

## Missionary Intelligence.

### THE JEWISH MISSION OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

The Rev. Thomas McKie of Erskine, who had visited the most important stations in the East, has lately returned to Scotland. His report, which he has recently submitted to the Committee, will, we are persuaded, increase greatly the interest taken in the mission. At Constantinople there had arisen some differences between Messrs. Christie and Robertson and a majority of the British Engineers residing in Haaskioy. The latter had engaged a teacher of their own as the former had refused to exclude from their school Greek and Jewish children. Mr. McKie attempted to come to some satisfactory arrangement, but was unable to succeed. He hopes, however, that the new teacher having been discharged, the objections to mixed schools will soon be abandoned, and that all will, ere long, be found enjoying the privileges which Mr. Robertson's school affords so fully both to Jews and Gentiles. With respect to Mission premises some difficulty has been experienced. Mr. McKie urges strongly that the Committee should provide suitable accommodation for conducting public worship on Sabbath, for holding meetings with Jewish inquirers, and school-rooms in which both pupils and teachers could remain with some degree of comfort, and without danger to health. Until entering the place in which, from day to day, Mr. Robertson had to teach, he had no idea of the positive hardship to which he is continually subjected. With no proper means of ventilation, the rooms had an atmosphere so foul as to be injurious both to teacher and children. A sum of about a thousand pounds sterling would purchase a site and complete the buildings. He commends the prudence, ability, and fidelity with which Messrs. Christie and Robertson have prosecuted their labours. At Smyrna he found the schools in a most efficient state, and the teachers doing their duty faithfully. Here also he had to lament the want of accommodation which very much retarded the progress of the work. The number of British subjects brought to Smyrna and vicinity by the railways formed, and forming, has largely extended the field of labour among our own countrymen. He was impressed by the necessity for having a monthly issue of periodicals suitable for circulation among the Jews at our several stations. At Beyrout an arrangement had been made with the members of the American Mission by which they agreed to make over the congregation, for whose benefit they have conducted an English service, to the Missionary to be appointed by the Jewish Mission Committee of the Church of Scotland upon certain conditions. In Alexandria much success appears to have attended the labours of our missionary Schools. Sabbath and Beth-

el services appear to be carried on vigorously; and altogether the report gives us much cause for thankfulness. Mr. McKie is one of the most energetic ministers the Church of Scotland possesses; and we have reason to know, how eminently judicious he is in his management of all those matters on which he has been called to attend.—*Presbyterian*.

The following extracts are gathered from letters of correspondents of *Christian Work*:

### AFRICA.

#### CONTINUED IMPRISONMENT AND TORTURE OF BRITISH SUBJECTS.

Being aware of your readers taking a great interest in Messrs. Stern, Rosenthal, and the British Consul, who continue to be held in captivity by the despotic monarch of Abyssinia, I may be allowed to transmit to you a few items from a letter I received yesterday from a friend who arrived in September last at Cairo from the confines at Abyssinia, viz Kartoom, Suakim, Djedja.

From this letter I gathered the melancholy news that no change for the better has taken place in the state of Abyssinian affairs. The captives, Messrs. Stern, Rosenthal, and the English Consul, have not only not been set at liberty, but have suffered from great violence. According to information received from different authorities, the prisoners find themselves placed in the most pitiful condition, as the rainy season has gravely affected their health. The ostensible cause of ill-treatment on the part of the king seems to lie in the discovery which his majesty made in the journals of Messrs. Stern and Rosenthal as to his maternal descent. Mr. Stern mentioned in his confiscated papers that the king's mother had been a vender of kosso, a medicinal fruit which is constantly used by Abyssinians. Mr. Stern was quite right in his assertion, for it is true that the king's mother was a seller of kosso, whereas his father was a relation of Dedjaj Comfoo, the governor of Dembea, who beat back several times the Egyptian troops that came from Sennar. In the beginning of his reign, the king (who was then a kind and liberal man, and not a despot as he has become since the death of Mr. Bell, his adjutant, who kept him in a moral check) often used to say, "If I do not help the poor people, they will complain of me before God, for I myself have been a poor man." Had Theodoros been a man of Napoleon's stamp, he would not have felt ashamed of his descent, nor would he have had recourse to the absurd idea of being descended from King Solomon, who had a son, as the Abyssinians say, called Menelei, who was sent to Ethiopia, which was then subjected to the Queen of Sheba. Hence the royal family of Abyssinia consider themselves to this day as the lineal descendants of Solomon, an idea to which King Theodoros attaches