

that may be, it is not to the amount of work performed, whether it be great or small, it is not to the difficulties encountered, or the obstacles overcome, it is not to the largeness of the city congregation, or the smallness of the country charge, in short it is not our individual experience of which I would take notice, but that we should take counsel together and enquire which of us are turning our faces towards the brazen altar again, which of us are preparing to finish our work, and, from what is past, are you looking to the conclusion, so as to say, "I have done as Thou hast commanded me." If so there is beyond what most interest you, there is a reward worthy of our Lord and Master to bestow. When an earthly sovereign bestows a mark of favour on a true and faithful subject, it generally consists of titles, of honours and pecuniary rewards. But ours is different; we have at present the consolations and supporting influences of the Spirit and the assurance of the fulfilment of all those promises which have been given by God to His people. And, when our work is finished here, there is the assurance of the reward in the Kingdom above, the inheritance which is incorruptible, undefiled, and which fadeth not away. Then will He gather together in one vast and eternal assembly all those who have "sighed and cried for the abominations done in the midst," and on account of which they have been marked with the ink from the inkhorn of the man clothed in linen, and who stood beside the brazen altar. Among this throng will be the fruit of our work and the numbers marked by us. Then and then only will be known the amount of our success here, for then within the walls of the New Jerusalem will be that assembled throng which no man can number, gathered from the four corners of the Earth, and marked by so many hands. The assembly there convened shall all be of one mind and spirit, there will be no wrangling or jarring, no voice of party or strife, but peace and joy and uninterrupted happiness, and above all the workings of that love, which has secured for us that joy which shall then be fully revealed. Though in our work on Earth we have been the spectators and associates of those "who sigh and cry," in Heaven, in the full enjoyment of the reward, there shall be no sorrows nor crying, for then all tears shall be wiped away from the eye, joy and gladness shall abound, songs of triumph shall fill every mouth, and love unfeigned shall animate every heart. When those who have been marked on Earth shall have been gathered together into the Kingdom above, the bond of peace, of love and good-will will then be complete; the song of gratitude, feebly begun on Earth, shall in Heaven swell out into the full burst of triumphal praise, and the anthem thus begun shall resound throughout the streets of the New Jerusalem and reverberate along the walls of the Temple, for the living pillars thereof,

and the lively stones therein shall each re-echo throughout the endless roll of eternity unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood and hath made us kings and priests unto God His Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. AMEN.

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

(Continued from page 104.)

[Condensed from the *Edinburgh Post* and other Papers.]

Monday, May 26.

The Assembly met to-day at twelve o'clock—the Rev. Dr. Crombie, Moderator.

Dr. Bayce read the draft of a memorial to the Court of Directors of the East India Company regarding the application for increase of the number of chaplains belonging to the Church of Scotland in the Indian Presidencies, which was approved of, and ordered to be transmitted.

THE JEWISH MISSIONS.

Mr. TAIT, Kirkliston, read the Report of the Committee for the Conversion of the Jews. It stated that at Cochín, where the Committee had lately appointed Mr. James Bouthorne as colleague to Mr. Laseron, the most painful dissensions had arisen between these missionaries; and, every effort in the way of private counsel and remonstrance having failed, the Committee had terminated the connection of Mr. Bouthorne with the Mission, and had resolved to remove Mr. Laseron from the station, which had been occupied by him since 1844. On the question as to what the Committee should now do with that Mission, they had as yet come to no decision. In Germany the Committee had had a painful trial in the removal by death of the Rev. J. C. Lehner, at Darmstadt, of whom it might be truly said, that "he was a faithful man, and feared God above many." The Committee had offered the vacant appointment to the Rev. W. Keyser, a young man highly recommended, but who, overpowered by a sense of the onerous duties of the office, had demitted his charge immediately after assuming it. The station was still, therefore, unoccupied. In regard to Messrs Sutton and Stern at Karlsruhe and Speyer, the Committee recorded their entire satisfaction with their proceedings, of the success of which they had, in some instances, had cheering tokens. The Committee regretted the continued want of success in their endeavours to find a suitable missionary for Paris, and the consequent postponement of the object commended to their attention by the Assembly of 1854. The Committee, after inquiry and deliberation as to the expediency of sending a missionary to the Jews at Jerusalem, had resolved that the present was not a favourable time to open a mission there. The population of Jews in Jerusalem consisted chiefly of two classes—namely, religious devotees coming there from all countries, that they might, by dying there, hope to hold a higher place in the resurrection; and the native Jews, whose poverty was such that they depended almost wholly on the bounty of the wealthier class of devotees. The necessities of these poor people were supplied only on the condition of steadfast resistance to the Christian missionary, and therefore it was found of necessary consequence that, in the event of opening a mission there, funds should be provided to give professing inquirers and converts temporal support. This practice the Committee deemed most objectionable in principle, and it was, besides, wholly beyond their resources. On these

grounds the Committee thought it inexpedient to open a mission at Jerusalem, though they cherished the hope of being able to occupy other stations in Palestine. The present condition of Turkey, and the now milder administration of the Sultan's Government, gave favourable openings for missionary enterprise in various places, particularly among the Jewish population. After much consideration the Committee had resolved to occupy, in the first instance, the towns of Salonica and Smyrna, where there was a population of 10,000 Jews in the one place, and 25,000 in the other. The Committee had resolved on employing a mixed agency of Jewish and Gentile missionaries. They had appointed the Rev. A. Benoliel, a Moorish Jew, ordained three years ago for missionary service, and the Rev. J. W. Marcussohn, a Christian of Jewish extraction; but they had not yet determined the future localities of each. It was their purpose to associate with each of them a probationer of this Church, and they hoped speedily to make arrangements with qualified parties; and the service had also been recommended them of two lay agents as teachers for the young, who had been for some time employed by the American Board of Missions at Salonica and Smyrna. The Committee asked authority to raise funds to build a Presbyterian church in Constantinople, both for the Jewish and Turkish population there, and for their countrymen in that city. The Committee had resolved to accept, if authorised by the Assembly, of the offer of the Rev. N. McLeod, Barony Parish, Glasgow, and of the Rev. J. R. Macduff, Glasgow, to proceed as a Deputation to Turkey to visit and acquire information as to the stations proposed to be occupied. In regard to funds, the Committee reported that collections had been made in behalf of this mission in 810 churches and chapels, being an increase of 71 as compared with last year. The increase in the amount of these collections was £246 4s. 9d. The number of parish churches from which no collections had been received was 218. Contributions had been received from 32 parochial or congregational missionary associations. In the amount of these, as compared with the last year, there was an increase of £4 13s. 11d. In the contributions from individuals there was an increase of £145 0s. 11d.; in legacies an increase of £91 13s. 16d.; and in the contribution from the Lay Association a decrease of £12 11s. 10d. The whole income of the Committee during the past year was £3309 17s. 9d., being £478 14s. 7d. above the income of last year; and the whole expenditure of the Committee for the same period was £2547 11s. 1d., being £849 4s. 4d. less than that of the previous year.

Mr. TAIT, in giving in the Report, intimated his resignation of the Convener'ship.

Dr. BELL moved that the Assembly approve of the Report, return their thanks to the Convener and the Committee, and express satisfaction with the measures adopted by the Committee to carry out the end of their appointment. He went over the various subjects noticed in the Report, and in reference to Turkey said he thought it fitting that the Church should follow out the great service the state had done to that empire, by seeking to promote its spiritual as the state had done its temporal interests.

Dr. FOWLER seconded the motion. He expressed the opinion that, notwithstanding all that was said of the religious prejudices of the Jews at Jerusalem, still he thought there was encouragement to enter on that work, in the words of our Lord, where He commanded his disciples to preach the Gospel, beginning at Jerusalem; and he did not think that these prejudices against the Truth were greater than they were in the days of our Saviour.

The Rev. A. Wilson, Paisley, said as, to the mission to Salonica and Smyrna, his first impressions on the subject were exceedingly favourable, but he did not think it would be advisable to take any steps in the matter till their friends who were going out to Turkey might advise them on the matter.