

several inquirers both among the inmates of the orphanage and others outside the Mission. In the native Church there has been, during the year, only one addition, viz., Bhaja, one of the orphans, who both before and since his baptism has given great satisfaction. The membership of the native Church is eleven.

MISSIONS OF THE IRISH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

IRISH MISSION—CONNAUGHT SCHOOLS.—The annual report of these Schools for 1873, is, as usual, full of interest and encouragement. The Rev. Mr. Brannigan gives the following testimony to their usefulness and success:—

“These schools, since 1847, have held an important place among the various agencies employed for improving the social, moral, and spiritual condition of the population of Connaught. That province has long been proverbial for its poverty, ignorance, and superstition. To remove these evils, and replace them by industry, intelligence, and the truth of the Gospel, is the one great object of the Mission School. Founded and fostered by such men as the Rev. Dr. Edgar, and Rev. R. Allen, they continue to furnish evidence of the patriotism, philanthropy and Christian wisdom in which they originated.

“They are 43 in number, with 49 teachers, and have brought secular and religious knowledge to many thousands, who, but for them, would have had no such opportunity.

“The results of the mental and spiritual training are manifest and encouraging. Not a few have gone to other lands with the knowledge of the Bible in their heads and hearts. Many have fallen asleep in Jesus, and others remain among us witnessing a good confession. Our Sabbath schools, congregations, and Communion rolls have been largely supplied from this source.

“No wonder that upon these schools the terrors of the priest should be brought to bear in the form of anathemas, denunciations, and persecutions; and no wonder that amidst such fierce, relentless storms there should be times of depression and apparent failure. Yet, in spite of all, and though many buds of promise have been blighted, they continue to flourish and grow, and bear fruit.

“These schools are supported by the voluntary contributions of Christian friends, congregational, and ladies’ auxiliaries, and Sabbath schools. They are capable of great extension, were sufficient funds available. The annual expenditure is about 1,400.

THE ORPHANAGE AND HOUSE OF REFUGE.

“This institution is in Ballina; it has been one of the most interesting, useful, and successful departments of the Mission. It provides for cases which do not come within the conditions of the Presbyterian Orphan Society, and gives shelter to persecuted ones from various districts. Three hundred girls have been trained as servants, and are now in situations. Twenty-seven are at present connected with it, and the sphere of its usefulness may be considerably enlarged.

“These schools and orphanage have already accomplished a great and noble work; and even should they be at this moment extinguished, they have set in motion a train of influence that will never die—through their generations yet unborn ‘shall praise and magnify the Lord.’”

The report says:—