

mighty God, the reading of His holy Word, and the celebration of His praise, have always constituted a prominent part of the proceedings at every meeting. In other respects, and in their practical bearing, the time of the meetings was spent in the discussion of various points connected with missionary labour at home and abroad, in the consideration of some of the great social questions of the day, and in earnest inquiry into those agencies which apparently are best fitted to develop parochial and congregational action throughout the Church.

“Advantages of the Union.—It cannot reasonably be doubted that, were meetings of this nature universal throughout the Church, the happiest results would flow from them. Pre-eminently calculated as they are to foster *unity of spirit and unity of action*, might it not, without any tinge of enthusiasm, be hoped that, by the blessing of the great Head of the Church resting on them, they would be signally instrumental in the furtherance of those ends for which He died, and for which He now intercedes at the right hand of the Majesty above?

“They strike at the root of that isolation which so much weakens the strength, cripples the utility, and imperils the prospects of the beloved Church of our fathers. They acknowledge the indispensable necessity of the agency of the Holy Spirit in the diffusion of the Gospel at home and abroad. They foster inquiry into the various missionary agencies of the Church, the causes which have called them forth, and the results of their operation. They afford an invaluable platform for the communication of information regarding them, and thus bring the wisdom and the experience of those who occupy the high places of the Church to bear on the less informed and less experienced.—nay, rather, thereby on the whole Church—indirectly indeed, nevertheless surely. They are most suggestive to those who have recently entered on the discharge of the sacred offices of the Church, whose greatest desideratum frequently is, that they know not the best method of concentrating their zeal and energy on their special sphere of labour in the vineyard. They are, therefore, pre-eminently fitted to promote Christian fellowship, and to aid in the great work of the Church. Those who have been present at them will not refuse to give their testimony to their instructive and stimulating tendency.

“Papers read at Meetings.—The following papers have been read at the meetings of the Union:—‘On the Principles and Advantages of Christian Union,’ by Rev. Mr. Macleod; ‘The Means best calculated to Evangelise the Masses in our Cities and Large Towns,’ by Rev. Mr. Cochrane; ‘The best Means of Developing the Christian Energies of a Congregation,’ by Rev. Mr. Colvin; ‘The Duty of the Church to Sabbath Schools,’ by James A. Campbell, Esq.; ‘The best Organisation of Sabbath Schools,’ by Rev. Mr. Watson; ‘Facts on Missions,’ by Rev. Mr. Macleod; ‘A Closer Fellowship of Congregations Desirable,’ by Rev. Mr. Wright; and ‘The Connection between Home and Foreign Missions,’ by Rev. Mr. Monteath.

“Several of these papers have been printed in the *Edinburgh Christian Magazine*, and the usefulness of the Union has thus been largely extended.

THE CHURCH AT HOME.

India Mission.

APPEAL FROM THE COMMITTEE.

For the purpose of bringing the nature and the grand objects of the Mission into greater prominence at this time, when public attention has been earnestly directed to the East, a meeting of influential members of the Church in Glasgow was recently convened by your Committee; and with a view to diffuse information, and to arouse a spirit of zeal and liberality throughout the whole of Scotland, deputations have visited several localities, and by sermons and addresses have been rendering eminent service to this great cause. To the members of these deputations, and to others who gave assistance in arranging the details, your Committee have been greatly indebted. That an extensive and efficient instrumentality may be employed, in accordance with the mode of operation which, after mature reflection, commends itself as most judicious, these and similar efforts for the purpose of increasing the funds are urgently demanded; but, if the importance of this mighty enterprise were fully recognised, neither missionaries nor the means of supporting and extending the Mission would be wanted. And, assuredly, there must be the universal recognition of its importance, when the recollection vividly returns of those events that have cast the shade of so sad an interest around the present condition of our Indian Empire. Most painful proofs have been too abundantly supplied, that “the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty.” Many, even of the native inhabitants of India, although not yet won over to the Christian faith, regard with utmost detestation the atrocities by which this revolt has been so fully stained, and cannot fail to see in them the wretched consequences of that system of superstition and idolatry by which so many millions of their countrymen are enthralled. The attention, therefore, of the more thoughtful must be directed to that religious truth which undeniably is productive of very different results, and thus out of these distressing troubles new facilities for the labours of the Christian missionary may arise. But to the members of Christian Churches, at home and abroad, the recent history of India speaks in tones of startling urgency. It is fitted to stir up to earnest prayer, every individual, every family, and every congregation of believers. If the necessity of supporting Christian missions to India has been felt even in times of tranquillity, and when the defenceless European required no protection, living or travelling amidst surrounding thousands of the natives, can that duty be neglected now? By the nature of those blessings which the Christian Church endeavours to bestow, and which it would be cruelly to withhold,—by the desire which every believer must feel to break in pieces the fetters that now enchain these ignorant idolaters,—and by zeal for the glory of God, in the extension of the Redeemer’s kingdom, every member of the Church ought to be stimulated to seek the privilege of co-operating in the glorious work of Christianising India. Its swarming population, its vast productive power, its commercial importance, and its peculiar connection with Britain, give to India an interest far exceeding that which we attach to any other of our possessions; and if, in years gone by, the duties of this Christian land to India have been sinfully neglect-

ed, let it be our prayer as a Church, that the cessation of present troubles may be signalled by unprecedented zeal and greatly increased exertion in the beneficent labour of endeavouring to enlighten and to bring to the knowledge of saving truth; let us yield instant and cordial obedience to the command of Him who, when He laid the foundation of the Christian Church, made provision for its constant extension; and, instead of being repelled by the wide gulf of separation between us and the natives of India, let us remember that the true and living God whom we worship, condescends to employ even our feeble efforts in bringing His sons from afar, and His daughters from the ends of the earth, and in carrying out to its complete accomplishment the declaration spoken by the mouth of the prophet, ‘The Lord hath made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.’

Presbytery of Dundee.

This reverend court met on Monday—Rev. Mr. Young of Montfich, moderator, *pro tem*.

SETTLEMENT OF MR. DODDS.

It was reported that Mr. Dodds, the presentee to the Steeple Church, had preached twice in the Steeple Church on Sabbath last, in accordance with the appointment of the Presbytery, and the congregation being again met, the Presbytery retired to the Steeple Church to hear Mr. Dodds preach. At the close of the discourse an edict was read appointing the moderation of a call in favour of Mr. Dodds to take place in the church on Thursday, the 29th instant—the moderator, the Rev. Mr. McLean, of Liff, to preside on the occasion.

PRESENTATION TO THE PARISH OF ABERNETHY.

Dr. Adie laid on the table a presentation by the Crown to the church and parish of Abernethy in favour of Mr. Robert Leitch, M. A., preacher of the gospel, and presently assistant to the Rev. Dr. Adie, Dundee, with Mr. Leitch’s letter of acceptance and other documents. It was resolved to sustain the presentation, and to proceed with Mr. Leitch’s settlement without delay, according to the rules of the Church.

PRESENTATION TO THE PARISH OF MAINS.

The moderator laid on the table a presentation by the Crown in favour of the Rev. John McMurtrie, ordained assistant to the Rev. Mr. Stevenson of St. George’s, Edinburgh, to be minister of the united parishes of Mains and Strathmartine, with Mr. McMurtrie’s letter of acceptance, and other relative documents. The presentation was sustained, and the Presbytery resolved to proceed with the settlement in accordance with the rules of the Church.

Sermons. By the Rev. John Caird, A.M., Minister of the Park Church, Glasgow. Edinburgh: William Blackwood & Sons.

By a kind of tacit understanding, the reading portion of the religious public appears pretty generally to concede to the author of this volume the first place among living Scottish preachers. And assuredly this is no mean distinction. Scotland, we fear, has of late scarcely maintained its former high literary position; not, however, through any