

attention of your Board has been directed to the Syrian mission, as affording an advantageous field, because presenting the two-fold aspect of a Jewish and Gentile mission. Its location is in the city of Damascus, and suburbs. Of the 120,000 inhabitants of this city, over 5000 are Jews, and 15,000 or 20,000 nominal christians of the Greek, Armenian, and Maronite or Roman Catholic creed. Three stations within one, two, or three days horseback ride from Damascus, are under hopeful cultivation, having regularly received and consistent members of the United Presbyterian church, U. S., and the sacraments dispensed unto them. The earnest and increasing call from all these stations is for more men to carry on the work as the field is whitening unto harvest. Should the Synod find it desirable to select a new field of labour, instead of concentrating all its energies on the New Hebrides, the Syrian mission possesses strong claims on their favourable consideration. The annual expense, however, must be kept in view, amounting to no less than \$1000 for salary of one missionary; general expenses for buildings and teacher's support, \$493 per annum, in addition to outfit, \$400, and passage \$200: total amount \$2000.

TRINIDAD MISSION.

By a deeply interesting communication from a Rev. member of Synod, the attention of your Board has been also called to the spiritual condition of the Coolies in Trinidad. On this island there is an aggregate population of 20,000 Coolies from Madras and Calcutta, and a few Sepoys; also 2000 or 3000 Chinese. Imported by Government, and indentured for five years as agricultural labourers, they are left, so far as their spiritual interests are concerned, almost wholly uncared for. Many of them return to their own country when their term of service expires, but the majority will remain and become permanent inhabitants of the island. The American United Presbyterian church began a mission in this field, but it was interrupted by the American war, which has largely absorbed the pecuniary resources upon which such missionary efforts depend. It was intended to resume this good work at the conclusion of this civil contest, but

hitherto it has not been recommenced. A small church, house, and a congregation of 13 communicants are awaiting the occupancy of some church agency.

The advantages of this mission field are thus summed up:—*accessibility*, being within three weeks sail of Nova Scotia; *safety of life and property*, under British law, vigorously enforced; *health*, much better than in India, and in the greater part of the mission fields of the East; *field already occupied*; a *Presbytery already organized*, consisting of three ordained ministers of the United Presbyterian church of Scotland, and one of the Free church of Scotland; annual salary for one missionary, with family, £250 sterling, or thereabouts. In the event of the Synod resolving to expand their foreign missionary operation, beyond its present limits, this mission certainly merits favourable consideration, and seems to possess peculiar claims on their adoption.

DEMIRDESH MISSION.

A communication has been addressed to the chairman of your Board, intimating the desire of a young student attending the Free Church College, Edinburgh, to make enquiry about the late mission at Demirdesh, and especially whether it is the intention of the church in Nova Scotia to resuscitate said mission, and, if so, whether his offer of service would be accepted? Your Board could not take any definite action on this communication, without instructions from this Synod, and therefore resolved to refer it, as they now do, for present deliberation.

FINANCE.

The expenditure of last year, together with the income for the same period, will be found in the published accounts of the Treasurer, which exhibit a very creditable balance on hand. The demands upon these funds for the current year, will, however, greatly exceed those of the year past. The liberality of the church must therefore be increased rather than diminished, as well for the outfit and passage of Mr. Geddie and family; outfit, passage and salary of any additional missionaries who may accompany or follow him, within the year, to the New Hebrides; and also for the stipulated share of maintenance for the *Dayspring*, which will fully equal the salary of two missionaries. All which is respectfully submitted.

By order of the Board,

JAMES BAYNE, D. D.,

Sec'y B. F. M.