

tive Prince—the Rajah of Kuppoothullah—were assembled, to take counsel with one another, and to mingle their prayers for Divine direction in things pertaining to the kingdom of God. The subjects brought under discussion were of a distinctly practical character, and judging from the *resume* of the proceedings given by the *Lahore Chronicle*, several of the papers were marked by much ability, while all appeared to have been characterised by a truly missionary spirit. Of the laymen who took a leading part in the debates we may specify Sir Herbert Edwards, Mr. McLeod (Financial Commissioner of the Punjab), Colonel Lake, and by no means least, the distinguished Rajah already mentioned, who, it is stated, “made an excellent speech in English, in which he showed his entire sympathy with the cause of female education.” Among the practical results of this unprecedented gathering, the following are noted:—“1. The formation of a Bible and Tract Society for the Punjab. 2. The organisation of a Central Lay Committee, the object of which is to aid native Christians in obtaining secular employment, and otherwise to relieve missionaries, as far as practicable, of all secular cases. 3. The appointment of a committee to prepare a petition to Her Majesty, praying that measures might be taken for the preparation of a standard Oordoo version of the Bible, to be published under the sanction of the Crown. 4. A committee to petition the Indian Legislature, on behalf of the Conference, for a law relating to the divorce, in certain cases, of native Christians.” “One thought which must strike every reflective mind, in looking at these points, is,” says the *Record*, “the intimate connection between direct Evangelistic labour and those collateral branches of the great work which fall within the scope of lay effort and influence. It will be seen that even the question of ‘secular employment,’ for converts and inquirers, is one which touches very nearly on progress. Hence arises the importance of calling public attention in this country to questions affecting the social rights of our Indian fellow-subjects. At the very time when the Conference was sitting at Lahore, the Hon. A. Kinnaird was holding the meeting in Pall-mall (reported in our columns at the time), which tended to promote the recent nobly-signed Address to our Indian Secretary of State, on the iniquitous, but happily defeated, Contract Bill. Such an instance of the simultaneous action of Christian men, the avowed friends of missions, at home and in India, in matters affecting the temporal condition of the natives, is a feature of hopeful omen for the welfare of the millions of our Indian Empire.”

MISSIONS IN INDIA.—The *Bombay Guardian* compares the statistics of missions

in 1861 with those of 1851, collected by Dr. Mullens:—

	1852.	1862.
Missionaries,	363	418
Churches,	366	890
Communicants,	14,711	21,252
Native Christians,	91,295	118,893
Boys in Schools,	87,062	54,888
Girls in Schools,	11,193	14,728

According to the rate of advance exhibited by these statistics, the native Church might be expected to double itself every twenty-five years; the native Christian body, about three times in a century. The number of boys at school is believed to be much underestimated.

Religious Intelligence.

MANSE FUND.—The Manse Fund of the United Presbyterian Church in Scotland now amounts to £19,485; and new subscriptions are acknowledged every month.

THEOLOGY.—The U. P. Synod to be held this month, will probably agree to the suggestions of a large Committee, to loose the Theological Professors from their congregations and make the session five months instead of two.

BEQUEST.—A bequest of \$2,000 has been made to Knox's College, Toronto, by a young man named Fisher, of Hamilton, C. W.

EFFECTS OF THE WAR.—The first Presbyterian Church in Nashville, Tennessee, in which the General Assembly met only a few years ago, is now used as an hospital. The pulpit is now a surgical storehouse, and basement, lobbies, and gallery are occupied by stewards, nurses, or patients' beds.

EFFECTS OF THE WAR ON CHURCHES. It is stated that the Conference Reports of the Methodist Episcopal Church, North, in the United States, show a falling off in membership of about 50,000 persons, about 5 per cent. of the entire number of the previous year. Of the forty-eight conferences all but six report a diminution of a greater or less extent.

General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

[The following extract from the December Number of the *Presbyterian Magazine* (Victoria), which contains an account of the Fourth Annual Meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, will be perused with interest by our-