

than it has at present, our school will suffer some further diminution. We cannot despair of it. The Gospel is read from day to day by the first class. Translation and explanation are also given. And we must believe that the Truth will exert some influence for good.

You will be gratified to hear of Mr. and Mrs. Prinsep's arrival at Sealkote. I am sure that they will afford us much encouragement and support in our operations. We look to Mr. Priasep as an excellent counsellor in much relating to our work. He has put us on a proper plan as to the management of the erection of the church, which, I am sure, will meet your approval. A diary is to be kept of all transactions relating to the building, abstracts of which are to be sent to you from time to time. Captain R. McPherson, one of the Committee of your nomination, has been transferred to Allahabad, so that only 4 of us remain, but I trust that you will deem this sufficiently general for the execution of the trust. I send you by this mail the plan of the Memorial Church, as drawn by the executive engineer of Sealkote. There has been every care paid to combine neatness and simplicity with as little outlay as possible. The specifications have not yet been drawn out, but the cost will fall within Rs. 8000. Liberal contributions, I hope, will be obtained in Sealkote, and probably a grant of Rs. 1000 will be received from Government. This will leave a balance, which your Committee may ultimately see fit to invest in the erection of Mission premises.

I must now conclude; and with best wishes to you and your Committee, and a desire for an increased interest in your prayers, I remain, &c.,

JOHN TAYLOR.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

BOMBAY.

(*From F. Mis. Record for April.*)

The annual examination of the General Assembly's Institution took place on the 31st January last, and was very gratifying both as regards the number and proficiency of the pupils. The Corresponding Board in their minute express themselves in the following terms:—"With reference to Scriptural knowledge, to which particular attention had been directed, the lowest classes are well grounded in its elements, and the highest classes showed considerable acquaintance with Biblical facts and doctrines. Altogether the improvement made since the last examination is very marked, and reflects much credit on the diligence and ability of Mr. Grant and his native assistants. The Board rejoices to find Mr. Sheriff in such improved health that he will again be able to devote himself to the Christian instruction of the more advanced pupils and of all inquirers after saving knowledge. Considering the amount of labour which has to be overtaken in the Institution—the great importance of endeavouring to continue a missionary's personal influence over young men who have left it—the time that must be devoted to the instruction of inquirers not directly connected with the Institution, and to the training of candidates for the native ministry, as well as the necessity of attempting to occupy other departments of missionary duty, the Board would express a fervent hope that the Foreign Mission Committee may have it in its power shortly to send out another thoroughly qualified ordained missionary. This would, under God's blessing, afford the means of raising to high missionary usefulness an Institution which has long laboured under great difficulties."

The examination was noticed in the *Bombay Gazette* of February 12 in the following laudatory terms:—

The annual examination of the pupils of the General Assembly's Institution took place yesterday afternoon in the Institution Rooms, Kalbadavie. Professor J. Harkness, LL.D., occupied the chair. Among the ladies and gentlemen present we observed Mesdames Wilson, Robertson, Colvin, Scott, Gordon, Duff; Miss Somerville; Sir Alexander Grant, Bart.; Rev. Dr. Wilson; Rev. Messrs. Carliile, Macpherson, Robertson, Sheriff, Aitken, Montgomery, Galbraith, Bowe, Wilson; Messrs. G. Stael, A. B. Boswell, W. Johns, J. P. Hughlings, M. H. Scott, J. Hunter, J. R. Drynan, G. Macpherson, A. Grant, John Connon, H. Maxwell, T. Comber, &c. The principal is the Rev. J. Sheriff, missionary, and the superintendent, Mr. P. Grant. It is attended by 300 pupils, comprising 246 Hindoos, 2 Mahomedans, 2 Parsees, 4 Jews, and 46 Christians, besides 82 girls belonging to the Marathi Female schools. The boys are divided into 7 classes, the lowest of which is taught reading and writing, and the highest have historical lessons from the Scripture, from the Histories of Rome and of England, Geography, Grammar, Arithmetic, Geometry and Reading. The teachers form a separate class, studying the Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation, Exodus, Moral Science, Milton and writing essays. Dr. Harkness, with the assistance of Mr. Sheriff and Mr. Grant, examined all the classes *seriatim* in the subjects of their respective studies. In Reading, the pronunciation of the youths was simple, clear and for the most part free from peculiarities. Their knowledge in History, Geography and Grammar, as displayed in answers to questions put to them, appeared to be fair, and reflected much credit upon their intelligence and industry as well as those of their teachers. The highest class went through a few geometrical problems with much facility. Some of the younger boys recited select passages from their text-books in very good taste, which gained applause from the audience. The essays read by the pupil teachers showed no little originality of thought and expression, and the authors of some of them, who were Hindoos, propounded views which evinced that they had been fully impressed with the truths of the Gospel. On the whole the boys made a very creditable figure. After the distribution of prizes the Chairman congratulated the pupils on the satisfactory progress they had made in their studies, which, he said, reflected great credit on them and on their teachers.

The Rev. D. Macpherson, Corresponding Secretary to the Board at Bombay, gives the following as supplementary of the minute of Board above quoted:—"Owing to the interest felt in Mr. Sheriff's return, more Europeans were present than have been, I believe, for several years. The chair was taken by Dr. Harkness, Principal of the Government College, whose wise practical counsels have long been one of the principal supports of our Mission. The examination was searching, and occupied between 3 and 4 hours. It is well known that since 1843 there has been nothing approaching to continuous energy in our Mission; all has been done by fits and starts. When Mr. Sheriff was obliged to leave, rather more than 4 years ago, it was in very considerable efficiency, but during the subsequent 15 months there was no European superintendent even for the more strictly educational department, and it was in imminent danger of dying a natural death. It is no easy matter to raise an institution from a state bordering on prostration. It was more than a year, therefore, before Mr. Grant had much to cheer him. Last year the Corresponding Board could characterize the appearance made at the annual examination as merely respectable, and no student had attained the standard necessary to the holding of a scholarship. This year, however, permission has been

given to hold a competition for 10 scholarships; and, although Mr. Grant has had no European fellow-labourer, the progress has been so satisfactory as to warrant the hope that our Institution may soon come to occupy its proper position. It is of course utterly impossible for one European to bring an institution up to the requisite standard; but whatever the untiring energy of one man could do Mr. Grant has done. Much progress was made in several departments in the 6 weeks Mr. Sheriff was here before the examination. He laboured hour after hour with Mr. Grant without flagging. The Board did not deem it necessary to report specially on the Teachers' class. The especial missionary interest of our Institution is concentrated in this class and in the 2 highest classes of scholars. Mr. Grant has daily devoted to the instruction of the teachers the hour's interval between the forenoon and afternoon meetings. No work can be more interesting. Several of them are very intelligent, thoughtful young men. May they all have the moral courage to act an independent part according to the promptings of conscience. They have thoroughly mastered their little text-book, 'The Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation,' and understand clearly the principles and evidences of Christianity. There are a good many clever, promising boys in the first 2 classes, who know Christian truth well; and, when one looks into their honest, earnest faces, one cannot but hope it will take root in not a few of them. Several of the essays were well composed. I may mention that the Professor of English Literature, who was present, expressed to me his high satisfaction with them. What a blessing that our missionary institutions are every year sending forth many men of intelligence with such a knowledge of Christianity that one can follow them all their life with the hope that the truth they know will work in their breasts till, through God's blessing, it may bring them out into His light and freedom. What a responsibility this lays on them, and what a responsibility on us too, of finding a sufficient agency to keep watch over them and endeavour to exert an influence on them in their various walks of life. One word more on the great question of Missionary Educational Institutions. Mofussil preaching has many facilities and advantages. May our Church begin to prosecute that field with much energy. But it is undeniable that the future of India must largely depend on the young men that are now receiving their education in the Presidency towns. They are the centre from which an influence will radiate throughout the land. In this centre therefore the banner of Christianity must be raised; here the strongest and bravest bearers of its colours are needed. Granted that Mofussil preaching is necessary, the infusing of a Christian element among the rising native youths is surely equally necessary. Though all souls, learned or unlearned, are individually equally precious, it is a matter of common sense that, the higher social or educational standing a man has, the more will heathenism be shaken by his conversion and subsequent influence.

"The Report contains another appeal for an additional missionary. On this point I can say nothing more than I have said twenty times before, except that the recommencement of more specially missionary work by Mr. Sheriff makes the necessity press like a dead weight on the mind of every one interested in the Mission. There are not many more severely wrought men in Bombay than Mr. Sheriff and Mr. Grant. Mr. Sheriff's strength in especial is overtaken by the amount of work that falls to an ordained missionary. Considering that he has just recovered from an illness induced by overexertion, every one feels that it is the sacred duty of the Mission not to delay in providing an able coad-