

is nothing like bodily excitement or prostration among us, but a general solemn impression pervading the community, and it was by the desire of the people themselves I went down and addressed them.

You know I am not easily led away by novelty or popular delusions, but, when I saw the congregation in East Austruther on Sabbath so attentive, and such concern visible in their faces and very attitudes, when I saw the state of my hearers yesterday, I cannot but conclude, 'This is the doing of the Lord, and it is wondrous in our eyes;' come and judge for yourself, &c." From the same dear friend I have just had the following note. "The late revival has been productive of much spiritual good to our community; it has been the means of diffusing generally throughout the parish *earnestness* in religion. Drunkenness has decreased, swearing is seldom heard, violence and uproar, once so common on Saturday evenings, are now never witnessed. There is generally a tone of Christian kindness prevalent amongst all classes, and my Monday prayer-meeting continues to be well attended, and in it I am greatly delighted." Another says, "That is indeed a highly interesting and important movement which is at present going on in various parts of our land. And I trust it is only in its commencement. I could name as many as 30 here already who have recently been brought under serious impressions, and of whose genuine conversion and salvation I entertain not a doubt. He would be a cold-hearted minister or man who would either speak lightly of or show any opposition to such glorious work."

Will be most happy of taking an early opportunity (D. V.) of reporting progress.

Yours very truly,

F.

Fife, Oct. 24, 1860.

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

ECCLESIASTICAL ITEMS.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND ENDOWMENT SCHEME.—The sum of £40,000, estimated as necessary for the endowment of twenty new churches in the south-western section of Scotland, has now been made up.

REV. DR. BROWN.—We regret to learn that the minister of the Middle Parish Church, since his return from England, has become much worse in health, and there does not at present seem to be any hope of his surviving many days.—*Greenock Advertiser*. [Dr. Brown has since died.—Ed. N. E.]

UNIVERSITY DEGREE.—The Senatus Academicus of Marischal College and University of Aberdeen, has conferred the degree of LL.D., on the Rev. Charles McCombie of Tillyfour, minister of Lumphanan. Mr. McCombie's literary acquirements (says the *Aberdeen Journal*) and acknowledged ability as a minister of the Church of Scotland, well merit the honour which has been conferred on him by his *alma mater*.

TRINITY COLLEGE CHURCH.—A meeting of the Presbytery of Edinburgh was held on Friday, in John Knox's Church, Canongate, for the purpose of moderating in a call to Trinity College Church in favour of the Rev. Mr. Wallace, of Newton-on-Ayr. The Rev. Dr. Macfarlane, Moderator, presided, and preached an eloquent sermon. At the conclusion of the service the call to Mr. Wallace was signed by the elders and a large number of the Congregation.

FORT-WILLIAM—DUNCANSBURGH PARISH, Q. S.—Sir Duncan Cameron of Fassfern and Callart, Bart., has been pleased to issue a presentation to this parish in favor of the Rev. Patrick Gordon, the officiating missionary of that district. The venerable Baronet, with praiseworthy liberality, has handed over to the Building Committee an additional sum of £50, in order to render the new Church and manse still more complete, and free of debt. This sum is exclusive of that first set apart by Sir Duncan for the buildings, and exclusive also of the £2000 formerly granted towards the endowment. The Church and manse are nearly finished in a neat, substantial and commodious form.

DEATH OF THE REV. JAMES DUFF, LATE OF NEWSPYNIE.—We regret to record the death of the Rev. James Duff, A. M., which happened last week at Mains of Auchindachie, near Keith, the residence of his brother.—This Rev. gentleman discharged the office of parochial schoolmaster of Urquhart in this neighbourhood for many years, and from 1847 to the death of the Rev. Alex. Simpson in 1852 he officiated as assistant minister in the parish of Newspynie, where he was very much beloved. Latterly he obtained an appointment as a minister of the Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia, where he remained some time, but failing health compelled him to demit his charge and return to his native country. For the last 18 months he has resided in the parish of Keith, unable to discharge clerical duties. He was cut off by repeated attacks of paralysis.—*Elgin Courier*.

[From H. & F. Mission Record for November.]

MADRAS.

Baptism of two Converts.

The following is an extract from a letter of the Rev. Jacob J. David, pastor of the Native Church, Madras:—

I am happy to report to you that the Great Head of the Church has graciously been pleased to add two adults to the number of our Church. One of them is a female, aged 30. She was a very simple and illiterate woman; like many others, she was quite unable to discern the good from evil, and remained so ignorant as not to know that she was a sinner, or possessed of an immortal soul, or existence of future life after the dissolution of the body. In this deplorable condition she was born and brought up; and, had she not been, by the grace of God, drawn from darkness to be numbered with His flock, she would have been contented to die without Christ and His salvation. At this period she formed an acquaintance with one of the female members of our congregation, by whose instrumentality she was led to come to me and attend the Sunday services. After remaining a long time under our instruction, she evinced an earnest and longing desire to be speedily admitted into the visible Church of Christ by baptism. I accordingly, having observed her very deliberately, found that she is a suitable candidate for the solemn ordinance. The usual questions preparatory for baptism having been asked and responded to very satisfactorily, after the Sunday service I baptised her in the name of the Father,

Son, and Holy Ghost. She was then named Lydia. I am glad to observe that since her admittance into the Church she is improving greatly. She is now at the house of a Christian lady, who kindly instructs her for further knowledge of the Scriptures and Christianity. May God Almighty give her grace that she may live consistently in her Christian profession. The other adult is an educated young man of 27 years of age, an only son of a head man of one of the suburbs of Madras. He was once an inveterate enemy of Christianity and its messengers, notwithstanding he had some knowledge of the Scriptures and received some Bible portions and religious tracts from several preachers. He not only behaved rudely and shamefully to preachers, when they were on the duty of their heavenly Master, but took also great pleasure in stimulating others to imitate his example. And now the gracious Lord, who desireth not the death of the sinner, but that the sinner turn from his way and live, had set His engine in motion to bring him to Jesus Christ, to worship Him as the only Lord, when he was zealously engaged, like Saul of Tarsus, in persecuting His disciples. His conversion was chiefly owing to the faithful labours of my catechist, John (who was also formerly a heathen, and was redeemed by the wonderful mercy of our God in Christ). He was in his younger days a schoolmate of the catechist, and had been on intimate terms with him ever since. John, when he became a Christian, and more especially a messenger of the Gospel to his poor perishing countrymen, was not unmindful of his relations' and friends' eternal salvation. With this aim he called on his old friend and earnestly beseeched and invited him to accept the Gospel salvation. At first he disliked the catechist and his message, but gradually was overcome by his incessant and repeated interviews and instructions. From this time he began to attend the Divine service on Sundays and week-day meetings and attentively heard the Word of God. The Holy Spirit of God began to operate on his heart and convinced him that he was nothing but a great sinner, and could not be saved without Christ Jesus. He often came to me and placed himself under my instructions and now persecution for Christ's sake began to rise against him. His relations and friends, when they came to a knowledge of his new proceedings and change of life adopted every measure whereby they could allure him from the path of life. Seeing their endeavours were unavailing they began to persecute him openly, excommunicated him from their church and caste, and moreover threatened his life. None of these moved him. Amidst these discouragements and persecutions the Lord wonderfully strengthened him to adhere to the means of grace. Being satisfied with him in every respect I baptised him at the close of the Divine service on Sunday, the 13th May last, in the presence of the Rev. Messrs. Macfarlane and Wright. He had a brief statement of his life and conversion drawn out and read before the congregation. The attendance on the occasion was unusually large. Besides our people several Christians belonging to other kindred societies were present and appeared to enjoy much this interesting service. After the ceremony Mr. Wright, on my request gave an appropriate and edifying address, suited to the occasion, and then Mr. Macfarlane concluded the service with an earnest and fervent prayer. The name given to the convert is John; ever since he is rapidly improving. He daily accompanies the catechist to villages to preach the everlasting Gospel to heathens, and distribute Scriptures and tracts. I cannot finish this paragraph without pleading on behalf of the two convert just spoken of, and earnestly request your prayers for them, that they may wholly sur-