

which the Committee have received the communication, and to answer so far as they can, the series of questions contained in Mr. Grant's letter.

Extracted from the minutes of the Committee by

J. MACLAGAN, *Secretary.*

Edinburgh, 7th October, 1875.

MANSE OF BLANTYRE,
4th October, 1875.

The Rev. GEO. M. GRANT, M.A., Halifax,

My Dear Sir,—I duly received your letter of the 27th July with its enclosures. These I had the pleasure of submitting to our Committee at their last meeting in Glasgow on the 21st ultimo. I now transmit to you copy of their minute. From it you will perceive that we enter most cordially into any negotiations with the Presbyterian Church of Canada, to effect alliance and co-operation in the Missionary work in India; and fervently we pray that, through the blessing of God, those negotiations may be crowned with success, and that the two Churches may present a practical union in the great work of evangelising India.

In conjunction with my two brethren appointed by our Committee for this purpose, I would now, with pleasure, afford you as full information as I can, in reply to the questions you have put.

The English speaking native youths in Madras are to be counted by thousands; and every year sees their numbers greatly increased. For some time back a thirst for knowledge, or a desire after education, has prevailed over all India. Every young Hindoo, in city and country, eagerly embraces the opportunity, when it is given to him, to learn the English language. And as Government and Mission Schools now abound throughout the land, it can be truthfully said that the vast majority of the Hindoo youths are being taught the English language, and are well educated in it. This is particularly true of the young men in Madras, who are as thoroughly educated as the young men of the middle classes in this country, and consequently any preacher would find in them a most intelligent audience. But you ask, will they listen? We unhesitatingly answer, yes; numbers will listen to the earnest, intelligent and attractive preaching of the Gospel. And we say this, not from hearsay, or the testimony of others, but from our own personal knowledge and experience; Mr. Grant having laboured in the evangelistic work in Calcutta, and Mr. Walker and myself having been many years in Madras, whither Mr. Walker returns in December next, he being our senior Chaplain there. With reference to the need of direct evangelistic

work in Madras, and the success which any faithful and thoughtful preacher might reasonably expect, let me quote the remarks of the Rev. Mr. Miller of the Free Church Mission in that city. He says, "Such an agency (*i. e.*, direct Gospel preaching) going forth in all simplicity, depending on the aid that is promised from on high, trusting in the living God who doeth wonders still, might well be expected, sooner or later, to produce glorious results. It would not be like the simple direct proclamation of the truth that was attempted in earlier times in India. It would not be, as that was, a direct unaided assault upon the compact well fortified citadel of Hinduism. Much has been done already; a way has been partly opened into the heart of the fastness now. Thoughts and feelings have so been changed in the class on whose behalf I plead. But it seems to me that the fatal hindrances of a former time do not exist in anything like the same degree.

Here then is a field that is well fitted to arouse all the Evangelical fervour, all the true zeal for the direct immediate salvation of sinful souls as is to be found in all our Churches. It is a field surely well worthy of the most devoted zeal and highest evangelistic talent that Scotland can send out. . . . This is the present great need of Scottish Missions in India—an agency for direct, systematic, simple gospel effort among those who have already, through our own instrumentality been brought somewhat under Gospel influences, and fashioned somewhat in their character and thoughts on a Christian model. Until this want is supplied, I, at least, shall never look upon Scottish Missions as complete."

Such is the testimony of an able missionary, still labouring in the Mission Field, and that testimony is corroborated by all the other missionaries in Madras. And of this I feel assured that they all, no matter the society to which they belong, would joyfully extend the right hand of welcome to Mr. Campbell or any other minister who might come amongst them to preach the Gospel to the Heathen. I may state that there is one missionary belonging to the London Missionary Society in Madras, who is now engaged in direct Evangelistic work amongst the English speaking Hindoos, but there is room for many more labourers than one, for a wide door and effectual has been opened up.

Having now disposed of your first series of questions, which have reference to Madras as a mission field, I will attempt a reply to your second budget, which bear more directly on coöperation, and how that can be effected. These I shall answer seriatim. The first and second may be taken together. You ask "Is your proposal made in your letter of May 13th, perfectly consistent with