

General Assembly's Missionaries in Bombay, and who, at the time Mr. Duff was a President of the Students Missionary Society, visited that city to take farewell of his friends there, and delivered an address to nearly all the students, in which he discussed at great length the obligations laid upon young men to engage in the missionary work.—These circumstances, and I might have added more, will serve to shew the cause of Mr. Duff's attention being first directed to foreign service in the ministerial work, so that when the call at length came, he was prepared by divine grace to hear and to render a willing obedience. Mr. Duff about this time had trials from a quarter which deeply affected him. I remember him once coming to me in great distress of mind about one of his pupils. He had bestowed much care in the tuition of this youth. Knowing that evil communications corrupt good manners, he was very careful in looking after the young men, with whom he associated, and would introduce to him only those who were characterised for their piety and love of learning. During all this time the youth was remarkable for his grave and orderly conduct. He made a good appearance in his classes, for he prepared his lessons with care, and altogether he was much esteemed as well for his own as Mr. Duff's sake. By and bye he removed to Edinburgh, and his tutor accompanied him thither—and now he got introduced among a new class of companions. They taught him that he was the heir to a handsome fortune, and all the gaiety and pleasures of human life were within his reach. After this there was a total change in his behaviour. He could no longer be curbed in his desires. His studies were abandoned, and he ran wildly in the ways of folly and sin. How far he went I have now no means of knowing, for it was shortly after this that Mr. Duff went to India, but his conduct was a source of grief to his pious spirit. He was capable of teaching him the whole round of the sciences, but when he spoke to me on the subject he seemed to express his utter helplessness in teaching him wisdom and self-denial—making the same confession which a pious scholar, with whom Mr. Duff is not unworthy of being associated, once made—that old Adam was too strong for the young Melancthon.

It was shortly after the incident referred to, that Mr. Duff received his appointment as head master of the General Assembly's Seminary in Calcutta. He had not by this time received license as a preacher; but such was the confidence which the late Dr. Inghis had of his zeal, talents, and piety, that, he with the other members of the Assembly's Committee, appointed him to that important station at this early stage of his career.—And most nobly has Mr. Duff been enabled to

vindicate the wisdom of the appointment. I remember being present when he preached his first sermon in Edinburgh. It was in the Rev. Mr. Simpson's chapel, Leith Wynd. His text was 1 Cor. ii. 2, "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ and him crucified." And with the exception of Dr. Chalmers, I never heard man preach so powerful a sermon. He magnified the glory of the cross above all the wisdom of the Greeks, and at great length demonstrated, that all the perfections of the God-head harmonised in this method of salvation. I will not, however, take upon me to say, that either Dr. Duff or any other minister could furnish Sabbath after Sabbath a series of such discourses. I believe after much reflection on the subject, that splendid discourses must needs be occasional ones, and he, who would feed a congregation from week to week and from year to year with the bread of life must study simplicity rather than splendor, and bring forth from his treasures things new and old.

At the conclusion of the service, a country minister speaking of the great merits of the discourse, said he had no idea that Mr. Duff possessed such unrivalled powers for eloquence, and that it was a pity the church at home should be deprived of his services. "O sir," said an aged lady, while the tears flowed down her cheeks—"let him go to the heathen sir, let him go. It is one like him they need most." As it has been my object in these brief sketches to speak of those public matters which were well known to Mr. Duff's friends, though not to the community generally, so I pass over many circumstances which my esteem for his moral worth would have led me to speak of, but which do not arise out of his public character, and hasten to a close.

In going out to his destination a circumstance occurred which was calculated to damp the minds of the friends of the mission in Scotland. This was the wreck of the ship the *Lady Holland*, in which Dr. Duff was proceeding to Calcutta.—They had reached the latitude of the Cape, and were sailing under a moderate breeze. It was a clear moonlight night, and no one dreamed that danger was nigh, though the vessel was running upon the dangerous reef—when all of a sudden the watch called out—"Breakers ahead, weather the helm." The words were no sooner spoken than the steersman obeyed. But it was too late. The vessel bounded on the sunk rocks, and in a brief space the water rose several feet in her hold. The passengers and crew were saved by taking to their boats. And our devoted Missionary before leaving the ship engaged in prayer with the passengers kneeling around him. By the good hand of God they reached a desert is-