Universities, as Philologists, Historians and Scientists. *They are skilful financiers.* Bankers, merchants and the directors of the finances of nations have acknowledged their power in this respect. They are *adventurous*, have braved hardships and dangers of all sorts, and, indeed, proved themselves to be ubiquitous: for there is