

behalf of a Mission, the importance and magnitude of which have long been amply acknowledged, and still continue unimpaired.

From its origin until now, this Mission has been regarded with deep interest, alike by members of the Church of Scotland, and by all Christians who have enjoyed opportunities of becoming acquainted with its valuable results. To it every argument, in support of missions for the propagation of the Gospel, emphatically applies. If it be an imperative duty, to yield obedience to a divine command;—a high privilege, to act in such a manner as to promote the glory of God by spreading as widely as possible the light of that truth that has come down from heaven, and making strenuous efforts for the destruction of sin and death, and the universal prevalence of that holiness of life that are essential to man's happiness,—and true wisdom, to select a field pre-eminently suitable for missionary exertion,—assuredly, the claims of India can neither be forgotten nor denied. The remarkable history of that vast empire, the extensive and ever-increasing supremacy of British influence, the degree to which India has contributed to our national distinction; and the wealth and honors which individuals have derived from our connection with that land, afford additional arguments for zeal and activity on behalf of a Mission calculated to confer inestimable benefits. A sense of justice; an enlarged benevolence; and a consciousness of great responsibility, ought to unite in awakening and keeping alive an interest in this enterprise, eminently conducive to vigorous exertion.

While aware that the force of these and other considerations is strongly felt, and that the desire of christianizing India is warmly cherished throughout the Church, the Committee make this appeal under feelings of deep anxiety. The very magnitude of the enterprise may justly awaken such feelings even if other causes were wanting. But the influence of such anxiety is not depressing. It diminishes, in no degree, the urgency with which the Committee now appeal to the office-bearers and members of the Church, or the confidence with which they rely on that cordial attachment to our Foreign Mission, which has already been repeatedly expressed. They believe that the extension of the Gospel in India is dear to the hearts of British Christians, and, knowing how largely the Church of Scotland is pervaded by a zealous desire to promote this object, they confidently trust that liberal contributions will not be withheld.

The communications that have appeared in the *Missionary Record*, and the last Report given in to the General Assembly, contain statements relative to those admissions to the Christian Church that have taken place last year, together with much valuable information, to which the Committee would direct the attention of congregations. They enter here into no detail as to the future management of the Scheme, and can only give the explicit declaration that they are

fully alive to the necessity of being guided by ample and minute information, and the exercise of deliberate reflection, in determining the mode of action which in the circumstances, it may be most judicious to pursue. But whatever practical difficulties may be anticipated, or may actually occur, the Committee would not faithfully represent the impression conveyed by every communication received from those best acquainted with India and the state of our institutions there, did they not declare, in the most emphatic terms, that there is an imperative call for a large accession to the staff of the Church's missionaries in India. Missionaries, endowed with the essential qualifications, are discharging with great zeal, ability, and success, the work to which they had been appointed; but every effort must be made to foster the spirit with which they are animated, among the students and licentiates of the Church, so that additional laborers in this field may be abundantly supplied. Let there be frequent and earnest prayers that the number of our missionaries may be largely augmented; and, resolving that whatever changes may take place in India, the opportunities of receiving instruction in Christian truth shall, as much as possible, be multiplied, so that all of every age may be brought under its influence, be persuaded to do that which is indispensable for carrying this resolution into effect, by liberal contributions in proportion to your means, and by endeavoring to exert your influence, whenever it can be successful, in inducing others to follow your example. The Foreign Mission of the Church of Scotland, in order to take and to maintain that position in India which it ought to occupy, and to carry out, in an efficient manner, the propagation of the Gospel through every means that may be legitimately employed, must be conducted on an extensive scale. Thus alone can it participate, to the extent that is befitting, in the great and glorious work which God is accomplishing by man's instrumentality. The distinction of such participations may well be an object to which the most ambitious aspirations are directed, but let it be remembered that this distinction is attained only by pecuniary sacrifices so large, according to the ability of every one, as to make the gratification of giving truly felt, and by that unwearied zeal that seeks utterance in steadfast efforts and fervent prayers that the work may be successful.

From these considerations, the Committee entertain the confidence that the members of the Church, animated by their wonted interest in this Mission, will cordially respond to the appeal now made to them, desirous to cultivate and to give expression to a missionary spirit as the quality by which a living Church is always pervaded, and affected by the pre-eminent importance of the vast undertaking for which liberal offerings are now earnestly sought. They feel assured that the claims of India cannot be overlooked by any believer conscious of his responsibilities, and impelled by no slight and evanescent, but a deep and irrepressible desire to break in

pieces the chains by which so many are now in bondage. There is an argument, which cannot be resisted, in the touching recollection of fathers and mothers and children shut out from the blessed light of that Gospel that brings salvation, and reduced by darkness and delusion to a condition which it is impossible to contemplate without painful feelings of compassion, and earnest desires to impart relief.

In name, and by appointment of the Committee,
JAMES CRAIK, D. D.
Convener

Scottish Ladies Association for the advancement of Female Education in India.

The Secretary has received some very interesting communications from Canada. In a letter from John Paton, Esq., Secretary to Queen's College, Kingston, dated 5th June, 1856, he says, "My object now in writing is to communicate the action of our Synod in reference to our Orphanage movement, and which cannot fail to exercise a most beneficial influence in its favour. I took the opportunity of making application to the Synod, at its Annual Meeting in Kingston, at the sanction of the Church in Canada to the efforts which I was making to interest Sabbath Schools in missions through the Orphanages at Calcutta and Madras.—at the same time explaining and advocating the Scheme, at some length, in a letter, upon the subject. My application was most favorably received, and the resolution, of which I enclose a copy, was unanimously adopted."

The resolution referred to is to the following effect:—

At Kingston, and within St. Andrew's Church there, the thirtieth day of May, 1856 year.

The which day, the Synod being met and constituted, *inter alia*, "the Synod had read a letter from Mr Paton agent the efforts for making for the support and education of Hindoo orphans under the Ladies' Association for Female Education in India. The same having been considered, it was moved by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr Macdonnell, and agreed to, "that the Synod, having heard read the letter to Mr Paton, approve of the same and commend the effort to the sympathies of our congregations, and appoint Mr. Paton Treasurer for the Fund on behalf of the Synod."

Mr. Paton has also forwarded a letter which he received from the Rev. William Henderson of Newcastle, Miramichi, dated 22d April, 1856, from which the following is an excerpt:—

"I beg to return my warmest thanks for your letter, and for the 'Report of the Scottish Ladies' Association for the Advancement of Female Education in India' It furnishes exactly the information which I wanted.

"Having been for a number of years Secretary to the Aberdeen Juvenile Mission