

LETTER FROM THE REV. DR. DUFF.

The following letter was received by the Rev. Dr. Candlish, from Dr. Duff, with special reference to the movement now going on in Scotland, for the extinction of debt on the Free Churches:—

MY DEAR DR. CANDLISH,—Here I am fairly out of the Christian world, in a place of which, in all likelihood you may have never heard—alone, so far as man is concerned, literally alone,—the very nearest European being at least fifty or sixty miles distant,—surrounded, as far as the eye can reach, on all sides, with a mass of concentrated and unbroken anti-Christianism,—either in the form of a rampant Hindooism, or an equally rampant Muhammedanism. And yet in this lonely place,—lonely, as regards the absence of all human genial fellowship, or society, or converse,—but not lonely as regard a higher presence than that of man; in this lonely place, through the kindness of Dr. Wilson, of Bombay, the *Witness* of November 17 has reached me, containing your Glasgow speech against the Debt Extinction Scheme. Here, in a small bungalow, without chair or table or any other article of furniture whatever, and seated on my small travelling portmanteau, I have read that speech, with feelings of interest immeasurably enhanced by the awful desolation (spiritually) that now surrounds me.

In that speech you have enumerated the two master principles or truths, which constitute at once the foundation and keystone of our Free Church—"The Lord Jesus Christ, the only King, and head of His own Church; as well as King and head of the kingdoms of the earth." And towards the close of the speech, you have at least indicated the two-fold corollary from them—viz., the necessity of completing the home work inaugurated at the disruption, and so perpetuating a true witnessing Church in the land; and also "considering what the Lord would have you to do, for the conversion of souls, and the spread of His gospel at home and abroad."

Such an announcement from you has given a gleam of hope to my almost desponding spirit, as regards the destiny of our Church. In our simplicity abroad, we always reckoned that the Church, as a true Church, would hasten to get herself trimmed and burnished, on very purpose at once to shine purely at home, and hold forth the light of life to a perishing world.

To get herself trimmed and burnished in order to shine within herself at home, is but half the work,—or rather a preparatory work for a higher and grander still, even that of radiating to the ends of the earth.

To testify for Christ's kingship over the nations, while little is doing to vindicate or establish his kingship over them,—which is the very object of the missionary enterprise to achieve,—is, to my mind, little else than mockery, which a holy and jealous God must repudiate, or even visit with severe chastisement. Since his command to the true Church is to go, and, with his blessing, establish his kingdom on earth, until the whole world be filled with his glory.

This is a view of the case I endeavoured in many ways to press on Congregations, Presbyteries, and General Assemblies of the Church.

But the response was either so cold, or so nothing, that it often went to my heart like the sounding knell of despair on its account.

The apparent total want of sympathy with this view of the case, constantly preyed upon my spirit, and with other auxiliary causes, tended to prostrate all energy alike of soul and body. I went to Scotland in 1850, buoyant with hope; I left it in 1855, well nigh bereft of all hope—a greatly disappointed and well nigh wholly dispirited man. Your speech gives me now the real glimpse of hope—and therefore I thank God for it. Let me not, however, be misunderstood. As

regards the people, generally speaking, I felt greatly encouraged. I saw if they were fairly and scripturally dealt with on the grand aspects of this world's evangelization, there would be a noble response.

But the cold shoulder, the passive, if not secretly active resistance of so many of the ministers and office bearers (there being of course a few generous exceptions), did utterly confound me, and make almost despair of the future destiny of the Free Church of Scotland. The present movement is altogether a right one in itself; I felt it so much, that when in Ayrshire two years ago, I gave half my time and strength to the assisting of congregations to clear off debts, and, by God's blessing, did not labour in vain in the good work. But I must pause—with no table to write on, and my writing not improved.—With sincere esteem and affection, yours in the Lord,

ALEXANDER DUFF.

A practical and constructive atheism is the cause and malignity of our departures from God.

When we live at large, make flesh our arm, and seek a portion in the things of this world, we are saying that there is no God in Israel.

There is nothing to be got by contending with God. If we would provide with him, it must be by supplication.

MONEYS RECEIVED UP TO MAY 22.

WIDOWS' FUND.

Amherstburgh.....	£1 1 3
Bristol.....	1 7 6
Cornwall.....	2 5 0
Wakefield.....	1 5 0
Innisfil.....	3 7 5½
Buxton.....	1 2 9½
West Gwilliambury.....	£1 0 1
Bradford.....	2 0 0
Woodstock, Gaelic.....	3 0 2
Woodstock, English.....	4 10 0
Kingson, Brock street.....	3 10 0
Port Sarnia.....	3 3 0
Boston.....	1 15 0
Orillia.....	1 13 0
Vaughan.....	2 13 0
St. Catharines.....	4 12 6
Fergus.....	4 5 0
Egmondville.....	1 2 1½
Winslow.....	0 10 0
Montreal, Cote street.....	17 10 0
Stratford.....	4 1 3
Ingersoll, £1 4s. 6d., Beachville, £1 17s. 6d.....	3 2 0
St. Eustache.....	4 7 0
Owen Sound.....	3 3 5
Dalhousie, 9th Line, £1 2s. 9d., Crawford's, 15s. 3d., St. Andrews 7s	2 5 0
Brantford.....	2 10 0
Lobo.....	2 5 7½
Darlington.....	6 2 6
S. Cavan, £2 2s. 4d., Millbrook, £1 5	3 7 4
Port Stanley.....	1 5 0
Dundas.....	10 0 0
Caledonia, &c.....	4 0 0
Nithburgh.....	1 15 0
Grafton.....	1 5 0
York Mills, £1 16s. 8d. Fisherville.....	1 6 1½
Saugen.....	3 2 9
Eldrid and Mosa.....	1 15 0½
Present.....	2 11 9
St. Therese de Blainville.....	0 11 9
Goldsprings.....	1 0 0
North Easthope.....	1 0 0
Knox's Church, Toronto.....	15 10 0
Osgood.....	£1 15 0
Gloucester.....	1 10 0
Ayr.....	29 0 0

KNOX'S COLLEGE FUND.

Grafton.....	1 2 6
Blenheim.....	3 0 0
Zorra.....	14 15 0
Thorah and Eldon.....	8 15 0
Quebec.....	53 10 0
Brucefield.....	7 0 0
McNab and Horton.....	1 15 0
Brampton.....	3 10 3
S. Cavan £2 2s. 4d., Millbrook £3.	5 2 4
Saltfleet and Binbrook, additional... McNab Street, Hamilton, inclusive of £10 formerly paid by I. Buchanan, Esq.....	0 13 9
Dundas Ladies' Association.....	15 7 6
Caledonia £7 Allan Settlement £3 10	5 0 0
Onedia £3 10s.....	14 0 0
Colborne.....	1 8 0
Vankleekhill.....	10 0 0
East Toronto, additional.....	1 5 0
North Easthope.....	1 15 0
Puslinch.....	12 0 0

FOREIGN AND JEWISH MISSIONS.

Darlington.....	£10 11 3
Wakefield.....	1 5 0
Innisfil.....	4 9 6
Buxton.....	0 10 4½
London.....	12 10 0
Zorra.....	10 3 3
Thorah and Eldon.....	8 2 8
Union and Norval.....	7 0 0
Widows' Offering.....	0 5 0
St. Eustache.....	1 0 0
Brantford.....	4 10 8
Wallacetown, Jewish Mission.....	5 5 0
South Cavan.....	2 2 4
Eldrid and Mosa.....	3 1 3
Fingal.....	8 3 8½
North Easthope (this and Colonial Scheme).....	8 0 0

FRENCH CANADIAN MISSION.

S. Cavan, £2 2s. 4d. Millbrook, £2 £4 2 4

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

List of Contributions to the Home Mission Fund.

1856.	
Jan. 8, Received by Treasurer from	
Elora Congregation.....	£15 0 0
" 9, Woolwich do.....	15 12 6
" 25, Galt Ladies' Association.....	12 20 0
" 26, Knox's Church do.....	50 0 0
Feb. 20, Knox's Galt Congregation.....	10 15 0
" 26, Dundas do.....	5 10 6
" 28, Knox's do.....	
Hamilton.....	2 14 1
" 23, Paris do.....	3 5 2
" 23, Simcoe do.....	3 0 0
" 23, Dunnville do.....	3 12 9
" 23, Port Dover do.....	4 12 2
Mar. 4, Brantford do.....	6 8 3
" 13, Caledonia do.....	5 0 0
" 18, Onedia do.....	5 0 0
" 18, Walpole do.....	6 2 8
" 25, Elora do.....	10 0 0
" 25, Saltfleet and Binbrook Congregation.....	3 6 4
April 8, Simcoe do.....	16 0 0
" 8, Woolwich do.....	12 15 0
" 8, Blenheim do.....	4 2 6
" 9, Port Dover do.....	30 15 0
" 9, Owee Sound do.....	2 11 3
" 9, Dundas do.....	0 1 3
" 9, Dunnville do.....	10 0 0
" 9, Nairn do.....	3 5 0
" 18, Puslinch do.....	2 17 0
" 22, MacNab Street do.....	3 9 3
May 14, Knox's Church, Hamilton, Ladies' Association.....	5 0 0
Saltfleet and Binbrook.....	1 5 0
Cumminsville.....	1 5 0

£255 16 10