

of the Scottish people have been brought by the Home Mission under the influence of Scriptural truth of which they were previously ignorant, and have been led to live soberly, righteously, and godly in the world. Deporable would have been the deficiency of religious instruction and pastoral superintendence in many of our cities, large towns, and mining and manufacturing districts, if the Home Mission Committee had not aided in providing additional ministers and missionaries. Inestimable are the services to the cause of morality and religion and social order now rendered by not a few prosperous *quoad sacra* parish churches, which received from the Home Mission funds building grants, and also, till they become self-supporting, grants towards the maintenance of their ministers. The scheme for which the Committee plead has established an irresistible claim to the Christian liberality of the Church by the vast amount of good which it has achieved.

"Last year the grave closed on the mortal remains of a man who had done more to promote Home Mission enterprise in connection with the Church of Scotland than any of his contemporaries. Not merely in the vicinity of his own residence, but throughout the whole of Scotland, the late Mr. Whitelaw, M. P., for Glasgow, was incessantly striving to render the National Church commensurate with the population for whose benefit it had been established. To this object he devoted an amount of money, of precious time, and of anxious thought, which only his intimate friends could in any degree appreciate. While himself, without asking extraneous aid, building churches and maintaining missionaries or ministers in places at which he either had property or was an employer of labour, he generously tendered handsome contributions to Home Mission work, whenever he believed it to be required. His removal in the prime of life the Committee regard as a great loss to the cause intrusted to them by the Church, and they desire to pay this tribute of respect to his memory.

"Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." Many valuable human coadjutors having been taken from them by death, the Committee beseech the frequent prayers of the Church, that the ever-living God, whose gracious kindness in the past they gratefully acknowledge, may continue to vouchsafe them the success which He alone can command. Feeling that without Him they can do nothing, and that with Him on their side they can do all things, they entreat, from every minister and congregation in the Church of Scotland, earnest intercession at the Throne of Grace for the outpouring of His Spirit on themselves and their agents, as well as on those among whom their work is conducted. These petitions will draw down from heaven showers

of blessings, which will make the Home Mission field cultivated by our Church as the garden of the Lord, full of goodly plants, bringing forth the fruits of righteousness, unto the glory and praise of God.

In name of the Committee,
K. M. PHIN, CONVENOR.

THE SCOTTISH PEASANTRY.

The best place to study the faces of the peasants is in the Kirk; it is there the sharpness of their discernment is most vehemently expressed in every line, for they are all critics of the sermon, and even of the prayers; but it is there also that the sharpness of the feature is most frequently seen to melt away before emotions of a nobler order, which are less peculiarly, though far less permanently, theirs. It is a very interesting thing to witness the struggle that seems to be perpetually going on between the sarcastic and reverential elements of their dispositions. How bitterly they seem to rejoice in their own strength, when they espy, or think they espy, some chink in the armour of their preacher's reasoning; and then with what sudden humility they appear to bow themselves into the dust before some single solitary gleam of warm affectionate eloquence, the only weapon they have no power to resist.

It is in this mixture of sheer, speculative, and hard-headedness, with the capacity of so much lofty enthusiasm concerning things intangible, that we must seek for the differential quality of the Scottish peasantry.

EXAMPLE.—One watch set right will do to set many by, but, on the other hand one that goes wrong may be the means of misleading a whole neighborhood; and the same may be said of the example we individually set to those around us.

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