

means of education within the bounds, and the supplying of deficiencies. His opinion was that in this Presbytery they should form an Association for the purpose of aiding and encouraging parishes in which a deficiency in the means of education was found to exist. He would have a regularly organised Society, with a small annual payment as a qualification for membership, and he was sure that it would meet with the support of the laity.

Mr. N. McLeod approved of the proposal generally. There had been too much talk on the subject, and they must now begin to act. The first thing required was money to build schools, and perhaps it might be desirable to appoint a small Committee to draw up suggestions as to the form of procedure, and report. It was agreed to remit to a Committee to make the necessary arrangements, with the view of following out its spirit, and report.

EDUCATION IN INDIA

Mr. N. L. Leod gave notice of his intention to move at next meeting that an *overture* be transmitted to the General Assembly in reference to their decision at last meeting anent the Government Indian Education measure. He expressed his deep regret at the conclusion which had been come to by the General Assembly, and was afraid that it would have the worst possible effect on their Missions.

India Mission

STATEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE.

INDIA, with its unnumbered millions, with its gigantic superstitions and prevailing errors, the growth of centuries, again appeals, to the Christian sympathy of British subjects. In the arrangements of an all-wise Providence, which determines the boundaries of nations, this vast province in the East has been added to the dominions of Britain, and become tributary to her sway; and who can overrate the importance of such an acquisition, or exaggerate the responsibilities it has served to entail? That these responsibilities are exhausted in the mildness of the burdens we impose, or of the laws we dispense, no patriotic Christian will maintain. No doubt, blessings of a temporal kind, are not to be despised,—knowledge, and freedom, and industry, and peace, have followed apace as province after province was added to our territory, and the era of their annexation to Britain has been justly hailed as the commencement of a new epoch in their history, and a nobler order of things than distinguished the past. But it was not for the transmission of these blessings, however valuable, of these alone, that the providence of the Supreme so largely ministered to our extending empire. And far less is it for the enlargement of our trade, or the enriching of our merchants, or the aggrandizement of our nobles, that India shines as one of the brightest gems in the British crown. In the onward march of events, other lessons are to be gathered than a mere superficial policy would seek to enforce, and in the dissemination of the truth where error prevails in its most hideous forms, in the diffusion of light where darkness broods with its attendant horrors, a darkness that might be felt, in

the conferring of a liberty with which Christ makes His children free—and the emancipated Hindoo may be no more enslaved under a yoke the most oppressive,—this is the duty and these the responsibilities, from the obligation of which there is no release. Still must Britain see to it, as she would deserve a place among the nations that, through her instrumentality, the "knowledge of Him who is the only living and true God, and of Jesus Christ whom He hath sent," is spread abroad upon the earth,—still must she remember, in the midst of her privileges, that it is true of communities as well as individuals, "to whom much is given, of them also much shall be required."

Not while this duty overlies all the churches of Britain not less than every class in the community, would it become the office-bearers and members of the Church of Scotland to overlook their especial interest in this Christian work. If it be true that our own native country has, more than any other part of the empire, in proportion at least, shared in the wealth which India so lavishly poured into our treasury, thereby inferring a corresponding effort of Christian zeal, what shall we say of the Church of our fathers in her by-gone labours on this unlimited field? That we have occupied this field for years, may be a subject, not unnaturally, of gratulation to all of us, though of boasting to none. The first to set the example as a Church, in the formation and conduct of this noble enterprise, we have been second to none in the blessed fruits of its beneficent agency. Anywhere indeed in Hindostan, the harvest at best has been a partial one, but if we can point to a few symptoms of an approaching change, to the disappearance of unholy rites and the successive abolition of horrid cruelties, to the growing improvement in tone and temper not less of the European than of the native mind, each in their sphere surmounting prejudices the most inveterate and bigotry the most keen, we may also congratulate ourselves on the fact, that to this blessed result, the forerunner of changes more momentous, our Christian institutions in every Presidency, have, under the blessing of God, been lending their aid. They have now existed for many years, and in the onward march of Christian influence, penetrating the innermost recesses of society, as well as touching the springs, and affecting the movements of public life, they have not been without their appropriate triumphs.

But what have these efforts been after all, compared with the vastness of the field which they contemplate, or the responsibility which they underlie? Has our zeal kept pace with our privilege? Has a sense of the importance of Gospel truth, as the alone food of the soul, given adequate voice to our prayers, and vigour to our efforts, and largeness to our charities, when we remember those who, on the plains of India, were perishing for lack of knowledge? Was our duty discharged when we sent forth but two or three missionaries to two or three stations, and then looked for the conversion of a countless host? Rather does it become us to humble ourselves that by so feeble an agency so much has been done. Ours at best has been,

but a day of small things in the way of effort, though beyond our expectations, and much more our deserts, it has pleased the Lord in the conversion of the heathen from time to time to do great things for us, whereof we are glad. Well does it befit us to lift up the hands which hang down and to strengthen the feeble knees, to enlarge our charities and to multiply our prayers. From every province the calls are most numerous and urgent, and while the children of this generation need no spur to their assiduity, no incentive to their zeal, while the East is ransacked, in all its borders, by thousands of our countrymen thirsting for the same that perisheth, or the wealth which at best they cannot carry beyond the tomb, this is the rebuke which is ringing in the ears of every Christian Church, "How long are ye slack to possess the land, which the Lord God of your fathers hath given you?"

That the General Assembly has adopted the resolution of opening a mission in the Punjab, in addition to those in the other Presidencies, will be hailed with satisfaction, we believe, by every member of the Church. Mr. Hunter has since been ordained, and is now on his way to Bombay, preparatory to the scene of his future operations. Not less, we feel assured, will the resolution be approved of, that, being furnished with means adequate to its accomplishment, we are ready to avail ourselves of any opening that offers, in establishing a mission in Turkey. There, as in India, war may be doing its work as the pioneer of the Gospel, and through the breach of strongholds the most formidable, which, like "the cedar in Lebanon," laughed at the storm, but which have fallen at last like a leaf before the whirlwind, the missionary may enter and place his tent in the midst of the smouldering ashes. But indeed will that day be, when, by the side of the churchyard, hallowed as the resting place of so many of our brave countrymen who have fallen in battle, the missionary church is seen raising its head, and when the shouts of victors have died away on the ear, with the cries of the fatherless, and the widow, and the orphan, to be succeeded by those other strains on the bloodstained hills of the Crimea, "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace, that saith unto Zion, 'Thy God reigneth!'" Here are triumphs to be achieved, bought by no blood but that of the Lamb, and followed by no tears but such as Jesus wept over perishing sinners. Where is the Church that has laboured so long, or that has done too much, in seeking to extend the beneficent reign of the Prince of Peace? Let the Church of Scotland hail it as her highest and holiest privilege, that she is permitted to engage in this bloodless contest. And let all her members seek to contribute to its operations and to minister to its wants. More urgently pressing than ever, the exigencies of the mission require earnest co-operation and support. They are well worthy of an enlarged measure of Christian liberality. An extension of agency requires an extension of means. And shall we plead for this in vain for the ready hand and for the willing heart? The result of another Annual Collection will we trust, give its appropriate proof of your increasing earnestness and zeal. And may the prayers which are offered up in behalf of the heathen, come up in memorial before the Lord of Sabaoth, not ascending from a few, but "the voice of one crying in the wilderness," but from every sanctuary and from every heart. Then shall the blessing come back upon our own souls, even life for evermore. Then shall the religion of all be more vigorous and health-