

It is proper to ask in what way can we help to increase our liberality in support of this scheme. Our lack of interest in it is largely owing to our ignorance of the great work which is being accomplished by christian missionaries in the world of heathendom. Our imagination is too inactive to enable us to form any just conception of the millions of Asia and Africa who have never heard the "glad tidings,"—millions of men and women possessed of the same nature as ourselves, capable of the same improvement as ourselves, labouring under the same moral burden with ourselves, and dying without the support of religion, in utter darkness. If we read more attentively the lives and letters of missionaries and considered the marvellous labours of many of them, their many disappointments and likewise the great success of many of them we could not fail in being moved with keen interest, and lively sympathy.

It is sometimes said however that we have enough to do in dealing with those at home who are practically heathens.

Experience has however abundantly shown that the church has always prospered at home in proportion to its active interest in the foreign field, and moreover we are surely not to overlook the clear commands of scripture, "Go ye in to all nations making disciples of them." To the support of this scheme then we are called by a two-fold summons; by the fact that it is our duty to support it, and secondly that in so doing we give expression to the requirements of a christian grace, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." The Apostle Paul is writing to the Corinthians (Ep. viii. 17) says. "See that ye abound in this grace also. . . . For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that though He was rich, yet for your sakes, He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich."

It is the duty of ministers to faithfully draw the attention of congregations to this

scheme—urging its importance upon their attention. It is the duty of our people to set apart of their means for this purpose; and should the day appointed for this collection turn out stormy then by all means let another day be nominated as soon afterwards as convenient. It may be that some ministers think that people dislike being asked to contribute. This is a delusion. Our people are willing to be asked, and willing to give likewise when interested in the object of the collection. An important matter is to secure something from every member of the congregation. Twenty-five cents a family would double if not quadruple the amount contributed last year.

NOTES OF THE MONTH.

The weather in Scotland has been unusually severe. For more than eight weeks the snow lay heavy on the ground in Sutherlandshire and neighboring parts. Many sheep died through hunger. Food was carried in cars along the lines of railway, as far as possible, and fed to the starving flocks. The deer likewise required to be fed. Many of them it is said came down to the corn stacks to look for food. The grouse died by the dozen from the cold and starvation. Crows forsook their usual haunts and foraged around the farmer's houses.

In Britain generally the position of the farmer is not satisfactory. Prices are kept at a low figure by the fact that food of nearly all kinds is now brought by railway and fast steamers from all parts of the world. The Earl of Beaconsfield remitted ten per cent of the rent to his tenantry, and there seems to be a general lowering of rents all round. Owing to the general depression there is every probability that the stream of emigration to the colonies will be largely increased.

Dr. Blaikie professor of Greek in Edinburgh University and other friends of the Gaelic language have succeeded in raising twelve thousand pounds to form an endowment fund to support a professor of the Gaelic language in Edinburgh University. While professors and learned scholars in Europe are trying to master