

jutor. Few missions have such a labourer as he is, so wise, and learned and devoted; so much esteemed by Europeans and natives. He begins work at 7 A.M. On alternate days he meets one or two inquirers of high standing, and teaches a large class of young men and men advancing in life, who are engaged in business during the day. The aim of the latter is of course to obtain secular knowledge; but in return for that they attend with punctilious honour on the mornings devoted to Christian instruction. Then Mr. Sheriff takes wholly into his own hands the religious instruction of the highest class—devotes a part of every day to the training of the catechists or students of divinity, and shares with Mr. Grant the charge of the teachers' class. Enough work this in an Indian climate. In addition, however, he has a Bible class and regular service on Sabbath. He cannot do less work, and yet it is too much for any man. It would surely be the path of wisdom to enable him to husband his strength a little. Then, though life is infused into our Mission once more, and it is rising from former prostration, this will only make its position the more tantalizing to its friends, and there will still be danger of its some day falling again if the opportunity is not seized, and the agency so extended as to prevent the constant feeling that good places are continually crammelled. A man of talent who could devote himself to the study of Marathi, take part in the missionary department of the work of the Institution and in general missionary work, both in the English and Marathi languages, is indispensable to the energy and stability of our Mission—and would have before him noble and blessed work."

MADRAS.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND MISSION INSTITUTION.

(H. and F. Missionary Record for April.)

The Annual Public Examination of the above Institution was held on the evening of Friday, December 21, 1860, in the Mission House, North Beach. In the unavoidable absence of the Honourable the Governor, Colonel McGoun kindly presided on the occasion. Notwithstanding the numerous examinations that have taken place lately, and the fact that two occurred on the same day, many visitors were present. There were present 362 pupils attending the Central Institution and the Poodoopet Branch School, and likewise a large assemblage of their relatives and friends.

The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. J. Macfarlane, after which the 5th class consisting of 31 boys, was questioned by the Rev. Mr. Forbes, superintendent of the Mission, on the earlier part of the History of India, and answered remarkably well. The 2nd and 3rd classes were next examined on the book of the Acts of the Apostles, and subsequently on the latter portions of the History of India; and the 4th class was taken in Luke's Gospel by one of the catechists. All these classes showed a thorough acquaintance with their several studies. The 2nd class was also examined in the 1st Book of Euclid, and demonstrated with correctness and intelligence several propositions. The 1st class, consisting of 11 young men, was called up thrice during the evening, and examined in Mathematics, the Epistle to the Galatians, Brewer's Science, and the Life and Travels of St. Paul as contained in the Acts of the Apostles and in his Epistles. The appearance made by them in the examination on all these subjects showed a high state of proficiency, and elicited general praise.

After the examination Mr. Forbes read a statement regarding the Mission, and the Report of the Private Examiners, Rev. Mr. Symonds, Secretary of the Propagation Society,

on the Bible; Captain Carpendale, Principal of the C. E. College, on Mathematics and Arithmetic; Rev. Mr. Ashton, London Mission, on History; Rev. Mr. Burgess, Wesleyan Mission, on Geography and Grammar; Rev. Mr. Winfrid, American Mission, on Vernacular Translation.

The prizes having been distributed, Col. McGoun addressed Mr. Forbes to the effect that he regretted much that the Governor had not been able to be present, according to his intention, as he would certainly have been delighted with an examination that was so interesting and satisfactory. He said that he felt he was but expressing the opinion of all present in stating that what they had witnessed had afforded them gratification and delight. He congratulated Mr. Forbes on the success which had attended his labours since coming to Madras, and expressed to him his best wishes for the continued prosperity of the Institution. The proceedings were then closed by prayer and benediction by the Rev. Stewart Wright.

The following is a part of the Rev. Mr. Forbes' statement referred to above:—

"Mr. Chairman—In accordance with a custom usual on occasions like this, I must now request your permission to submit a few observations regarding the present condition and prospects of this Mission.

"From various causes before the close of 1858 the whole of the agents had been called away to other spheres of labour with the exception of Mr. Walker, who was also removed in the month of August last year, having been appointed one of Her Majesty's chaplains. Consequently upon these changes, the Mission was left without any European agent from August 1859 to March of the present year, when I arrived to assume the charge of it. During that interval, however, an East Indian head-master was engaged, and the chaplains of the Church of Scotland devoted as much time to its superintendence as they could afford, and this largely contributed to maintain its efficiency.

"Regarding the prosperity of the Mission since it has been under my care, I hope some indication is afforded by the rapid augmentation which has taken place in the number of the pupils; the attendance having almost doubled within the last 7 months, and being now quite as great as at any former period in the history of the Mission. This increase has not been a sudden influx, which is liable as quickly to subside as it rose, but has proceeded gradually and regularly, and may therefore be hoped to prove permanent. The average number in daily attendance in the Central Institution is 293, and in the Poodoopet Branch School about 40, which gives a total attendance of 333. The number enrolled is of course considerably greater, amounting to above 390. It is not desirable that the attendance should advance to any further extent, as such a body of youths form a field which it may well exercise the diligence and faithfulness of one missionary to cultivate. Indeed mere numbers are in themselves of no importance, viewed apart from the due employment of Christian labour, whereby the great truths of salvation may be applied to the hearts and consciences of the youth entrusted to our care. It is in no boasting spirit that a reference is made to the addition to our pupils, because it is clearly felt that each new scholar involves a new responsibility, and that we are in the position of those who must give account. Amidst the toil of the secular work I hope that the great and essential design of our vocation is never lost sight of, either by myself or by the Christian men who labour along with me.

"It is not so much our endeavour to com-

municate religious knowledge as to arouse the understanding and conscience, and awaken some perception of the living power of Divine things. Religious knowledge is not more difficult to impart than any other branch of information which is new and strange to the pupils; but its enforcement is the task which tests the missionary's faith and zeal and hope. Our secular studies have not embraced any very advanced or difficult subjects, the aim in view being merely to qualify our pupils for engaging in some useful occupations, and becoming respectable members of society in the sphere in which Providence has placed them. The same prominence is not given to the vernaculars here as in some similar institutions. The question, however, of whether or not it would be advisable to appoint Moonshoes for grammatical tuition in the native tongues is now under consideration. And, while we have at present no masters exclusively so engaged, we are not unmindful of the important place which the vernaculars must occupy in such a school as this. Accordingly in all the classes except the 1st the whole of the English lessons are by the teachers fully explained and paraphrased to the pupils in their own language on the day in which the lesson is prescribed. Especial care is used to secure this being done with all the Scriptural studies; and on the day in which the lesson is delivered the verses read are always similarly translated and explained by the pupils themselves. The whole of the Scripture lessons, it may be added, are taught by Christian men, converts of the Mission. Before quitting the subject of the Central School, I shall only mention that about 140 of our pupils assemble regularly on the Sabbath, and are taught for an hour in the Bible and catechisms, and then attend service, which is conducted in Tamil by the catechists in rotation. To come to our Branch Schools, it is somewhat painful to be compelled to mention the discontinuance of a school which had long been established in Trivator as an offshoot of this Mission. The resolution to withdraw it was not arrived at, because the school had been a total failure. It was some years ago attended by a considerable number and taught with much success; and there are still on the average 12 pupils daily, which is quite as many as in the case of some similar village schools. But it was felt that in a place so populous as Trivator an attendance of 12, though not a total failure, was a very discouraging result. Accordingly various efforts to awaken a better appreciation of the value of the schools among the inhabitants having been made, but without success, it was abolished, and the teacher transferred to the Central School, where, at less than half the outlay, he now imparts instruction to three times the number of his former school, to whom, but for his additional assistance, we must have refused admittance. At the same time that this backward movement took place, an advance was made in another direction, and a very promising school at Poodoopet, which had long been supported by St. Andrew's Church, was adopted by the Mission.

"Those who have been friends of the Mission in former years will no doubt have some recollection of the Preparandi Class established in 1856. It consisted of 3 of the converts of the Mission and 3 young men, sons of native Christian parents, and 1 East Indian. The East Indian accepted civil employment after a short term of study. Mr. Jacob David, one of the 3 young men, Christian by birth, was last year licensed and ordained as a missionary, and now labours with much zeal and acceptance in Poodoopet, and has gathered around him a goodly number of adherents and communicants. The other 2 students, not