

cerely think this is one of the most interesting. But, alas! how unimportant in the estimation of many! How utterly ignorant and regardless of its claims! But now that the Lord is pleased, in a remarkable manner, to acknowledge it as a field which he has blessed, it should not be overlooked."—And we fondly hope it will not be overlooked, either in the prayers or exertions of this Church. With all this it is not to be denied that there are great difficulties in the way, not only of extending the Church, but even of perpetuating it in Nova Scotia and the other lower provinces. And hence the committee have, for some time past, promised, as soon as possible, to turn their attention more distinctly and deliberately to this field. The present year, after the first exertion for Australia is over, seems a suitable time; and as the basis of future operations, the committee have resolved to ask the Rev. Mr. McLean of Tobernory, who is deeply interested in these regions, and well known and much loved there, along with some other brother, to visit these scattered thousands. In this they will probably be joined by the much respected convenor of the Colonial Mission of the Irish Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Mr. MacLure of Londonderry.—(Hear.) And before another Assembly, the Committee hope to be in a position to report, as the result of their deliberations and exertions on this subject, not only a number of additional labourers, but also a better digested plan for their support.

We have said nothing, and can say nothing at this advanced period of the Assembly's sittings, of many portions of our large field—of Jamaica, of Antigua, of the Free Church in Trinidad, of Bermuda, of Illinois, of Red River, of South Africa, and such places, all most interesting in themselves, and in the labours connected with them.—But there are three separate little portions which we cannot altogether pass. The congregation at St. Heliers, Jersey, has received as pastor the Rev. James Stewart, and earnestly applies to this Church to be recognised, and authorised to proceed to the election of elders. The congregation at Gibraltar is rejoicing in the prospect of their new church, and through the liberality and great exertion of friends there and here, we are now entering on the collection of the fourth and last £1000 needed for this important work. The church at Malta continues as it was, but it is an interesting thing that the manse has afforded shelter this year to a Turkish family, who have been converted to christianity and obliged to flee from the fury of Mahomedan persecution.

Moderator, we cannot enter farther into details. But briefly as we have stated our proceedings, there is ground to give thanks, and to take courage. And there is somewhat more of what may be fairly looked on as of a hopeful nature this year than in some previous years. Sir, the year in which this

poor church has sent forth thirty-eight labourers to the mission field—the year in which the Rev. Mr. McTavish, and the Rev. Mr. Grant, left their charges, and the comforts of their own homes, to go to distant lands, taking charge of their fellow countrymen as they went—the year in which the Rev. Mr. Clark left an attached congregation to go to the distant North, and the Rev. Mr. Milne, another equally so, to go to the burning East—the year in which so many of our best young men, who had fair prospects at home, gave themselves to the work of the colonial field in Australia—the year in which Dr. McKay and Dr. Cairns left their homes also, to go to those distant shores—the year in which our labourers, and attached flocks were enabled to rise above all selfish feelings, and to express their thanks in the noble words of an elder of Mr. Clark's, amid tears that almost choked utterance—"We are here to testify our love to our minister, but we are not here either to come betwixt his conscientious convictions, or to stop the work of God in the world"—the year in which his large and christian language came from no less than four of our most attached congregations, must not be lost, nor yet lost sight of. It must not be lost on the church, but must awaken her to feel more and more the responsibilities in reference to distant lands and future times. It must not be lost on the regions to whom such labourers have gone, but should be received by them as an earnest and proof of our deep interest in their temporal and eternal welfare, such as nothing else could give. It must not be lost on our younger friends and brethren, but must and will, we trust, foster and enlarge that spirit of missionary zeal which gives such firmness and elasticity to a Church when it is in vigorous existence among the younger brethren. It must not be lost on those who remain at home, for we must and ought to see in the devoted labours of our friends and brethren a new call to be interested in theirs. It will not be lost in the sight of Him who, while he will give to every servant who occupies till he come ten talents more, hath said—"There is no man that hath left house or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands for my sake and the gospel's, but he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life." Mark x. 29, 30. (Cheers.)

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PROBABLE SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY.

CHAPTER I.—THE PAST.

The man who considers what Christianity is, simply as an intellectual and mo-