

JEWISH MISSIONS.

1. Aleppo, in Syria, with the out-stations, of Killis and Idlib. The Rev. R. Grant Brown, who began his mission in 1858, resigned his charge in May last, and left the service of the committee; and the mission is at present under the charge of the Rev. John Wortabet, M. D. The chief event at Aleppo has been the formation of a Little Church, consisting of four natives, two resident in Aleppo, and two from Killis. The success which has marked the work in Aleppo has excited the hostility and strenuous opposition of the Maronite clergy. The schools in Aleppo, in Killis, and at Idlib are attended by nearly 180 scholars, and the progress which these are making in scriptural knowledge is spoken of in exceedingly favourable terms. 2. Algeria, in North Africa. In May last the committee found it necessary to dismiss the Rev. Benjamin Weiss, and from that time to the close of the year the work was carried on by the two assistant evangelists. After careful deliberation, it was resolved by the committee to offer this mission to the esteemed brethren of the Union of Evangelical Churches in France, it being understood that whilst they would provide the agents and manage the mission, the committee would, in order that a fair trial might be made, grant support for three years at the rate of at least £300 a year. The reasons which induced the committee to take this step—first, that as the language spoken in Algiers is French, it was deemed that a minister whose native tongue that is would, more likely than one sent from this country, revive and enlarge the congregation formed there; secondly, that as Algiers is a colony of France, where a large number of nominal Protestants exist, it is a field which belongs appropriately to a French Church; and, thirdly, it was hoped that a mission out of France would interest the members of the Union Churches, engage their prayers, and draw forth their pecuniary resources, and in this way promote the prosperity of that body in which we have long felt a deep and cordial interest. The French brethren, after anxious consideration entered heartily into the measure, and the Committee of Evangelization have selected and sent out the Rev. Mr. Ribard, in whose judgment, piety, and energy they have great confidence. Mr. Ribard reached Algeria in the close of December, found matters in a very unsettled state, and has since been occupied in making himself acquainted with the people, preaching on the Lord's day, and getting things put into working order.

INDIA.—RAJPOOTANA.

This mission is situated in the British province of Ajmere and Malawara, more

than 600 miles due north of Bombay. The province has nearly 400,000 inhabitants, and it is surrounded by native Rajoot States, all accessible to the missionary, with a population it is said, of seventeen millions, entirely destitute of the Gospel. The mission was begun by the Rev. Williamson Shoolbred in March, 1860. The utmost facilities were found to exist there for the preaching of the Gospel, the opening of schools, and for all parts of evangelistic work. The mission has now ten European agents, including seven ordained missionaries, two medical missionaries, and an evangelist; three native evangelists, and more than twenty native school teachers. All our agents who have been there two years are able to converse with the people in their own language, and more or less fluently to preach to them the doctrines of the Gospel. Four central stations have been formed—Beawar, Nussrah, Ajmere, and Todgurb in the Malawara hills. The three first formed have been some time in operation, and the last, Todgurb, planted in a most important district, is just begun. The grace of God has been manifested in the conversion of six natives, and several hopeful inquirers are receiving instruction with a view to baptism. A little church has been formed in Beawar, and the ordinance of the Supper has been there twice dispensed in the native language. A native has been baptized at Nussrah, and the last letter from Ajmere states that a Jain priest has there renounced his religion and embraced Christianity. The work is carried on by preaching in the bazaars, in the villages, and in the schools, by preaching itineracies over wide districts of country, where attentive audiences are easily obtained, and by the circulation of tracts and portions of the Word of God. The mission has been strengthened by the recent arrival of three missionaries—the Rev. Dr. Shields, and Messrs. Gavin Martin and James Gray—whose coming has greatly cheered the hearts of the brethren formerly in the field. Twenty-six day schools are in operation, and nearly 1000 children are getting a useful education, the most valuable part of which is careful Bible instruction.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH.

This venerable court met in the Assembly Hall, Edinburgh, on the 18th May, PRINCIPAL FAIRBAIRN, of Glasgow, was chosen Moderator. All the work of the Church appears to be in a prosperous condition. The Sustentation Fund is larger than ever before, and the interest in the other schemes of the church has not flagged.