

from Nestorius, but from Thomas, Bartholomew, Thaddeus, and others, that this people first received the knowledge of a Saviour. I looked at them in their present state, sunk down into the ignorance of semi-barbarism, and the light of vital piety almost extinguished upon their altars, and my heart bled for their condition. But hope pointed her radiant wand to brighter scenes, when all these glens and rocks, and vales shall echo and re-echo to the glad praises of our God; and like a morning star, these Nestorians shall arise to usher in a glorious and resplendent day. But ere that bright period shall arrive, there is a mighty work to be done—a conflict with the powers of darkness before the shout of victory. Let us arm this brave land for the contest. Onward to the work!" And he did go onward; and though at first extremely doubtful as to the reception he would meet with, he was warmly welcomed by all from the highest to the lowest, and thus amid many perils, by the blessing of God upon his heroic exertions was enabled to open up the desired communication with the descendants of the ancient Israelites, as he affirms the Nestorians undoubtedly are. And this leads us to the second part of his book, containing the proof or evidence of their identity.

(To be concluded in next number.)

THE CHURCH AT HOME.

Jewish Mission.

STATEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE.

The Committee earnestly solicit the attention of their brethren throughout the Church, to the call which is addressed to them, and they desire to cherish the hope that the appeal now made to their Christian liberality, may be met by the response of a willing and liberal offering to a cause so important—so deeply interesting—so closely associated with the advancement of the Divine Glory.

It was with deep regret that the Committee found it necessary, in their Report to the last General Assembly, to advert to a very large decrease, during the year preceding, in the number of parishes from which contributions were received. They deem it not unsuitable to embrace the present opportunity for drawing the attention of their brethren throughout the Church, to the same fact—and they desire, with special earnestness to plead alike with the pastors and with the people committed to their care, the cause of Israel, and the claims of that once highly favoured and now suffering and scattered nation, on the Christian sympathies of all who have known and believed the love of God in Jesus Christ. Bearing in mind that He was made of the seed of David according to the flesh, that salvation is of the Jews, and that the people, although now apparently cast off by God, are yet beloved of Him for the fathers' sakes, and shall yet receive a glorious calling at His hand, we may surely be expected to look with the eye of Christian sympathy on their present desolate condition—and to stretch forth the hand of Christian love towards them, in the earnest prayerful effort to communicate to them the Word of eternal life.

Such a testimony of love on our part to the people of Jehovah's covenant, shall in no wise lose its reward, for great is the blessing promised to them who love the peace of Jerusalem.

In thus appealing to the Christian liberality of the congregations of the Church, the Committee beg leave specially to refer to a contemplated extension of the operations of the mission entrusted to their care. Their attention has been directed, since the last Report to the General Assembly, to a new sphere of missionary labour, which, in present circumstances, seems to hold forth the promise of specially favourable results. They have received into the service of the mission the Rev. Abraham Benohel, a converted Israelite, who was very highly recommended to them, and who has been for some years a labourer in the cause of Israel. He is now about to proceed to Constantinople, with the view of making inquiries for the guidance of the Committee, it being their intention to open a mission as soon as practicable, either in *Smyrna*, or in *Salonika*, (the ancient *Thessalonica*,) and ultimately to occupy both places. They are at present anxiously looking for a suitable *Gentile* missionary, under whose superintendence the mission may be placed, and with whom Mr. Benohel may be associated as a fellow-labourer in the work of the Lord. May He, who knoweth the hearts of all men, be pleased graciously to provide, for so important a field, one who may prove a workman not needing to be ashamed. Meanwhile, the Committee cherish the hope that this additional charge on their funds will be remembered by the Christian congregations of our Church, on the present occasion,—and that the liberality of the offerings of those who profess to know the value of the salvation of God, will put it in the power of the Committee to extend yet more widely the field of the interesting missionary enterprise which has been entrusted to their care.

In name and by appointment of the Committee,

ADAM D. TAIT.

Convener.

Colonial Churches.

The Colonial Committee have much pleasure in directing the attention of the readers of the *Home and Foreign Missionary Record* to the address from the Delegates from the congregations adhering to the Church of Scotland in the bounds of the Presbytery of Pictou, and also to the letter from the Rev. Peter Keay of Fredericton, and to express their ardent hope that they may soon be enabled to comply with the wishes and entreaties of their expatriated fellow countrymen, by sending out ministers to labour amongst them in spiritual things.—*H. & F. Miss, Record.*

TO THE CONVENER AND MEMBERS OF THE ACTING COMMITTEE OF THE COLONIAL SCHEME OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

GENTLEMEN,—We, whose names are hereto subscribed, were intrusted by a large and influential meeting of delegates, from nearly all the congregations adhering to the Church of Scotland within the bounds of the Presbytery of Pictou, held at New Glasgow on the 18th day of December, 1855, to transmit unto you a certain resolution adopted thereat, and furthermore, to bring the matter therein referred to more in detail before your Committee than could be conveniently embodied in a simple resolution.

In endeavouring to discharge the trust thus

imposed upon us by the meeting, we feel our utter inability adequately to represent the amount of spiritual destitution which prevails so as to enable you to form a correct estimate of our wants. The destitution itself is ever and felt before its disheartening influence on the minds of our people can be apprehended aright. It were vain to attempt to depict the sadness of heart and depression of spirits that hope long deferred brings in its train. Your Committee would require to visit our vacant congregations, and hold personal converse with the aged and infirm—the sick and the dying, and listen to the sighs of those who are about to grapple with the king of terrors, with a person at the bedside to direct their thoughts, or offer up the "prayer of faith," and pour the balm of consolation upon the troubled spirit. Nor are the young and rising generation in a less pitiable condition than the aged and dying. Where there is no regular ministrations of word and ordinance the spiritual uprearing of the young must be in abeyance, or utterly neglected. How painful to think that the youth of our congregations—those upon whose energy the future existence and strength of our Churches depend—should be thus left to grow up in manhood in ignorance of their Creator, and without any relish for the ordinances of His Church! Nevertheless, this must eventually be the case with numbers of our youth, if it be much longer without the ordinary appliances which a regular ministry alone can bring to bear upon them.

To enable your Committee to arrive at some approximation of the extent of our wants, we beg to direct attention to the facts disclosed by the census taken by government in 1851, which returns 9886 adherents to the Church of Scotland in the county of Pictou alone. But the bounds of the Presbytery extend to the counties of Sydney and Guysborough on the one side, and Colchester and Cumberland on the other, which will make the number of 14,000 adherents within the bounds of the Presbytery. These are formed into regular congregations with seventeen churches—a field sufficiently large for the labours of twenty or fourteen clergymen. Now, to work this extensive field, we have only "four regular ministers" and one missionary; and, although these devoted men labour to the utmost of their strength, and oftentimes even beyond their strength, it is quite obvious some congregations will be visited not oftener than twice or thrice a-year. Nor can even this amount of service be continued, unless aid is received from some other quarter, in as much as, that, apart altogether from the injury their own present congregations must suffer by their absence, due consideration to their health and the interests of their families will compel our ministers to circumscribe their labours.

From whom, then, are we to seek assistance in these distressing circumstances? Surely the Church of our fathers will not bid us seek for aid from the other Christian denominations around us! No. We have once again appealed to that Church before us, even when our prospects were less encouraging, and her own wants at home more pressing than at present; and it is with gratitude and thankfulness we acknowledge that she has responded to the appeal, and rendered us her generous and munificent aid. We have, therefore every confidence that the Church of our fathers and you, her colonial representatives, will bring our case into your most serious consideration, and send us as early in the spring as possible one or more missionaries, having the Gaelic language, to assist our already over-worked