

last work, ere He ascended to the Father. To doubt its success is to believe that an ordinance of Heaven may be rendered void. It is already a glorious success. From every part of the known world, tidings reach us of its triumphs. It has shown results in elevating degraded nations, in repressing crime, relieving misery, checking bloodshed and war, and in extending the blessings of civilization, freedom and commerce, and all that tend to enrich and promote the happiness of fallen mankind, compared to which all the legislation of combined Senates sink into insignificance. What mightiest armies would in vain undertake, the frail missionary of the Cross has successfully accomplished. In no other portion of the history of the Church does the arm of the Lord appear so visibly and in such power, as in the labours and triumphs and sufferings of the mission field; and in no other position have the endurance, the self-denial and the heroism of man displayed more of what is truly great and deserving of admiration. In the very front of that glorious galaxy of the great and distinguished, whose noble deeds have endeared them to the world, and secured to their names imperishable renown and love, will ever appear the forms of Livingstone and Moffat, and Duff, and Williams, and Geddie; and of such men, devoted, patiently persevering, and bravely enduring even to death, the Foreign Mission can number its thousands. We need feel no desponding anxiety. Our Master rules over all; and the success of this mission is determined, and no hostile power, nor any series of apparent failures, shall defeat His purpose. That purpose is expressed in the words of the prophet, "I will make thee an eternal excellency, the joy of many generations."

We have read with sadness of the sufferings and trials of our missionaries in Santo, and we are pained to see a cloud resting on the hopes of that mission. Much of the same may cause us sorrow in coming years. This may be, but surely your Committee may confidently say, *it may not be, it never shall be*, that this Church will retrace her steps, or relax her efforts in the mission field.

While giving expression to the confidence which is contained in the last paragraph just read, and with which your Committee viewed the future, notwithstanding the sadness arising from the record of the past year, a communication was placed in the hands of the Convener, which, like the streak of light in the eastern sky, was felt, by your Committee, as sent by the God of missions to cheer their almost desponding hearts, with the assurance that the darkness of the night was about to end in the dawn of the morning of light and hope. The case referred to is an application from a young lady of Halifax to this Synod, asking if they will accept her services in the mission field. It is as follows:—

To Rev. A. McLean, Convener of Foreign Mission of the Synod of the Church of Scotland:

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—“I hereby make application to be received as one of the Foreign Missionaries of the Church. Being a member of St. Matthew's Congregation, and Rev. Mr. Grant being fully acquainted with my views, I would refer you to him for full information.
 PHILIPPINA JOHNS.”

This application is from one who now occupies, in this community, a high position as one of the most accomplished teachers, and in receipt, at present, of a large salary. Animated with love to Him who redeemed her by His death, and desirous to proclaim His love to her fellow-sinners, she is willing, nay, more than willing, to forsake the many dear friends and many comforts of her home in Halifax, to take her part in the privations, hardships and dangers of the mission field. Her words to the Convener were, “I hope you will not refuse me. I am willing to go anywhere.” Your Committee feel, and this Synod, they think, must feel, that the fact they have thus to communicate is a rich return for all their efforts, and more than sufficient to dispel every desponding thought. It is a proof that our gracious Master has not forgotten, but will assuredly bless and make our feeble efforts conduce to the glory of His name and the furtherance of His cause. This application, coming, as it did, so unexpectedly, and in a very dark hour, should silence and rebuke every sinful doubt of the ultimate success of every Foreign Mission Scheme. Your Committee feel, that, in the self-sacrifice implied in this noble offer, joined to the devoted willingness of Mrs. Goodwill to return to Santo, and there lay down her life, if God should will it so, there is exhibited the power and glory of a Saviour's love, which, but for the feeble efforts of this Church in the Foreign Mission field, they would not be privileged ever to witness. Assuredly we may well say, “Let us thank God and take courage.” Let us pursue the path of obedience, let us guard against the reasoning of our own wisdom in the matter, and in the days to come we shall see still stronger proofs and more glorious