

Indeed, there have been cases where results of churches dismissing ministers have been reviewed and reversed by the Civil Courts. In all these cases the Courts adjudge according to our ecclesiastical law—that is try the question whether, according to our law and usage, the contracts have been fulfilled. And these cases seem to be parallel with that which is raising such a storm in Scotland. It is true that none of our Courts can give to a minister his *status* as a spiritual administrator, where the Ecclesiastical Courts have taken it away, nor is it possible that the Scotch Courts will attempt that; but they can adjudge that the civil contract involved in the ministers relations has been violated, and enforce the performance of that contract. So it seems that the Free Church have yet one lesson of freedom to learn from us."

(From H. and F. Mission Record for Dec.)

JEWISH MISSION.

MONASTIR.

The following extracts from a letter of the Rev. Dr. Epstein, the missionary of the Synod of Canada, narrate the heavy affliction he has suffered just as he was called to lay the foundation of the Mission at this new station, and will, we trust, strongly draw forth towards him the sympathies of our readers, and stir them up to earnest prayer that he and his family may be sustained under the loss that has befallen them, and comforted with those consolations which God only can bestow.

"God has laid His hand upon us heavily, and removed from us our dear eldest daughter of 12 years, who was the light of our home in the land of our exile. She died of typhus fever after 4½ days' illness, the disease being evidently the result of the unhealthy climate and of this particularly unhealthy season, which her delicate constitution was not able to stand. We are left very desolate, and do not expect to be comforted till we meet our daughter at the feet of Jesus, whom she loved and adored as her Saviour, and with whose Word and doctrine she was acquainted like an old disciple. The sad event took place on the 14th August, and, as I feared for the health of our remaining child and of ourselves if we remained in the infected house, I resolved, acting on the advice of H. B. M.'s consul, and of Messrs. Crosbie and Shillinger, at once to comply with the wish expressed in your letter of 18th June last, and to proceed to Monastir. We have been here since the 25th of August. We live for the present in a very small house, which we succeeded in getting a few days after our arrival, but which we intend leaving as soon as we can find one more commodious and suitable for our work. At present I am unable to dispense medicines, as I have not a room in which to arrange these and receive my patients.

I am told that, if we opened a school here for boys and girls, many would send their children to us; and, as it already appears to me that it will take a long time to break the inveterate bondage in which Jews and Greeks here have been long kept, I am satisfied that we must look chiefly to the rising generation, and seek to lay the foundations of the future prosperity of our Mission in systematic labors for the improvement of the youth of both sexes. For this purpose a native teacher must be engaged, and I trust that either your committee or our own will authorise me to incur this expense. I have heard of a Bulgarian young man, a Protestant from Constantinople, who knows the Greek, Turkish and Russian in addition to his native tongue, who is at present out of employment, and might perhaps be engaged as a teacher. Probably our best plan would be to open a school first for boys and afterwards one for girls, if Mrs. Epstein found she could take charge of it, to make the Bulgarian the principal medium of instruction, but to have other languages taught in special classes. After a few months I would be able myself to take part in the school through my knowledge of the Bulgarian language. But as I have said already, I have as yet no authority from our Committee to incur such expenses as this plan would imply."

It is deeply to be regretted that the funds of the Scheme are not in such a state as to warrant the Committee at once to grant Dr. Epstein's request, and authorise him forthwith to engage a teacher for this important station.

ALEXANDRIA.

Mr. Christie, in intimating his speedy return to the country to receive ordination according to the appointment of last General Assembly, thus writes in regard to the present state of the school:—

"During the past month the attendance of the boys at school has been somewhat affected by the number of fasts and feasts which are always held by the Jews in the end of September and beginning of October. The season of these is now over, and most of the boys have returned. Some of them did not absent themselves for more than 2 days. Most of the boys are progressing favourably, and, whatever effect their education may produce, they are at least being put in possession of a knowledge of the Truth, which few of them could have otherwise had. The Jewish boys take part in the Scripture lessons with a little hesitation as those who are called Christian, sometimes, I think, with much less."

In a brief note, intimating the arrangements he has made for conducting the school during Mr. Christie's absence, Mr. Yule adds:—

Our half-yearly communion was on last Lord's day. The number of communicants was 14—just the same number that there