

us greater and more unfeigned satisfaction than your own. How could it be otherwise? You are our fellow-countrymen as well as our brethren in Christ, united to us by ties of peculiar sacredness and strength. Accept of our best thanks for the details which you kindly furnished, respecting the religious condition of Canada. You have told us of the success which, under God, has attended your incipient efforts for the amelioration of the spiritual state of the multitudes perishing around you, of the growing number of actual labourers in the field, of the comparatively large attendance at Knox's College, of the solemn meetings for prayer amongst the students, of the interest they take, not only in those possessing immediate claims upon their regard and in the cause of Christ generally, but, in particular, in the advancement of His kingdom amongst the Jews, and in our own humble endeavours to promote His glory among the idolaters of India. These things have gratified us exceedingly, and, while they have knit us more closely to you, they have encouraged us to hope that the Lord is thus indicating His purpose to revive His work in Canada, to make bare His arm and get Himself a glorious name. Yes, to get Himself a glorious name! for what is His great design in all His dispensations towards mankind, is it not self-manifestation involving self-glorification? Let us keep this steadily in view in pleading with Him for a revival of His work either in our own souls or in the world around us. Let "Father, glorify Thy Name," be the aim and substance of all our supplications, and the answer will infallibly be returned, "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again." We are now apt to pray for the conversion of men in such a way, as if their helplessness and misery were the most effectual plea we could urge on their behalf, as if we wished God to save them merely for the sake of saving them. We are privileged to assume higher ground and a higher argument, "Not for their sakes, Oh, Lord! but for Thine own Name's sake, and for Thy glory's sake arise and save them."

You are, no doubt, anxious to hear something of our proceedings this winter. The Session was opened most auspiciously by a stirring address from our venerable Principal, who, we rejoice to say, continues to teach his Class with nearly as much vigour and with quite as much enthusiasm as ever. A new Chair for Logic and Metaphysics has been recently instituted, to which Mr. Fraser, a Minister of our own Church, has been appointed. He is giving very great satisfaction. All the classes are remarkably well attended. The number of students enrolled is between three and four hundred; a large body. These regularly meet Dr. Duncan, our learned and spiritually-minded Professor of Hebrew, on Saturday mornings from 9 till 10, for prayer and the practical exposition of the Confession of Faith. These meetings have occasionally been marked with deep solemnity, and we believe they are eminently fitted to strengthen, consolidate, and spiritualize our views on Theological subjects. The meeting of our Association is held immediately after, when we engage in devotional exercises with a special reference to Missions, and occupy the remainder of the hour in hearing Missionary intelligence or an Essay from one of our own number. On several occasions we have been much refreshed and profited. If we were permitted to judge of the state of vital godliness amongst us, in general, from the complexion of these meetings, we would humbly say that it is decidedly on the increase—the earnest and fervent supplications that are often presented, in behalf of those still sitting in darkness in the world, seems to indicate spiritual health. We would desire to speak advisedly, but we do think there are very many amongst us that live habitually under the power of Divine things. No doubt, we have much coldness to mourn over, but while we would confess it and seek to be humbled on account of it, we would avoid the sin of being querulous. We must remember there is a species of bastard humility which frequently develops itself in fruitless and inoperative complaints. Whatever of good we may see, however little, we desire joyfully to acknowledge it and to give God the glory.

Since we last wrote, three of our number have left us for the Missionary field,—Dhansiebar Nawroosi, Mr. Edersheim, and Mr. Thomson.

The first, you will remember, was some years ago converted from the creed of Zoroaster, and, as a native agency in India, has always been regarded by the Church as of the last importance, he was sent to this country to complete his Theological education with the view of afterwards returning to his native land as a regularly ordained Missionary, to proclaim amongst his idolatrous kinsmen the unsearchable riches of Christ. He has, accordingly, been with us for several years during which he has prosecuted his studies with great diligence and success. His amiable manners, unaffected piety, and undeviating consistency, soon secured for him a large place in our affections. Previous to his ordination he preached with great acceptance in various parts of the country, strongly evincing how rapid had been his progress in the knowledge of Divine things. His ordination took place in the Assembly Hall, Cannanito, on the 11th of December last, in presence of upwards of 4,000 spectators, all of whom seemed much moved by the interesting and truly touching scene. We could not refrain from shedding a tear at the thought of his departure while we unreservedly rejoiced in the prospect of glory redounding to God, through his instrumentality in India. Our prayers are with him on the mighty waters, where, may it please the Lord to keep him in the hollow of His hand and we would invite you, dear brethren, to join with us in earnest supplication, that if permitted to reach the scene of his labours, he may be a faithful and successful herald of the Cross to his benighted fellow-countrymen.

Mr. Edersheim, a converted Jew, has also been several years in this country, attending our Hall; with the facts of his case you are, no doubt, well acquainted. It will be interesting, however, for you to know that previous to his departure for Jassy, where he now prosecutes his Master's work, he regularly officiated for a few months in a rural district in the South of Scotland, where the Lord signally owned his labours and gave him souls for his hire. This should encourage us to hope that through him some wandering sheep of the house of Israel may be brought into the fold of the Redeemer.

Mr. Thomson, who was well known amongst us as a godly and devoted student, has dedicated himself to the Jewish field. He is at present stationed at Constantinople, and, should the Lord spare him, he will be an invaluable acquisition to our Mission there.

We sincerely trust these examples will revive a Missionary spirit amongst us, and lead many of us to listen to the cry that falls so mournfully on our ear from almost every land, "Come over and help us."

Some time ago we received a communication of thrilling interest from our beloved Missionary, Mr. Brudwood, containing a detailed account of the marvellous doings of the Lord at Madras. We would gladly give you a few extracts, but our space forbids. It seems that during the past year the Spirit of God has been accompanying the preaching of our Missionaries at that station with peculiar power, and the result has been the conversion of several Europeans and Hindoos. We trust these are signs that the redemption of India draweth nigh.

We had a stirring address from your friend Mr. W. Burns, after his arrival from Canada. If the way be made plain, he purposes setting out as a Missionary to India. We are sure your prayers, as well as ours, will follow him wherever he goes. Oh for men of his Apostolic spirit!

We return you most hearty thanks for your generous and liberal contribution to our funds. Of late various circumstances have concurred to render such aid as you have given us peculiarly acceptable, and if you could kindly continue your efforts to support us in our undertaking, you would thereby not only promote the cause of Christ in India, but strengthen those bonds that already bind us together.

And now, dear brethren, we commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you an inheritance amongst all them that are sanctified.

Signed in name of the Association,
M. McINTYRE, President.

Foreign Missions.

CALCUTTA.

The importance of cherishing Calcutta as the great centre of operations in our Indian empire, Dr. Duff thus eloquently describes:—

Out of Scotland, the city in which it is most important to strengthen the Free Church cause is London. But, out of the British Isles, it may truly be said, without disparagement to other places, that the city in which it is most important to strengthen the same blessed cause is Calcutta. Here is the seat of the Supreme Government of this immense Indian empire, the government which, in point of power, influence, and resource, is by far the mightiest in Asia. Here is the seat of the Legislative Council, whose laws are binding on a multitudinous host, five times as numerous as that which occupies Great Britain, with its attendant *rivage* of islands, and twice as numerous as that which acknowledges the sway of the Autocrat of all the Russias. Here are all the great officers of State, with their godly staff of high functionaries. Here are the supreme courts of law, which exercise a controlling influence over the administration of justice throughout the subordinate provinces. Here is the grandest emporium of the commerce of Asia. Here, in a word, is the centre of the most multifarious influences that animate all around—directly affecting the doctrines of scores of millions of the human race, and indirectly the destinies of as many scores of millions more. And some of the agents that wield a portion of these mighty influences may always be members of the Free Church, or habitually conversant with those that are. And after upholding its cause in the East, they may return to their native land, ready to add to it the weight of their character, their influence, and support. Let the Church at home, then, kindly cherish its own cause abroad, in this and in other lands, and she will be honoured as an instrument of expanding usefulness, and recompensed with an accession of honour and of strength. I write not in the spirit of partizanship; but, believing in my conscience that the cause of the Free Church of Scotland is pre-eminently the cause of true evangelism throughout the world, my prayer is that it may everywhere be consolidated—extended to hitherto unvisited regions, and perpetuated from age to age.—I am, &c.

BOMBAY.

Mr. Nesbit conveys the interesting intelligence that Hormazji Peshoji has been licensed at Bombay as a preacher of the everlasting Gospel. It is remarkable that, apparently on the day of his appearance for trial at Bombay, his dear friend Dhanjibhai was on trial for ordination before the Presbytery of Edinburgh. We earnestly commend them, the first fruits from the Persia, to the special prayers of the people of God, that through them the Gospel may be extended to their benighted countrymen.

We have another letter of more recent date, from which we learn that the selection of suitable spheres of labour for Dhanjibhai and Hormazji engages the attention of the Missionaries.

PUNA.

From this station we have received the pleasing tidings of two individuals, a Parsi and a Brahman, having been admitted by baptism to the fellowship of the Church. Regarding each Mr. Mitchell has formed a favourable judgment; and it seems with us to unite with him in his prayers, that it may be made apparent in their future walk, that they are indeed as brands that have been plucked from the burning.

MADRAS.

The excitement in consequence of the recent conversions has subsided. The number of youth under instruction is increasing; while, by the blessing of the Lord, all the converts continue to walk in the light of life.