

IRISH PRESBYTERIAN MISSIONS TO THE JEWS.

The following extract, from the report of the General Assembly's Jewish Missions, will be, no doubt, interesting to our readers:—

"Hath God cast away his people? God forbid." "At this present time, also, there is a remnant according to the election of grace." Over some of this remnant it has been the privilege of the Assembly's Missionaries to the Jews to rejoice during the past year.

DAMASCUS.

Ten years since, the son of a Jewish Rabbi of Damascus heard the Gospel from the Assembly's missionaries. He became an earnest inquirer, and, after many an objection had been met, and many a difficulty removed, he declared himself a believer in Jesus of Nazareth as the Son of God and the King of Israel. Then commenced a series of trials of the severest kind. He was mocked, insulted, beaten, imprisoned, by his brethren; he was anathematized by his aged father; and, if he became a member of the Christian Church, he must give up his wife and children, and everything on earth that he held dear—to bear all the sufferings which bigotry and malice could inflict in Damascus. For a time he remained firm; at length he hesitated, then withdrew from the missionaries. Many prayers were offered for him, for his case was known throughout the Church by the missionaries' letters, but they appeared not to prevail. It seemed as if he had so resisted the Spirit, that he was given up. Still some had him in their hearts, and remembered him at the mercy-seat. More than twelve months since a change appeared in his course; he began to attend public worship, and joined a class for receiving Scriptural instruction. He professed both among Jews and Gentiles his faith in Jesus as the Messiah of the Old Testament. The missionaries met with him regularly as a candidate for the communion of the Church. His views were clear and distinct. He was well aware of the afflictions which awaited him, whilst he had no worldly benefit to expect from professing Christ. But none of these things moved him; he had counted the cost, and on the first Sabbath of this year he was received into the Church by baptism. He has since been called to trials, but he has borne them patiently, and continues to walk consistently. We commend Yusuf Doab to the continued prayers of the Church. "Is not this a brand plucked from the burning?"

The stated preaching of the Word in Arabic was maintained twice each Lord's day in Damascus throughout the year, and in Buddhan once each Lord's day during the summer. The Lord's Supper is now regularly administered in Damascus; the service being conducted in Arabic. In former years, ten native brethren and sisters were admitted to the fellowship of the Church in this ordinance; five others were received in November last.

During the past year the mission schools have been greatly increased; fifty-five boys were in attendance in May last. The missionaries, deeply impressed with the importance of making an effort to promote female education, which is almost entirely neglected by the natives, and against which great prejudices are generally entertained, opened a female school about six months since. Two native females, members of the Church, who were instructed in the Scriptures, and trained by the American missionaries, with whom the brethren from the Assembly continue to be united in the Damascus mission, are teachers of this school. Fifty-six girls are reported as attending, of whom forty are Jewesses, and sixteen the children of other natives.

The missionaries have abandoned all indiscriminate distribution of books and tracts gratuitously at this station, and have been able greatly to extend their sales at reduced prices. In former

years scarcely any books would be purchased, except a few Arabic Psalters; last year there has been a very gratifying demand for Arabic Bibles and Testaments, and Psalm Books, and also, though not to the same extent, for Hebrew Bibles. At the same time they embrace every opportunity of giving, either gratuitously, or at low prices, Bibles, and Testaments, and Catechisms, and other books and tracts, wherever they have reasonable hope of doing good thereby. In this way they have been enabled to scatter the seeds of Divine truth, not only through Damascus, but the surrounding towns and villages, northward, as far as Homs, four days' journey distant, and southward and eastward to the wild and dangerous region of the ancient Bashan, and in most parts of this field the influence of the mission is beginning to be evident, both among the Jews and the sects of professed Christians. Mahomedans alone have hitherto been accessible.

Mrs. Porter and her family, from the state of their health, have been obliged to return to Ireland. Mr. Porter, separated from them for a season, will continue to labour in Damascus.

CONCLUSION.

Finally, we commend this mission to the prayers of the Church. The Assembly, in 1841, with great earnestness, resolved to enter on this work. Since that time we have learned much of its difficulties, of which we were not then aware; but we have learned much also of its blessedness, which we then knew not. The Church has shown that she loves Israel; she needs more labourers, through whom her love and generosity may flow. We have used some diligence to obtain additional Jewish missionaries during the year, and still we have to say, "whom shall we send and who will go for us?" "The harvest truly is plenteous, but labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest." And let the Church pray for larger blessings on the labours of those who are engaged in this work. Their hands are held up, and their hearts encouraged abroad by our sympathies and prayers at home. And they can have no success but by the Holy Spirit, which is given in answer to prayer. "Ye who make mention of the Lord," remember all that God has done for you through the Jews; remember that the prophets and apostles were of the seed of Abraham, and that of them, "according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever;" remember all the good things which He has spoken to Israel, all the promises which He has made to them who seek to do them good, and all the blessings which the Gentiles shall yet receive through the Jews, and give God "no rest till He establish and make Jerusalem a praise in the earth."

THE PARIS CONVENTION.

We have already referred to the Paris Evangelical Convention. The following is an abstract of the proceedings of this interesting meeting, from the pen of the correspondent of the *Presbyterian*:—

Its session was commenced on Wednesday evening, with a prayer-meeting, held in the Lutheran Church, Rue Chauchat. The exercises were conducted in French, German, and English; among others who officiated were the Rev. Baptist Noel of England, and Krummacher, so well known by his *Life of Elijah* and other writings. The contrast in the style of these two eminent men was very striking—Noel, calm yet earnest; Krummacher, sometimes like a mountain torrent, and at intervals like the smooth and glassy lake. Several distinguished men, whose attendance had been expected, were not present from various causes. We regretted especially the absence of D'Aubigné and Malan of Swit-

zerland, G. James Hamilton, and M'Neil of England, and of Candlish, Cunningham, Guthrie, and Symington of Scotland. As yet the precise number of members is not ascertained, but I have been informed by the agent of the Committee of Arrangements that over twelve hundred tickets for members have been given out. The principal part of the members is from the Continent, especially from France, there are only about eighty from Great Britain and Ireland, and thirty from the United States. You will see by the accompanying paper the basis of admission to membership.

"The Conference admits to the number of its members all Christians who wish to live in fraternal love and desire to confess with it, conformably to the inspired Scriptures of God, their common faith in God their Saviour, in the Father who has loved them, and who justifies them by grace, through faith in His Son, in the Son, who has redeemed them by his expiatory sacrifice, and in the Holy Spirit, the author of their regeneration and of their sanctification, one only God, eternally blessed, to whose glory they desire to consecrate their lives."

The meetings have been held on alternate days in the Lutheran and the Reformed Churches, and in both the attendance has been very large. According to the arrangements made by the French brethren, different sessions were appropriated to various subjects, and the presiding officers were selected from day to day with reference to the occasion. Friday was the day for Great Britain, Sir Culling E. Hardiey in the chair. After the report on the religious condition of that country, addresses were made by a number of the brethren from each of the three kingdoms, among others by Lord Roden, Sir C. E. Hardiey, Rev. Baptist W. Noel, Rev. Dr. Bates, Rev. Mr. Johnson of Tullylish, and Rev. Mr. Muirhead.

Saturday was the day allotted to America.—Our mutual friend Mr. George H. Stuart, presided, and though requiring an interpreter to address the French, he infused so much animation and earnestness into the meeting, that it seems to be regarded as one of the best during the whole sessions. After an able report on the religious condition of the United States, by Dr. Baird, addresses were made by the Rev. Drs. McLeod and Patton of New York, Mr. Goblet of New Jersey, Rev. Messrs Sawtell, Wythe, and others. The exercises were continued for four hours, but the audience manifested no impatience; and an invitation given by the Chairman to hold a meeting in America, and a promise of four days there for France, was received with hearty cheers. The information given by the Chairman in regard to the extent of our country and its vast resources, and the efforts made to promote the cause of Christ among us, and the great work which we have yet to do, seemed to fill the audience with astonishment. At one time, to the great amusement of the audience, the interpreter entirely broke down, and another person was obliged to take his place, who boldly gave word for word the surprising statistics, which his predecessor seemed to think too great to be true.

Dr. McLeod's address had reference to the Christian character of the United States government, and as its masterly demonstration that our civil polity was neither infidel or indifferent to religion, was brought out before the audience, the profound attention with which all were listening, showed how interesting the subject was to our transatlantic brethren.

On Sabbath the Lord's supper was dispensed in the Reformed Church. Many of the members of the Alliance were present, and participated.—The services here also were in various languages; and it was interesting to notice how those who were so much separated in national distinctions were yet all one family in Christ.

Passing over the sessions of Monday and Tuesday, we may refer briefly to the meeting