

and, under such circumstances, her prosperity as an evangelical Institution would soon come to a melancholy termination, and the sooner her coffin were got ready the better.

But until such men leave her, (and thank God, there are many more of like spirit with the two gentlemen above named.) she will continue to stand upon her own feet and flap her own wings, in spite of all her enemies. To us, she has signally discharged her duty—sending us labourers free of expense to our very doors,—men well qualified for the work in which they are to be engaged, and who could have been usefully employed and well sustained elsewhere, as well as among ourselves. It becomes us, therefore, to make use of these encouragements by trying what we can do for ourselves in the way of supporting the gospel. This is plainly our duty as Christians. “The maintenance of ministers,” says Henry, the great commentator upon the Bible, “is not an arbitrary thing, left purely to the good will of the people, who may let them starve if they please; no; as the God of Israel commanded that the Levites should be well provided for, so has the Lord Jesus, the King of the Christian Church, ordained as a perpetual ordinance, that ‘they who preach the gospel should live of the gospel.’” Upon this subject further comment is unnecessary; but I would just say, that it appears to me there is nothing more expected of us, who for the most part are better able than many at home, than of others, who receive so such encouragements. Farther, it seems to me there is not that unity of spirit—that common feeling of brotherhood, that desire to assist the weak and brethren neglected, in our different congregations, that there ought to be among those of the same church. Our people do not seem to be sufficiently identified, in their sympathies and aspirations with the prospects of our cause; they are unable to comprehend its growing magnitude and importance. This would appear from the feebleness of our missionary exertions and the appeals that require to be made on behalf of the Record—the only religious periodical we have—a paper which ought to be in the hands of every one of our adherents. They must certainly be very lukewarm towards us, who would not subscribe so small a sum for what is not only worth the money, but double the money, they would here to pay for it. At the present stage of Christianity, when the church is rent into divisions, we must belong to some section or another, if we wish to be called *Christians*; and once we adopt a separate body, we should labour, in our sphere and according to the best of our abilities, to advance the interests of that body. An adherent of our church who is neither hot nor cold, could very easily be feared. We want only such men as are true to the Kirk, individuals who, according to their abilities, will do something for her; and not men who merely remain attached to her because, as I have heard it said of some, they get the gospel preached to them without money and without price! God be thanked, our ministers, as in duty bound, preach a FREE GOSPEL, to all who may come to hear them; but not in the sense in which some would have it to be, who only thereby show their unworthiness to receive it. Let each remember the Divine injunction: “freely ye have received, freely GIVE.”

I am, &c.

### Committee on Indian Churches.

At the last General Assembly a report was given in by the Committee on India churches, detailing proceedings which have been for some time past going on with the Indian authorities, having in view the rendering the establishment of the Scotch Church in India more commensurate with the enlarged field of duty which the events of Providence are now opening up. The church at home cannot fail to take an interest in the matter, as deeply affecting the spiritual welfare of those of her communion who are resident in India; and it is one which must be regarded as finding a proper and legitimate place in the *Home and Foreign Missionary Record*. It appears, from the report to which we refer, that the labours of the Committee, in striving to obtain an increase in the number of chaplains of the Scotch Church in India, have not yet been brought to a close; but the progress already made, as reported, called on the last Assembly to express their satisfaction at being able to entertain stronger hopes than they have yet ventured to indulge, that the persevering efforts of the Church of Scotland, to obtain for her members in India an enlargement of Christian ministrations, may prove successful. The report recommended, and the General Assembly agreed, to address a letter to the Court of Directors of the East India Company, once more earnestly urging on that body the claims of the Church of Scotland to the boon requested. A reply to the letter was duly received by the Moderator, intimating that the Court are awaiting information, which the Government of India has ordered to be furnished, “on the number of members of the Church of Scotland, who, according to the rules observed with regard to the Church of England, may be considered to have a claim on the assistance of Government for the supply of their spiritual wants; and when the Court shall be informed of the result, they will not fail to give their early attention to the subject.”

But the part of the report before us, in which the church must take the most lively interest, is that which relates to the extended fields of educational and missionary operations on which the Assembly is now entering, through her schools and missions in India; and we are enabled to lay it before our readers as it received the sanction of the last Assembly.

#### Extract Report of the Committee on Indian Churches, May 21, 1856, Sess. 4.

“X. Your Committee have further to state, that, on making their report to last General Assembly, they intimated that, in the matter of those duties now laid upon the chaplains in India and their kirk-sessions, as constituent members of the Presbyterian bodies established under the Act of Assembly 1855, they had deemed it their duty to address a letter to the moderator and kirk-sessions in India, a copy of which they laid on the table of this Assembly. They have nothing now to report beyond what

was before the last Assembly, that these presbyteries have been organised at the several presidencies, and are setting about their duties under the directions conveyed to them. But your Committee cannot omit the opportunity of calling the attention of your venerable house to the very great importance of the step taken in 1851, as viewed in connection with the educational measures now in progress in India, and as bearing on the future of your India School and Mission. Your Committee look forward to the rearing up a native ministry, under the authority and control of your Church in India, as the attainment of an object occupying, from the beginning, a most prominent place in all your contemplated operations; and the erection of presbyteries, and the organizing, as has now become necessary, of an institute more immediately devoted to theological instruction, are steps in advance of your missionary progress which cannot be over-estimated, and in carrying out which, your Committee cannot doubt that you will receive the cordial assistance of the Christian congregations of the church. Your Committee, as far as they can presume to form an opinion on a question so large and complicated as that of education in India, are strongly impressed with the belief that, under Providence, nothing has contributed more powerfully to give it the prominent place which it now occupies in our Indian policy, than perhaps the success that has attended your school and mission,—a testimony the most honourable, as, had he lived to witness the fruits of his labours, it would, doubtless, have proved the highest reward of these labours which the venerable founder of this scheme could have coveted. It is not surely at such a crisis that the exertions of the church at home are to be relaxed; and your Committee have not failed to press upon the chaplains and their kirk-sessions abroad, the obligations under which they are more than ever laid, to be aiding and assisting in a work on which it is now given to them by the parent church to take so prominent a part. Your Committee has reminded them how much of the future success of the church on the higher platform of christian action which she is now striving to reach, must depend on those whose local knowledge and experience may be expected at once to guide the church at home in the steps most advisable to be taken, and, in concert with the missionary bodies in her service, to carry out these measures when adopted.”

### Halifax City Mission.

The annual meeting of the friends and supporters of the Halifax City Mission was held in the Young Men's Christian Association Rooms, on Wednesday evening, the 17th ult., the Rev. Dr. Twining in the Chair.

The following outline of the proceedings during the past year was submitted by Rev. P. G. McGregor the Chairman of the Executive Committee:

During the past year Mr. Steele was under the direction of the Committee for five months and Mr. Morton for seven months. The Committee met at first every two months, but since Mr. Morton's appointment, monthly and receive a monthly report of his work, and give all the assistance and direction in their power. Respecting the five months of Mr. Steele's service, the committee have to report that he pursued with energy the various means of instruction and evangelization detailed in his Report at the close of 1855. Having concen-