

The Rev. Mr. CHISHOLM, Boleskine, observed that his people from time to time asked him as to the success of the Schemes, and more especially as to the Jewish Mission Scheme, and on his informing them, their anticipations of the Church as to successful results among the Jews were not realised, the reply uniformly was, they would not on that account relax their efforts in support of the Scheme. We are not to expect, said they, that 8000 are to be converted in one day, as under the preaching of Peter. What is the command of Christ—"Go ye unto all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature, beginning at Jerusalem," thus giving the first offer of salvation to the Jewish people, although they were more laden with iniquity than any other nation on the face of the Earth; and we find that Christ gives the special promise that He will be with His disciples in executing this commission until the end of time. It was their duty, therefore, to give obedience to the Divine command, and leave results with God.

Dr. Robert Lee said that the Church, in organising and carrying on a Jewish Mission, should look out amongst its members, and see whether there might not be men among them having such acquaintance with Jewish and Oriental literature, affairs and ideas in general as would not make them dependent on the testimony and assistance of extraneous persons, by which they might be enabled to examine those whom they proposed to send out as missionaries, and know whether they were duly qualified in this sphere of labour or not. As to the Convener—and he spoke with no disrespect whatever to the exerted gentleman who had so honestly and laboriously conducted this Scheme—he would make this suggestion, that in appointing a Convener the Assembly should look about in the Church, and see whether there might not be a man having such an acquaintance with Hebrew, Talmudical, and Oriental literature as might make him alive more than ordinarily well-informed ministers could be to the interests that were to be managed.

Now, if he had ever anything to do with a Jewish Mission, he would proceed on this principle, that every mission undertaken by the Church of Scotland should be presided over by a licentiate or a minister of the Church. They owed that to themselves, they owed it to those who contributed the money, they owed it to their own consistency and their own dignity, that every mission they should establish should be presided over by a person in whom they had knowledge and confidence.

Dr. Brown, Greenock, said he had never been able to concur in the idea that converted Jews were the proper agents for the work—and he spoke from a pretty extensive experience of that class of persons—because these the Jews looked upon as renegades from their faith, and were held in great aversion by them. He believed the best agency was a warm-hearted Christian missionary, animated with the love of Christ, and going among them and preaching the Gospel to them in simple and affecting terms.

The Rev. Mr. BREMNER, Banff, said the misfortunes of the Jewish Committee, in his opinion, had arisen from no want of zeal or management or fore-sight, but from the fact that in this Church, though they had the material, they had not the training. He believed that an abundance of young men would come forward for the Jewish field if the Church held out due encouragement, and he thought the Committee would do well to bestow a part of their funds in aiding young men in those studies which qualified them for this work.

Dr. PEAR, after expressing his conviction of the great importance of the Jewish Mission, as one which the example of the Apostles and the early Church had sanctioned, referred to the great difficulties in the way of such a mission as that to the Jews, and said his wonder was, not that the Committee were sometimes deceived in their appointments, but that they had been deceived so seldom. He supported the motion of Dr. Bell.

Dr. ROBERTSON said, as to the mission to the Mahommedans, all that the Committee intended to recommend was that their Jewish missionaries in Turkey might, if they saw opportunity, preach the Gospel to inquiring Mahommedans. He did not think the Assembly would refuse to give the Missionaries such power. Dr. Robertson added that the two Clergymen alluded to in the Report were Mr. M'Leod, of the Barony Parish, Glasgow, and Mr. Macduff, late of St. Madoes. All that was wanted by them was, that the Assembly should give them such an official character that they might the better obtain the information for the Committee which it was their desire to secure.

After some further conversation the motion was agreed to, and the consideration of the Deputation to Palestine was reserved to a future diet of the Assembly.

The MODERATOR then returned the thanks of the Assembly to Mr. Tait and the Committee. In addressing Mr. Tait, the Moderator said: You carry with you from this House the united esteem of all your brethren here present. (Applause.)

The Assembly then adjourned at half-past five o'clock till eleven o'clock next day.

Tuesday, May 27.

The Assembly met at eleven o'clock—the Rev. Dr. Crombie, Moderator.

THE JEWISH MISSION.

Dr. BELL stated that Mr. Tait was desirous to make a brief statement to the house.

Mr. TAIT, having been permitted to be heard, stated that Mr. Benoliel had applied to the Committee to be received as an agent in their service in April, 1855. That letters were forwarded to him (Mr. T) from several of the directors of the British Society, highly commending him as a man well fitted for missionary service. Mr. Tait proceeded to read from his letter-book a letter addressed by him to two or three gentlemen, containing minute inquiries as to his character and previous history the date and circumstances of his conversion to the Gospel; his studies, ordination, and missionary services; his prudence, discretion, and general trustworthiness. To these inquiries most satisfactory answers were given. But the Committee resolved to take no step immediately in the matter, and nothing farther was done till nearly a month after the rising of the last General Assembly, when the Convener received a second communication from one of the parties with whom he had corresponded, strongly expressing the hope that a sphere of service could be found for Mr. Benoliel under the Committee, and the persuasion that, if appointed, he would give satisfaction. In consequence of this, the Committee requested the Convener to invite Mr. Benoliel to visit him, and, in compliance with these instructions, he wrote, requesting Mr. and Mrs. B. to visit him in August. They spent three days at Kirkliston, when Mr. B. preached with great acceptance, and his whole demeanour was fitted to convey the most favourable impressions of his character. On that occasion, Dr. Smith, of Tolbooth Church, and Messrs. Playfair and Muir met with him, and were all highly pleased with him. A second visit was paid by this gentleman in November, when he again preached, besides staying three days at Kirkliston: he was for two days the guest of Dr. Hunter, who expressed the highest satisfaction with him. In these circumstances the appointment was made.

Dr. FOWLER expressed his cordial satisfaction in hearing Mr. Tait's statement. He added that in November he had met Mr. Benoliel at Kirkliston, and formed a very high opinion of his qualifications.

INDIA MISSION REPORT.

The Assembly then called for the Report of the Committee on Foreign Missions. Dr. Macfarlane, Convener, presented the Report.

In Calcutta the missionaries have been labouring with their wonted fidelity and zeal. The business of the Institution has been carried on, as

heretofore, with an amount of attendance much the same as that of last year, and not without some measure of success. Three pupils of the Institution have, during the year, been admitted by baptism into the Christian Church. They were baptized on separate occasions—the first in March—the second in May—and the third in August, and yet little disturbance of any kind took place when they were baptized, and few, if any, pupils were withdrawn from the Institution. Of the Christian young men who have been engaged in teaching in the Institution, the missionaries can speak with much satisfaction. All of them have done their duties faithfully.

It is only necessary to add that, with the leave of the Committee, the Rev. Mr. Anderson has returned for a short period to his native country, and that his presence there may, under the blessing of God, be anticipated to be productive of much good. The Church at large, as well as the Committee, have now, for about ten years, had reason to congratulate itself on the ability, and zeal, and unwearied steadfastness of Mr. Anderson in the discharge of his duties. The other missionaries at Calcutta are in good health, and in the zealous discharge of their duties.

At Bombay the Institution continues open, and well attended, though the Committee had to report with the deepest regret their discontinuance of the services of the Rev. Mr. Wallace at that Presidency.

The services of Mr. Wallace having been discontinued, Mr. Hunter now occupies his place in the Institution at Bombay. His zeal and energy have been fully appreciated by our esteemed Chaplain at the Presidency; and the Committee's only regret is, that on landing at Bombay he has been met by an amount of duty which the Committee as little anticipated as they would have ventured to impose. It is apparent that, in some way or other, Mr. Hunter must be relieved, and that speedily, from the excessive labour to which he is subjected.

The missionaries at Madras are pursuing with unabated zeal the great objects of this mission. The accession of Mr. Walker to the staff of agents the Committee consider most important. The Committee need only advert to the fact that he has acquired such a thorough knowledge of the Tamil language as to give him the utmost facility in addressing the natives in their own tongue. The Report then proceeds to apprise the Assembly of the more recent acts of the Committee, and of the important proposal now submitted to its review.

At a special meeting of the acting Committee, duly called and held in the month of February last, the Rev. Dr. Muir, the Rev. Professor Robertson, the Rev. Dr. Grant, with the Convener, were named a sub-committee to consider and report. This was done accordingly, and at a future meeting of the Committee the following report was given in:

"Agreeably to the remit of the acting Committee, of date 22d February, 1856, the sub-committee had under consideration the present condition and future prospects of their missionary operations in India, and after several meetings on the subject, and the most ample deliberation, they are at one in the opinion that the time has now come when a change in the mode of conducting the mission is not only advisable but necessary. And, in giving expression to this opinion, the sub-committee have the satisfaction of thinking that they in no wise reflect either on the principles on which the mission was originally founded, or on the mode in which these have been carried out. The increasing means of education among all classes of the community—and more especially the recent introduction of a national system, so much more palatable to the heathen than any school system where religion is taught—constrain us to consider the propriety of our adapting ourselves to the altered circumstances in which we are placed. The preaching of the Word, therefore, presses itself now more on our attention as the most effectual means of doing good, and your sub-committee are of opinion that, to meet the demands of the future (while acknowledging the goodness of God in the