

things!" is a common expression; as is also, "He was not killed by disease—he was killed by God." And when speaking of the departed, though there is nought in the physical appearance of the departed to justify the expression, they say, "He has gone to the gods,"—the phrase being identical with "abit ad plures."

On questioning intelligent men among the Bakwains as to their former knowledge of good and evil, of God and the future state, they have scouted the idea of having ever been without a tolerably clear conception on all these subjects. Respecting their sense of right and wrong, they profess that nothing we indicate as sin ever appeared to them as otherwise, except the statement that it was wrong to have more wives than one; and they declare that they spoke in the same way of the direct influence exercised by God in giving rain in answer to the rain-makers, and in granting deliverance in times of danger, as they do now, before they ever heard of white men.

Dr. Livingstone also declares that the farther north a traveller goes in Africa, the more distinct do the natives' ideas on religious subjects become.

Scotland's Place among the Industrial Nations.

The Baron Dupin has just published the first part of the labours of the French Commissioners in the Industry of Nations. In explaining results and differences, he makes the following remarks:—"The Attica of the north, with its naked mountains, its frozen uplands, and its sky of iron—Scotland—sends to the different nations more productions of its soil and its arts than the vast country of Mexico, with its silver mines, worked by hundreds, its eternal spring, its sunshine like that of Egypt, and its vegetation, in the presence of which even that of the ancient promised land and the wonderful East is weak. Scotland, with her numerous flocks, helps to feed London, the city of 2,500,000 souls. By the works of two of her sons, Adam Smith and James Watt, she has anticipated England in the study of riches; uniting practice with theory, she has drawn from the vapours of water the most powerful and most obedient of moving forces. in order to apply it to an infinite variety of arts. At this day Great Britain builds a larger number of iron steamships than are built by all the nations of Europe put together; and of this wonderful work of Great Britain little Scotland does more than the half!"

AMUNIFICENT DONATION.—The London Record states that an anonymous donor has contributed £5000 to the Special Indian Fund of the Church Missionary Society.

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—The contributions for Foreign Missions in the United Presbyterian Church for the year 1857 amount to £13,535 17s. 6d., and for Home Missions £4,870 6s. 6d. There has also been raised the sum of £18,671 19s., to form a fund for the support of aged and infirm Ministers.

Letter from the Convener of the Colonial Committee

To THE SUPERINTENDENT OF MISSIONS.

The Manse, Ratho,
6th April, 1858.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have just received and read your official report as Superintendent of Missions, which I shall lay before the Colonial Committee at our first meeting. In the meantime let me assure you of the pleasure with which I have perused your communication. It is most satisfactory to find that the clergymen whom we have sent to your colonial branch of the Church are discharging their duties so efficiently, and that you and other brethren who have been longer in the field feel your hands strengthened by their assistance. Our people of all classes, from the most wealthy to the poorest, may rely upon the deep interest which the Church of Scotland feels in the religious welfare of all of them, and her full sense of obligation to promote it as anxiously as if they were in this country, which was once the home of thousands of them. Pray be so kind as you may have opportunity to assure them of this.

I am glad to hear that you are so well and vigorous. You have long and faithfully served the church of your fathers, and I trust that you will yet be spared many years to do so.

Believe me,
My dear sir,
Yours faithfully,
J. C. FOWLER.

Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The Moderator of the Synod of Nova-Scotia, the Rev. Mr. McKay, of Belfast, P. E. I., requests all the ministers within the bounds to direct their attention to the queries contained in Mr. Morris's letter, published in our last number, respecting the Widows' and Orphans' Fund in Canada, and be prepared with the information solicited by the Secretary of the Board of Managers in that Province by the ensuing meeting of the Synod. We believe that some of our ministers think that we ought to collect that information immediately, in sufficient time for the meeting of the Synod of Canada at the end of this month. But we apprehend it will be difficult to obtain a full and satisfactory report without a regular and deliberate consultation on the subject; and even then we can only give a vague and general reply regarding the collections which may be made in our different congregations for this desirable object.

Meetings of Ecclesiastical Courts.

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland meets at Edinburgh on Thursday, the 20th of this month of May. Her Majesty has appointed the Earl of Mansfield to be the Lord High Commissioner to the Assembly, and the Rev. Dr. Leishman, of Govan, is expected to be chosen Moderator. The Synod of Canada meets this year, we believe, at Montreal, in the end of the present month. The Synod of Nova-Scotia meets at Charlottetown, P. E. I., on the last Wednesday of June; and the Synod of New Brunswick at Newcastle, Miramichi, on the third Thursday of July.

The collection in aid of the Synod Fund of Nova Scotia is appointed to be made in all the churches and preaching stations on the last Sabbath but one of the month of June—the 20th of that month. The Rev. Donald McKue has been appointed to announce the collection and advocate its claims on the liberality of the friends of the church in the pages of the Record, a month previous to the day fixed for making the collection.

Liberal Collection.

We are happy to announce that after an excellent and appropriate sermon, by the Rev. John Scott, on the morning of Sabbath the 11th of April, the liberal sum of £22 3s. 6d. was collected by St. Matthew's congregation, on behalf of the Widow's Fund of our Church in the Synod of Nova Scotia,—the first collection which has reached the treasurer in support of this benevolent object, furnishing an example worthy not only of approbation but also of imitation by all the congregations within the bounds of the Synod.

Colonial Missions.

Six assistant ministers from the Church of Scotland are at present wanted for New South Wales. The salaries are £130, £150, £200, and £400 per annum, with good prospect of increase.—*M. Rec.*

Letters and Monies received, April, 1858.

John McKay, New Glasgow, with list, £7 15s. Alexr. Morris, Montreal, 5s. Rev. Jas. Steven, with list, £1 7s. 6d. on account. Rev. Donald McDonald, P. E. I., £3. Rev. Mr. Melkobie, Tabusintac, two letters, with lists and £2 7s. 6d. John Ross, W. B. R. John, Pictou, 2s. 6d. Angus McLeod, Mill Brook, M. R., Pictou, with list and £1. Rodk. Fraser, River John, Pictou, 5s. Rev. A. W. Herdman, Pictou, 2 letters with donation to the Widows' Fund; information to be furnished at the meeting of the Synod. Rev. James Mair, Barney's River, with enclosed communication. We are anxiously waiting for remittances from our agents in the country, as large sums are still due to us in different places.

Synod Fund.

1858.
May 4. Balance on hand, £1 9 6½

Home Mission Fund.

May 4. Balance on hand, £178 0 0

Bursary or Young Men's Fund.

April 1. Balance on hand, £252 14 11
Collection W. Branch East River Congregation, 2 17 8
Addition to St. Andrew's Church, Pictou, Collection, 0 5 0
May 4. Amount on hand, £255 17 7

Widows' Fund.

May 4. Collection taken in St. Matthew's Church, Halifax, Ministers' Widows' Fund, £22 3 6
Donation from Rev. A. W. Herdman, Pictou, 0 12 6
£22 16 0

W. M. GORDON,
Treasurer.

I. K.