

If these things were done in the dark ages, what might not be expected in this age of light and knowledge. He did not want our missionaries to abandon in any degree their more peculiar duties. But the two things surely were not incompatible. Science and religion can be made to go hand in hand, and, stationed so opportunely as they were in so many new fields of research, he doubted not but matters of the most interesting and readable kind could be furnished. What was it, we would ask, which imparted such a charm to the works of Kitto, now in everybody's hands, but his beautiful delineations and graphic descriptions of the land of the Bible, in all its varied features of rural towns, and craggy deserts, and remarkable vegetation, and wondrous scenery. Having referred to some interesting details connected with Ceylon, Nassau, Athens, America, and other missionary stations, the reverend doctor concluded by earnestly pressing the subject upon the attentive consideration of the Committee, and by expressing a conviction that in this age, pre-eminent above all others in the desire and facilities of scientific acquisition, they had at their command a staff of literary officers who would not only revive the character of the *Record*, but add to the resources of the church, and increase the interest of the public in all its schemes."

3. *Reports of the several Schemes.*—(1.) *The Jewish Scheme.*—Mr. Tait, Kirkliston, read the report of the Committee for the Conversion of the Jews. It commenced by referring to Cochin, whence Mr. Laseron, who addressed the Assembly last year, had returned, and where Mr. James Bonthorne, who had been appointed his colleague in the work there, more especially with reference to the heathen population in this locality (though associated with Mr. Laseron in his labors, and supported by the Jewish Committee) had arrived. The mission and schools had somewhat suffered from Mr. Laseron's absence, but were again giving indications of decided improvement. The missionaries at Carlsruhe, Darmstadt and Speyer, were steadily prosecuting their work, and occasionally perceiving the fruits of their labors. The Committee, in last report, intimated that their attention had been directed to Paris as an eligible field of labor among the Jews. Their attempts, however, to procure a suitable missionary had not yet been successful. This subject would, however, continue to engage the anxious attention of the Committee. The schools at Cochin and elsewhere, supported by the Ladies' Association for the Education of Jewish Females, continued to prosper. The Committee regretted to report a serious diminution of income. Their whole income for the year was £2831, 3s. 2d., and the expenditure £3396, 15s. 5d. Last year their income was £356 more, and their expenditure £980 less.

In support of an overture for the establishment of a mission at Jerusalem, Dr. Aiton, Dolphinton, moved that the Assembly remit the overture to the Committee, with instruction to appoint an ordained missionary to Jerusalem as soon as the services of a properly qualified missionary could be obtained, and as soon as other circumstances would admit. He stated that when he was in Jerusalem, he had been most hospitably and kindly entertained by the English bishop there. He had drawn the attention of the bishop to the anomaly, that there was no representative of the Church of Scotland in Jerusalem, and he said, that when he went home he would promote by every means in his power the sending out by this Church of a missionary there. But first he asked the bishop's advice and concurrence, lest it should be thought they wanted to compete instead of co-operate with the bishop's agents there. The bishop at

once told him that no such impression would ever enter into his mind; that he would hold out the right hand of fellowship to any missionary from this church, as he had done to all the missionaries of the reformed Christian church from wheresoever they had come. This statement he (Dr. Aiton) thought should dispel all such hesitation as the Committee had expressed on this subject. The rev. doctor, after referring to the importance of Jerusalem as a key to Syria and the East, expressed his belief that this enterprise would so popularise the scheme, that they would have no difficulty whatever in raising the necessary funds, to which he believed that large additions would be made immediately that steps were taken to carry out this proposal. The Assembly remitted this proposal to the favorable consideration of the Committee.

(2.) *The Home Mission.*—Dr. Simpson, Kirknewton, read the annual report of the Home Mission Committee. It stated that the scheme was largely and efficiently fulfilling its mission, and that its operations, as well as the fruits of these, continued to extend and increase. On the other hand, the Committee deeply regretted that during the past year the ordinary revenue of the scheme had fallen off from that of the previous year by upwards of £800, of which fully £500 arose from a decrease in the amount of church-door collections, the chief source of income of the scheme. With regard to the income and progress of the scheme, the report stated that, with the exception of about a dozen, all the chapels throughout the country, (upwards of 200) were now not only open, but for the most part attended by large congregations, many of them exceeding a thousand in number. Under the branches for "aiding unendowed churches," and employment of probationers as missionaries, the Committee reported that grants had been voted last year in aid of 47 unendowed churches to the amount of £2077, 15s. 10d., and towards the support of 48 mission stations to the amount of £2060, 18s. 9d. Eight applications had been sustained since the close of the financial year, and others were still under consideration. At present there were in all 98 places of worship receiving aid out of the funds of the scheme to the annual amount of about £4250. Under the branch of Encouragement to Promising Young Men, three applications were made during the past year to the Committee, and these, after due consideration, had been sustained. The report concluded by appealing to the sympathy of the Assembly and of the Church in behalf of the scheme, and for the means of enabling it to maintain and to increase its operations.

(3.) *Colonial Mission.*—Dr. Arnot, vice-convenor, read the Committee's annual report, of which the following is an abstract:—The statements received from time to time from Canada are at once interesting and encouraging. The history of Queen's College, Kingston, continues to be satisfactory. During the past year two ministers educated there were appointed to charges in Canada. The Committee have, as usual, received an annual statement from the trustees, from which it appears that there are in regular attendance in that institution fifty-four students, of whom nearly two-thirds are being educated for the church. There are fifty-three students in the preparatory school. On the subject of the clergy reserves, the trustees state that the question is now about to be brought to a final settlement, and that a very considerable amount of revenue will be secured to the ministers of the Synod, while the sum of £500 per annum will, in all probability, be secured to Queen's College. The Committee have repeated their grant of £300 in support of this institution. Only