

had been circulated at home as well as abroad. In the Highlands and Islands a large number of Scriptures in the Gaelic language had been circulated; whilst the numerous emigrants who had left their shores had been also provided with copies of the Word of God. The society had also attended to the system of colportage in Edinburgh, in which branch their labours had been crowned with success. In Ireland success had also attended their efforts. The claims of China had also been considered and attended to; and from France and Switzerland satisfactory information had been received. He could not pass over France without remarking that, though different in creed from those who circulated the Scriptures, the Emperor of that country had given every encouragement for the circulation of the Word of God among the soldiers of his army; and kings and statesmen seemed at last to have learned that which during the last war was too frequently denied, that the soldier who worshipped his God would fight better for his country than he who did not. He found in the report of the society the name of Italy recorded. Benighted, priest-ridden Italy had had the benefit of the society; but he found that they had been obliged to do their work in secret, not upon the principle of the good man, who 'Did good by stealth, and blushed to find it fame,' but upon the principle that they were obliged, in order to secure their agents from danger and from persecution, to do that which they would not otherwise have done,—to circulate the Word of God without that publicity to which it was entitled. In Germany they were also prevailing, and were circulating the simple truth without the apocryphal writings being attached to them. There was one country which was not to be discovered within the report; and that country was one where he feared not only religious but civil liberty was nipped in the bud, and whence every disposition was shown to nip, and curtail, and extinguish liberty wherever it was to be found in the world; and that country was the one with which they were at present unfortunately at war. It was that country which once cherished and which once admitted the Scriptures, but which now sedulously prevented the Bible in the Russian tongue from being placed within the reach of the Russian people. When Alexander was Emperor of Russia he showed a certain countenance to the labours of the British and Foreign Bible Society. He permitted the Bible to be translated into Russian, and when he died, a large edition of that Bible so translated existed. His successor, the present Emperor, it was true, allowed that edition to be exhausted in the country, but since that time he had permitted no further translation to be struck off, and no further circulation of the Bible in the tongue of his countrymen, and he had done all he could to confine them to that church which was called the Greek Church, and which looked up to him as its father and its God. Now, he (Lord Panmure) would not have touched so prominently upon that point, had he not seen it asserted at a Bible Society meeting at Rochdale (by Mr. Bright), that the present Emperor of Russia was friendly to the circulation of the Scriptures. He had taken some little pains, through his esteemed friend, the secretary of this society, to ascertain that fact; and he was assured that what he had now stated was the simple truth. He knew that a portion of the Russian subjects,—the Fins, or the inhabitants of Finland, and the German Lutherans,—had the means of access to the Scriptures in their own tongue; but that was part of the conditions which they

made when they yielded up their country to the conqueror; and there was no credit, in his opinion, in a man keeping faith with those whom he had enslaved. But if he wanted any more or any greater proof of the enmity of Russia to the truth as it was in the gospel, he had nothing more to do than to refer to the treatment by that country of the Moravian settlement in the land where the war was now being carried on. They no doubt all remembered the emigration which took place from Germany of a large body of Moravians to the Crimea for two purposes,—the one to establish a settlement and to cultivate the ground, and to turn what was then a desert into the means of supporting creditably a Christian community; and the other to disseminate the Word of God amongst the Kalmuc Tartars, and to convert them to Christianity. How long did this work go on? For some years prosperously. God smiled upon and blessed the efforts of the Moravians, and they made many converts, and saved many souls, amongst the benighted Kalmucs; but the moment the harvest began to thicken, and the sheaves to stand somewhat crowded, in stepped the Greek Church with their Emperor, and said, "We don't object to your converting these Kalmucs to Christianity, but we must be allowed to select the Christianity for you; and we will hold it as our sovereign will and pleasure that we permit no conversion to that Christianity and form of religion which you profess, but to that which is the old one, and which is to be found in the bosom of the Greek Church." "The bosom of the Greek Church? Why, the Greek Church was ... " "After to these Moravian missionaries than the Church in which these Tartars already were. It was a false church; and they therefore took no further pains to make converts; and the consequences had been that through the treatment of that church and the ukase of their Emperor, these Moravians go on cultivating the soil, and enjoying among themselves the privileges which they carried with them, but their work of conversion was at an end, and their labours to civilise and Christianise these Tartars had been utterly annihilated."

Presbytery of Glasgow.

This Presbytery held its ordinary meeting on Wednesday, in the Tron Church Session-House—the Rev. Norman M'Leod, moderator.

After reading the minutes of last meeting, which were approved, and the disposal of routine business, the Presbytery were engaged in hearing statements by members of Court of what had been done by their several congregations in aid of the schemes of the Church during the past year.

The Court adjourned about two o'clock, to meet, according to previous arrangement, in St. George's Church, to afford the members an opportunity, agreeably to the instructions of the General Assembly, of hearing a statement of the position of the several schemes, and still further enlisting public sympathy in their behalf.

The proceedings in church were commenced by the Rev. Dr. Muir engaging in prayer. Mr. M'Leod, the moderator, having stated the object of the meeting.

Dr. CRAIK said the result of the conversation which had taken place in the Presbytery, showed that the sum of £1670 had been subscribed during the past year within the bounds, by 18 congregations, towards the schemes. Taking the contributions from these 18 congregations

during the year, including those for educational purposes, the relief of the poor, the distribution of Bibles, and the payment of missionaries, the total reported was upwards of £12,000; and if to this there was added the collections from the chapels of Ease, they would have presented a total of upwards of £12,500.

Principal MACFARLAN then addressed the meeting upon the claims of the Colonial Scheme. After stating the origin of the scheme, and enumerating the many blessings which it had conferred upon our expatriated countrymen, he concluded by making an earnest appeal in its behalf.

Dr. JAMESON advocated the claims of the Jewish Scheme.

Mr. MONRO, of Campsie, pleaded eloquently in behalf of Foreign Missions.

Dr. CRAIK spoke upon the Education Scheme, showing the importance of a sound, moral, and religious system of education for youth, what had been done during the last thirty years by the Church for the accomplishment of an object so desirable, and the want that still exists for increased efforts in that direction.

Dr. GILLAN made a very forcible appeal on behalf of the Endowment Scheme, which he said was peculiar to the Church of Scotland, and gave some interesting details as to the liberality which had been called forth in endowing the *quoad sacra* churches.

The proceedings having extended longer than was originally contemplated, the Home Mission Scheme was not entered upon, beyond a statement by the Moderator, to the effect that all the chapels in Glasgow were now opened, and that the respective congregations were not only numbered by thousands, but also the communicants.

The Bible.

The Bible is a mass of beautiful figures; its words and its thoughts are alike poetical, it has gathered around its central truths all natural beauty and interest, it is a temple with one altar and one God, but illuminated by a thousand different lights, and studded with a thousand ornaments. It has substantially but one declaration to make, but it utters it in the voices of the creation. Shining forth from the excellent glory, its light has been reflected on a myriad of intervening objects, all it has become attempered for our earthly vision. It now beams upon us at once from the heart of man, and from the countenance of nature. It has arrayed itself in the charms of fiction. It has gathered new beauties from the work of creation, and new warmth and new power from the very passions of clay. It has pressed into its service the very animal of the forest, the flowers of the field, the stars of heaven—all the elements of nature. The lion spurneth the sands of the desert, the wild roe-leaping over the mountains, the lamb led in silence to the altar, the goat speeding to the wilderness, the rose blooming in Sharon, the lily in the valley, the apple tree bending under its fruits, the great rock shadowing a weary land, the river gladdening a dry place, the moon and the morning star, Carmel by the sea, and Tabor in the mountain, the dew from the womb of the morning, the rain upon the mown grass, the rainbow encompassing a dark place, the light of God's shadow, the thunder, His voice, the wind and the earthquake, His footsteps— all such varied objects are made as if naturally designed from their creation to represent him to whom the Book and all its emblems point. Thus the spirit of the Book has ransacked