

reports received by the Ladies' Association for Female Education in India, showing that their schools in the different Presidencies continued to be well attended. He stated that the Education Committee would have a favorable report to make to the next Assembly, there being at present about 19,630 children attending the Assembly's schools. The Jews' Committee would report an extension of their operations in Turkey, and also an increase to their agencies elsewhere. The Home Mission Committee would report grants in aid to 107 uncrowned places of worship, amounting to about £4000; and the Colonial Committee would have to announce, in addition to the twenty-two missionaries sent out by them in the previous year, that they had appointed ten missionaries last year to Canada, and sent out four chaplains to the army in India. Generally speaking, he said the schemes of the Church were in a very prosperous state, and the openings presented to their operations on every hand called loudly on the Church for enlarged liberality towards the several schemes.

Home Mission Association.

On Wednesday last, the 9th inst., a most respectable and influential meeting of the members and friends of the Church of Scotland in this city was held in St. Andrew's Church, for the formation of a Home Mission Association, to enable the Synod of Nova Scotia to carry on to a larger extent, and with greater efficiency, missionary operations within their bounds. Divine service was conducted by the Rev. Thomas Jardine, who preached an excellent and appropriate sermon from 1. Tim. iii. 16, "preached unto the Gentiles." Hon. A. Keith, the steadfast and attached friend of the Church, was then called to the chair, A. K. Doull appointed interim Secretary, and the meeting opened with prayer by Rev. Geo. Boyd. Brief but pointed and forcible addresses were then delivered by the Superintendent of Missions and the Rev. Messrs. Wilson and Boyd, earnestly recommending the formation of such an association, and enforcing the claims which our destitute people have upon the sympathy and liberality of their more highly favored brethren. Every person present appeared to feel the force of the arguments adduced in support of this most laudable and patriotic object, and the meeting unanimously resolved to form themselves into a regular association—agreed to appoint office-bearers, to solicit the services of male and female collectors, and make a personal appeal to the friends of the Church for pecuniary assistance.

The following gentlemen, who have given their hearty consent to this movement, were appointed patrons:

Hon. Alexander Keith.
Hon. William Young.

John Esson, Esq., M. P. P.

William Murdoch, Esq.

John Duffus, Esq.

Alexander McLeod, Esq.

William Sutherland, Esq., was proposed by Mr. James Thomson, in a neat speech, and unanimously elected President, and in accepting the office addressed the meeting in a very eloquent and feeling manner. James Thomson, Esq., and George P. Mitchell, Esq., were unanimously appointed Vice-Presidents of the Association; John Doull, Esq., Treasurer; Mr. W. H. Neal, Secretary; and Mr. Scott Mitchell, Assistant Secretary; Messrs. Saml. Gray, Philip Thompson, W. B. Smellie, John McCulloch, and J. J. Bremner, members of Committee. A constitution and rules for the guidance of the Association, which had been very carefully prepared, were submitted, approved of, and unanimously adopted, and the Committee resolved to proceed immediately to carry on the business of the Association. During the whole proceedings a very excellent feeling pervaded the meeting. All manifested an anxious desire to support the Association, and admitted that the exertions of other denominations in this colony ought to provoke us to love and to good works. After thanks had been unanimously voted to Hon. A. Keith for his conduct in the chair, the Doxology was sung, and the meeting dismissed with an appropriate prayer and the apostolic benediction by Rev. John Scott of St. Matthew's.

The Bible for India.

THE COMMITTEE of the BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY have been watching with peculiar interest the present course of events in India,—India, the scene of some of the Society's earliest and most interesting labours in respect both to the translation and circulation of the Holy Scriptures. The Bible, after a struggle for entrance, has been gradually working its way in India, and now unfolds its revelations in all the principal languages and dialects of that mighty Empire. Valuable and efficient Auxiliaries in the several Presidencies have been long and diligently engaged in the same important field of operation, and through the blessing of God, with a gratifying amount of success. During the last half century numerous editions of the Scriptures in the native languages have passed through the press, and in the same period not fewer than two millions five hundred thousand copies of the whole, or parts of the Bible, have been placed in the hands of the people. This amount of circulation has been effected irrespective of the labours of the Baptist Translation and Missionary Societies, and various Missionary Agents from the United States of America. Yet, after all, how meagre and insufficient the supply thus furnished for the teeming multitudes of India's ignorant, deluded and debased population!

The Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society have long been desirous to do more for India. Much correspondence has at different times taken place with their Auxiliaries and other friends of the Bible in that country, with a view to the extension of the work.

Large grants of Scriptures, Printing and Binding Materials, as well as money, have been freely voted by the Committee, and various measures recommended for the wider dissemination of Divine truth, such as exploratory tours for the express object of Bible distribution and an enlarged general system of Catechizing by Native Christian Agency.

In the inscrutable providence of Almighty God a new era now appears opening upon India. The fearful and criminal catastrophe which has spread such terror and cruel suffering through some of its fairest provinces, and which has filled the whole empire with consternation, has evidently impressed on the British public of all classes and religious denominations the conviction that more must be done, much more than has hitherto ever been attempted, towards diffusing the benign and sanctifying influence of Christianity over our Indian possessions and dependencies, that the Bible, which has done so much for Britain, is one of the great means of blessing needed for India; and that, whatever new and vigorous agencies may be called into operation, the Bible must occupy the prominent and foremost place. This necessarily casts an increased responsibility on the Bible Society. That responsibility the Committee desire fully and solemnly to recognise. They feel assured that their constituents and the Christian public generally would deem them guilty of a grave dereliction of duty, if they were not prompt to provide for and to meet every claim as it may arise. In the discharge, however, of these obligations the Committee may have to draw largely on the liberality as well as the sympathy of their supporters. They are aware that measures are already in preparation by the leading Missionary Societies for increasing the number of their Agents, and that comprehensive plans of Christian Education are likely to be attempted; and, while they rejoice in the fact of such efforts being contemplated, they also feel that their effectiveness will materially depend upon the ready aid and vigorous co-operation of the Bible Society. The committee, moreover, cannot forbear the expression of their fervent hope that the restrictions which have closed the Government Schools against the use of the Scriptures may be speedily removed, and thus a wide scope be afforded for the introduction of the Bible amongst the youth of India. And, above all, if He who has the hearts of all men in His hands should in great mercy dispose the native mind at large to give a welcome to Christian instruction, there will be an opening for the Scriptures both in the Asiatic and European languages to an unprecedented extent, of which it is of the utmost importance that this Society should be fully prepared to take every advantage. It may not be inopportune, also to state that heavy losses have been sustained by the destruction of books, paper, printing and binding materials, etc. This has been the case at Agra, as will be seen by the subjoined letter; also at Loodiana, Allahabad, and other places where depots of the Scriptures have been established.

It is in view of the immediate indispensable outlay to cover actual losses, and all prospective demands likely to arise, that the Committee, after careful deliberation, recommend the raising of a Special Bible Fund for India. In advising this step at the present juncture, they are governed not less by the suggestions and wishes of many earnest and influential friends throughout the country than by the promptings of their own judgment and feelings. They now commend their appeal to all who desire the spread of Bible truth in every portion of