

gave him regular instruction as a catechumen from the time he came to us, through the medium both of the Gujarati and Hindustani languages, with which he is acquainted; while he had an opportunity, at the same time, of attending the public vernacular services of the Mission. As I found that he had some acquaintance with the converts at Surat, to which he originally belonged, I took him thither with me in January last, when I received satisfactory accounts of his antecedents, and had proof of the fact, which he had alleged to me, that he had been a servant in the household of a Mirkaji or high priest of the Mussulman sect, of which he had been an adherent, and opportunities of marking his zeal in the sale of Scriptures and tracts, in which he was engaged by me, by the way. We think him to be sincere, and honest, and diligent man, and one likely to be useful as a Christian laborer. The contriteness of Bahorás is noted for its mercantile industry and application; and, if he fulfil our hopes by carrying its spirit into his new occupation, under the sanctifying influence of the gospel, he will be a valuable accession to our strength, notwithstanding the fact that he has appeared among us not so much as a student as a man of labor. He appears thoroughly divorced from Mohammed, and from Ali, the son-in-law of Mohammed, whom the Bahorás (or initiated, according to the meaning of the Arabic word, from which the name is derived) esteem an improvement upon his father-in-law, having a higher degree of inspiration, which has in a good measure, as they imagine, manifested itself among his successors, recognised by the Bahorás, and by the Ansairiyah, Ismá'iliyah, Druses, and Metawileh, of Syria, who in religion are their congeners. He sees his need, too, of the atonement, intercession, and divine righteousness of the Messiah. May the Lord be his guide, instructor, and portion; and may he be the first-fruit of an abundant harvest among the Bahorás of Western and Central India, initiated by the Spirit and Word of God into the true and saving faith!

AFRICA—LOVEDALE.—We find very interesting intelligence from Africa. At Lovedale, on 10th March last, ten adults were baptized and one young man, a student, received into full communion with the Church. On the 1st July, twelve adults and four children were baptized. During the past year, fifty-two adults have been received into the Church at this station, and an equal number received into the class of catechumens.

MACFARLANE.—This is a comparatively new station, so called from the late Dr. Macfarlane of Renfrow, who for many years felt so deep an interest in the Caffrarian Missions. The Rev. Mr. Diarmid gives the following interesting account of its planting and growth:—

This station is on the left bank of the Chumi river, about six miles north-east from Lovedale. After the Kaffirs were removed from this neighborhood during the late war, a tribe of Fingoes were located in their room by the Government. In the course of itinerating among the natives around Lovedale, our missionaries frequently visited these strangers on the Lord's day. After an invitation from the chief, Mabanthla, the consent of the Government was obtained, and I was sent here by our Presbytery on the last day of August, 1853.

The people were altogether heathen, with the exception of about five females, who had been members of the Wesleyan Church elsewhere.—These being unable to read, and having no means of grace within a convenient distance, they attended our meetings for about six months, when, being called upon to return to their own church, they did so. The attendance on the

Lord's day has varied from 50 to 130, and from 30 to 60 are visited and addressed at their own hamlets, some miles distant, on the Sabbath.—This differs from our other stations, where the people settle down beside the missionary, on land formerly granted by the Kafir chiefs for this purpose. Here we merely got permission to live among the people, who reside on land granted to them by Government. The former mode brings the people and children nearer for instruction, but it sometimes brings the missionary into contact with them in secular matters. I believe the mode here is, on the whole, the best.

The heathen do not consider attendance once at worship on the Lord's day, as indicating any desire for salvation. But when one after another began to attend our morning worship, and the afternoon service on Sabbath—it is partly catechetical—they looked on such as about to abandon heathenism, and go over to the side of Christianity; and soon after several applied for baptism, and were taken under special instruction twice-a-week. Messrs. Gavan and Weir were with me appointed by the Presbytery to form a session. The session, after examination, were satisfied with the knowledge and conversation of three females, and these were baptized on the 2nd February, by the Rev. W. Gavan. Two of them were about fifty-five or sixty years of age, the other about twenty-five. They lived near, and I had opportunities of seeing them almost daily, and feel persuaded that they are desirous of knowing and doing the will of Christ. The eldest of these was the first who manifested concern about her soul after I came here; I believe her desire was to walk with God, and her course was soon finished—she died early in June, somewhat suddenly. On the 24th of June, three females were baptized by the Rev. W. Gavan; two were about fifty years of age, the other about twenty-six. All of them met with much opposition from heathen relatives. The younger suffered both from her father-in-law and her husband, not by words only, but also blows; but by patient continuing in well-doing, she overcame, and we trust her husband is now seeking the pearl of great price. There are seven at present in the class of catechumens, five females and two men. Two of the former were the wives of the head-man of a hamlet near this. On my arrival here, the chief charged him to take care of me, and see that I was not molested. He is of an amiable disposition, and has always been friendly; but the natural enmity of his heart to the gospel manifested itself first when the aged female, referred to above, separated herself from heathenism; again, when his daughter-in-law returned from the evil of her ways; and it was increasingly manifested when his second wife joined the class of catechumens. This man that I had seen patient and forbearing under provocation from an equal, got excited, lamented that the Word of God had come so near him, and was taking one after another of his family; then he exclaimed, "You that are believers must give up your religion or leave this place;" and going to the door of the last offender with his staff, he struck violently, and speaking bitter things, he entered, still making free use of his staff. He ordered his wife to give up her religion; she sat in silence, expecting that the next blow would fall on her head, but he withdrew without striking her. In the evening of the same day, our meeting of catechumens took place. The old man saw the others on their way thither, while his wife sat still in her house; he asked her why she had not gone to the meeting, and, without waiting for an answer, said, "You must not say that I hindered you." His troubles were not yet over. His eldest, or great wife, had for months been under conviction of sin. A few weeks ago, she refused to go with him to take part in a sacrifice connected with the death of a relative at a distance, and then joined the class of catechumens. Heathen customs are interwoven with births, marriages, sickness, and death; and un-

less professing Christians are watchful, they may no ensnared before they are aware. From what I see and hear of the few here who have separated themselves from the heathen, I am led to hope that they are led by the Spirit, and are endeavouring to show forth the praises of Him who calleth out of darkness into His marvellous light.

Jewish Missions—HOLLAND.—Interesting and encouraging letters have been received from the Jewish missionaries on the continent. Committees have been formed in different towns, for effort and prayer in behalf of the Jews. The following is an extract from a letter from the Rev. Mr. Smith:—

In — I made the acquaintance of a very interesting Jewish family, consisting of a man, his wife, and several children. He evidently felt at first somewhat embarrassed on being addressed on the subject of Christianity by a perfect stranger; but his confidence was gradually won, and his heart began to expand and open. He then told me, that for a long time he had felt much disquieted on the subject of religion. He had come to see the absurdity and hollowness of Judaism, and had hoped to find more satisfaction in Christianity; but the idolatry of the Romish Church, and the divided opinions of Protestants, and the carelessness and immorality prevalent among all parties, had disappointed his expectations, and deterred him from further inquiry. The practical conclusion he had come to was—that there must be good men in all churches, but that clearness and certainty on the subject of religion are not attainable in this world. Still, he confessed that his mind was not in peace; and the tear started to his eye as he made the confession—his wife meanwhile standing by, looking intently on, apparently in deep sympathy with the sentiments of her husband. I endeavoured, as I best could, to reanimate the flickering hope in his mind, which, though weak, was not extinguished—pointing to the beautiful harmony in the great plan of God from the beginning, in the convergence of all the promises, institutions, and dealings of God during the Old Testament dispensation,—in the manifestation of Christ in the flesh, and again in the streaming forth from him, as the centre of all history, of those truths in their renovated form, which have met no other reception among men than was just to be expected, and which, notwithstanding many appearances to the contrary, are triumphing against all opposition, and promise, at no distant date, the subjugation and regeneration of the world. When made to see that the things which had staggered him were but the necessary and expected evolutions of a plan, which embraces not only a manifestation of God's grace and love, but of man's sin and perverseness, and receives, therefore, in the latter, not a refutation, but a positive confirmation, his mind seemed to receive both light and comfort. Having further urged on his attention some truths more closely bearing on his personal state before God, I took leave with expressions of mutual interest, equally hearty on both sides, carrying with me the conviction, that here and there, amidst the arid wastes of Israel, there are still to be found thirsty souls, which long, unknown to themselves, for the living water which issues from the sanctuary of God. I commended this family to the attention and care of the Committee which had just been constituted.

SWEDEN.—In some parts of Sweden, the persecution which has been going on for some time, still continues. Fines are enacted, and stringent measures adopted for putting down conventicles. Two scenes which were once enacted in Scotland, are being enacted over again in Dalecarlia. Still, evangelical religion spreads and prospers. The following is an extract from a letter written