

## APPENDIX E.

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE JEWISH AND FOREIGN MISSION.—1860-1861.

The Committee respectfully beg leave to report :—

1st. As to the operations of the Mission and the Missionary.

In last report it was stated, that the Missionary, the Rev. E. M. Epstein, M.D., with his wife and two children, had arrived at Salonica.

There he spent some months, labouring in concert with the Missionaries of the Church of Scotland, taking part in the maintenance of a service on the Sabbath, acquiring the languages, and maintaining a dispensary. In Salonica a heavy affliction befell the Missionary. His eldest daughter, Fanny, an intelligent girl, whose letters had begun to interest the readers of the *Juvenile Presbyterian*, was carried off, after a brief illness by typhoid fever, on the 16th of August last.

As the Committee have always had in view the adoption of a field of labour, independent of those occupied by the Committee of the Church of Scotland, but yet so situated as to permit of cooperation with them, a mode of action, moreover, which the Church of Scotland Committee heartily concurred in, the Missionary was advised to visit Monastir, Berea, and Larissa. This he did, in conjunction with the Rev. Mr. Crosby, Missionary at Salonica and Mr. Shillinger, since deceased. After visiting these places, Dr. Epstein proceeded with his family to Monastir, to enter upon the work of the Mission there.

## THE FIELD.

2nd. Monastir is the principal city in Macedonia. Its population is about 45,000. It is distant from Salonica, the Thessalonica of the New Testament, about 90 miles. The Bulgarians and Turks compose the larger portion of the population, being respectively about 15,000 and 24,000. There are from 3 to 4000 Jews. There are many villages around, with populations of Bulgarians, varying from 5000 to 20,000, among whom the Gospel ought to be preached. There are numerous Mosques, 1 Greek, and 1 Romish Church in the city; but no Protestant Missionary had, ever before the arrival of Dr. Epstein, been stationed in Monastir. The Turks and Greeks maintain schools for boys and the Lazarists sustain a Roman Catholic School.

The field in which, in providence, the Synod has been called to labour is then a most important one. The Jewish population in Monastir is small, but yet means may be found to gain a footing among them. While the Missionary will be directed to make evangelization among them, his steady aim, the Committee yet think that much good may be accomplished among the Bulgarian population also. The population of Bulgaria Proper is about 5 millions, but Bulgarians are scattered all over European Turkey. They are industrious and intensely national. They are opposed to the rule of the Greek hierarchy, and in their present condition the claims of the Bible ought to be put before them and might be listened to. The Missionary thinks that a school would be a useful auxiliary to his work, and is of opinion that a suitable Bulgarian teacher could be obtained. The service of a colporteur would also be very useful in visiting the population of the city and of the many villages around and scattering there the Word of God. The Committee would rejoice to carry out both efforts if their funds permitted it, for one missionary can accomplish but little in so vast a field, and so new to missionary effort. "Few and far between," says Dr. Epstein, are the opportunities to preach the clear and plain Gospel of Christ and Him

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