

POETRY.

JESUS.

BY MRS. SIGOURNEY.

Unto Him who loved us, gave himself for us, and
washed us from our sins in his own blood—

How hath He loved us?—Ask the star,
That on its wondrous mission sped,
Hung trembling o'er that manger scene
Where He, the Eternal, bowed his head;
He, who of earth doth seal the doom,
Found in her lowliest inn—no room.

Judea's mountains, lift your voice,
With legends of the Saviour fraught,
Speak, favoured Olivet—so soft
At midnight's prayerful vigil sought,
And Cedron's brook, whose rippling wave
Frequent his weary feet did lave.

How hath He loved us?—Ask the band
That fled his woes with breathless haste:
Ask the weak friend's denial tone,
Scarcely his bitterest tears effaced;
Then ask the traitor's kiss—and see
What Jesus hath endured for thee!

Ask of Gethsemane, whose dew
Shrunk from that moisture strangely red,
Which, in that unwatched hour of pain,
His agonizing temples shed!
The scourge, the thorn, whose anguish sore
Like the unanswering lamb he bore.

How hath he loved us?—Ask the cross,
The Roman spear, the shrouded sky,
Ask of the shrouded dead, who burst
Their prisons at his fearful cry—
O ask no more! but bow thy pride,
And yield thy heart to him who died.

Ecclesiastical Intelligence.

UNITED SECESSION SYNOD.

This body commenced its sittings in Edinburgh on Monday se'night. The opening sermon was delivered by the Rev. R. Patterson of Kirkwall, Moderator of the last Synod, from Acts ix. and 31. The Synod, after sermon, unanimously elected the Rev. John McKerrow, of Bridge of Teith, Moderator. The Synod, on Tuesday, was occupied during a part of the forenoon with devotional exercises. A reference from the Presbytery of Elgin, respecting the union of the two congregations in Keith, was taken up. The Synod agreed to approve of what the Presbytery had done for the promotion of this object, and remitted the case to them with instructions to proceed in the use of the means necessary to its accomplishment. The Synod next proceeded to take up a reference, from the Presbytery of Kilmarnock, of a petition of certain members of Clerk Lane congregation, Kilmarnock, for a disjunction. In the evening, the Synod resumed consideration of the petition, and, after reasoning, agreed to recommend the disjunction in this congregation be arranged by the appointment of a colleague to the present pastor, and that a Committee be named to meet with the parties. On Wednesday, the Synod was chiefly occupied in matters relating to its missions. Dr. Hay laid on the table a report of the Committee on the union with the Relief body. On Thursday, the Synod was engaged in discussions connected with their form of process. On Friday, the Synod resumed the subject of union with the Relief body, and appointed a Committee towards accomplishing that object, who are to receive definite instructions from a Committee of the whole House as to their manner of proceeding.

The Committee appointed on Thursday night to prepare a motion, in reference to the overture ancient the revivals of religion, presented the following report:—That the Synod cordially adopt the overture, judging the subject to which it relates to be eminently important and reasonable. They would take that opportunity of recording their gratitude to God, by whose grace the purity of Gospel doctrine and worship, and the power of vital godliness, have been preserved in the churches under their inspection. They appoint, that the first Sabbath of August next be devoted to united prayer by the whole Church for the quickening influences of the Holy Spirit, and for suitable addresses on the part of ministers. They recommend that sessions shall report to Presbyteries, and the latter to the Synod at its next meeting, as to the measures they adopted, and the effects which appeared to follow. And, finally, that a committee be immediately appointed, to prepare an address on the whole subject, for general circulation among their churches.

The Synod, on the motion of Mr. Thomson of

Coldstream, has appointed a Committee to devise means for the education of its students for the ministry, without attending the Universities. It is not stated whether Mr. Skinner of Partick, who has given his attention to this subject, is on the Committee.

UNION BETWEEN THE UNITED ASSOCIATE AND RELIEF SYNODS.

On Tuesday the Committee gave in their report, containing the following deliverance, which the Synod unanimously adopted:—"That the Synod have heard with great pleasure the report of the Committee appointed to confer with the Committee of the Relief Church, on the subject of union; from which it appears that the difficulties which seemed to impede that union have disappeared, in a great measure in discussion: That they have also heard with pleasure in the communication from the Relief Church on this subject, intimating their resolution to continue to cultivate, in so far as opportunity may serve, all Christian friendship and affection with the United Associate Synod, and to watch and improve every opportunity of Providence for promoting a union between the two bodies, and that, with this view, a Committee has been appointed to correspond with any Committee that may be appointed by the United Associate Synod: That the Synod cordially correspond to these sentiments, and instruct their Committee to meet with a Committee of the Relief Church, in the hope that continued friendly intercourse will increase the interest for the matter necessary to be felt on both sides, and, further, that as the chief obstacle to union arises from the fears which are entertained that, in the present condition of the two Churches, this step would tend to injure the purity of their communion, the appointment of the Committee be especially directed to that point, with a view to devise measures for mutual edification and improvement."

The Synod being informed that the Churches in America had resolved to devote the first Monday in the year to united prayer, for the extension and success of the Gospel, agreed to recommend that their example should be followed by the congregations of the United Associate Church, and that on the first Monday of the ensuing year they should assemble for that purpose.

The Synod met again on Wednesday and disposed of various matters. Among others, the subject of temperance was before them, when the Synod approved generally of temperance societies, but left it to their people to follow their own convictions in the matter, as there was no express warrant for them in Scripture. A motion to petition Parliament in favour of the penny postage was withdrawn, on Dr. Brown stating his dissent in the name of Jesus Christ, constituting the secular powers whatever. Overtures, praying that the Synod would ordain their probationers to administer the sacraments, as well as license them to preach the Gospel, were ordered to lie on the table; and the various presbyteries and sessions of their connection, who were requested to give their opinion at next meeting of Synod.—*Scottish Guardian.*

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES IN THE COLONIES.

The Report on Colonial Churches was given in by Principal MacFarlan. We insert the following extract containing the most recent information as to the Committee's proceedings.

A communication has been received from the Presbyterian inhabitants of Hobart-Town, Van Diemen's Land, announcing the formation of a "Church of Scotland Society" in that place, and praying that they may be supplied with a minister from this country, to assist in the town, and itinerate occasionally in the interior of the island; and also with a schoolmaster, to each of whom they guarantee an income of two hundred pounds. The Committee have had sincere satisfaction in complying with the last part of this request, by sending out Mr. Alexander Campbell, late teacher in Edinburgh, whom they judge to be eminently qualified for the office. Towards the passage of Mr. Campbell and his family they have found it necessary to advance one hundred and ten pounds, which they confidently expect will be repaid by the applicants for his appointment.

In consequence of a memorial from a number of gentlemen belonging to Glasgow and its neighbourhood, who are about to emigrate to the new settlement of South Australia, and are desirous to carry out with them a minister of the Church of Scotland, earnest application has been made to the Colonial Office, and to the Commissioners for establishing the colony, praying that a provision should be made for such a minister to officiate among the Presbyterian settlers. This request has not yet been complied with except to the extent of granting a free passage to the minister, the Commissioners having professed themselves unwilling to grant anything in the shape of an ecclesiastical endowment.

The Committee have the warmest satisfaction in reporting, that they have received from Ceylon, a petition, with accompanying documents, signed by a large body of the most respectable and influential inhabitants, including the Governor of the Island, and praying for the settlement of a minister of the Church of Scotland in Colombo. They have also much gratification in stating, that this application was most favourably received by the late Colonial Secretary, Lord Glenelg, and instructions given both to grant aid towards building the church, and to provide a salary not exceeding five hundred pounds per annum, out of the colonial revenue, to the minister whom they may appoint to this station. The Committee have felt it their duty to proceed with care and deliberation in electing a clergyman for a charge which they conceive to be of more than common importance, and have, as yet, made no nomination. Neither has an appointment taken place to the Mauritius. This delay has been caused partly by the final resolution of the Rev. Peter C. Campbell not to accept of the charge, and partly by the uncertainty which still exists as to the amount of salary to be provided for the minister. Information on this point has been requested, and it is hoped, will, ere long, be obtained from the Colonial Office.

Turning to the Western Hemisphere, the state of the branch of our Church in Canada has pressed itself most strongly on the minds of your Committee. On an urgent representation of the necessity of the case, the Colonial Secretary was pleased, in January last, to direct the continuance, till farther instructions, of the annual payment of five hundred pounds to the clergy of the Lower Province, as was promised to the Convener, in the preceding year. This was received as a valuable boon, not only on account of the relief it affords to its immediate objects, and the benefits it also confers on the Upper Province, by leaving the grant made by the Committee to the Synod of Canada, disposable in that quarter, as a concession of the principle of their right to a share in the ecclesiastical funds of the colony. Still it was felt that this recognition was not sufficiently explicit, nor the relief afforded so complete and permanent as to be altogether satisfactory. In the prospect of a legislative measure for the better government of that colony being brought into Parliament, a new and energetic memorial was drawn up, to be laid before the present Secretary for the Colonies, asserting the rights of the Presbyterian Church, to be placed on a footing of perfect equality with the Episcopalian, and to receive a fair proportion of the Clergy Reserve Fund; and a deputation was sent to London to present that memorial, and to urge the claims of the Church of Scotland in Canada on the consideration of Her Majesty's Government. Three members of this deputation, viz. Dr. Welsh, Mr. James MacFarlane, and Alexander Dunlop, Esquire, accordingly proceeded to London, and held communication by personal interview with the Marquis of Normanby, and other members of her Majesty's Government, and with many influential members of Parliament; and they transmitted copies of the statement of the Assembly's Committee to the Scottish Members.

The reception given to the deputation on the part of Government was, in the highest degree courteous, and the strongest and most satisfactory admission was made as to the justice of the claims of the Scottish Church in Canada. A similar admission was made by many influential members of all parties, with the most cordial assurances of support, in the event of the ecclesiastical affairs in Canada being brought before Parliament. And even those who did not commit themselves as to the legal rights of the Scottish Presbyterians in Canada, expressed themselves in strong terms of respect and affection for the Church of Scotland, and promised an anxious and impartial consideration of the question.

The disposal of the reserved lands in Canada having been submitted to the Provincial Legislature by the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir George Arthur, the subject will not be brought before the British Parliament till the Result of the proceedings of the local Government is made known. As it is matter of doubt, however, whether an adjustment will be effected in the Province that will prove satisfactory, and as it is not improbable that the subject will, by reinvestiture or otherwise, be ultimately referred to the Home Government, the deputation are of opinion that it is of the greatest importance that the Church should continue alive to a matter so essentially affecting the interests of Presbyterians in Canada, and that the General Assembly should authorise their Committee to renew the application to the Legislature, should circumstances render it necessary.

Another most important object connected with the Canadas, is the institution of a college for general, and particularly theological education, in conformity to the principles of the Church of Scotland. It is beyond controversy, that these provinces cannot continue to derive an adequate supply of ministers from this country, and that they must, ere long, depend on