

James Stalker's address. He spoke extempore and held the attention of his audience longer than any other. When his time was up he was *encored*. No one could handle explosive materials more adroitly than this rising young minister of the Free Church. His references to church government, creed, and ritual, were like so many bombshells thrown into the camp; yet, so skilfully were they handled, no harm was done.

Thursday and Friday the 26th and 27th were the great days of the feast,—devoted to Missions and to the Continental and Colonial Churches. Dr. Fleming Stevensons' paper on "The Missionary Consecration of the whole Church" was the paper of the Council. None who were present can forget that night. The large Church was quite full, and on the platform were seated some eight or ten missionaries whose faces were bronzed with service in the field. One after another, these brethren rose and spoke of the power and progress of the Gospel in the countries they came from, the hindrances to their work, and the need there is for increased sympathy and co-operation from the people living in Christian lands. Macdonald, from India, pleaded earnestly for the removal, as far as possible, of denominational lines on missionary ground. There were in Bengal no less than five Presbyterian bodies, why should they not be united? This was one of their greatest drawbacks, and one for which the churches in the old country are responsible. Swanson, of Amoy, was there to represent the largest empire on the face of the earth, and the oldest. He spoke with great force and eloquence of the Gospel of Christ as the one thing needed to lift China into the first rank of the nations. Paton, the aged, brought tears into many eyes as he recounted the triumphs of the Cross in the New Hebrides and other islands of the South Seas. He spoke from an experience of twenty-six years and told how the people that walked in darkness have seen a great light, and that the Sun of Righteousness had risen on these dark abodes of cruelty with healing in his wings. Faulds told of the brightness of His coming in "the sun-rise kingdom." Christianity, he said, was advancing with rapid strides in Japan and would soon be the national religion. Presbyterianism there was practically, a unit. Laws of Livingstonia, a medical missionary, spoke hope-

fully of Southeastern and Central Africa, and enthusiastically of the Free Church missions there, in which he has been engaged for nine years, although himself a member of the United Presbyterian Church. Martin, a Jewish convert—eleven years in Syria, and seven and a half in the city where the disciples were first called Christians—described his missionary labours among his own people, as did also another Jew, Eliezer Bassin of Roumania. For the first time since its formation the Council united in singing a verse of a hymn! For this transgression of the law, which prescribes the Psalms of David and none else to be used, the Council was, however, not to blame. It was the President's fault. But oh! how they sang, with heart and voice:—

Can we whose souls are lighted
With wisdom from on high,
Can we to men benighted
The lamp of life deny.
Salvation, O Salvation!
The joyful sound proclaim,
Till each remotest nation
Has learned Messiah's name.

Not less interesting was the session on the following day when *fourteen* of the continental delegates took seats on the platform. The report of committee on the Continental Churches was read by Dr. Blaikie. It mentioned that \$65,000 had been contributed since last Council, in America and Britain, to supplement the small stipends of the Waldensian pastors, and that steps were now being taken to render similar assistance to the Bohemian Church. M. Couve, an elder from Bordeaux made a fine speech, telling what the Reformed Church of France was doing for missions. Fifty years ago they began a mission in Basutoland, South Africa, where there are now fifty thousand converts under its care. M. Bosio conveyed the thanks of the Waldensian Church for the practical sympathy of the Alliance. Mr. Decoppet of Paris also made an excellent speech on the difficulties and requirements of the Reformed Church in France. But the interest culminated when Messrs. Dusek and Kaspar detailed the sufferings of the poor Protestant Church of Bohemia. The story of the wrongs of this martyr Church is enough to melt a heart of stone. Our land, said they, "is the grave of a Protestant Church." 2,500,000 of their people had