

General Conference on Foreign Missions

TO BE HELD IN LONDON

From the 9th to the 19th of JUNE, 1838.

THE COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE,

TO THE

European, American, and Native Missionaries, of all Protestant

Churches labouring for the Salvation of the Heathen

in all parts of the Habitable World.

O BELOVED BRETHREN,

We, your fellow-labourers and "companions in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ," salute you heartily in the words of the Apostolic benediction, "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you, through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord."

We greatly rejoice with you in the blessings which have accompanied your labours, and those of your predecessors, during the past hundred years of modern Missionary effort, whereby about three millions from among the heathen are at this hour found gathered into the fellowship of the Church below, while at the same time large tribes of our fellow-men, who were sunk in the grossest barbarism and superstition, have been socially elevated, and have derived manifold secondary benefits from the preaching of the Gospel of Christ.

We rejoice also over the many millions more who have passed within the veil, after testifying by their consistent lives and peaceful deaths, to the regenerating and consoling influences of the grace of God—many of them having been faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ, not only by taking joyfully

the spoiling of their goods, but by enduring manifold tribulations in the flesh, and suffering even unto death, for His Name's sake.

But while we are unceasingly grateful to God for the great things accomplished in the past by the inadequate means employed, we lament over the feebleness of the efforts put forth by the Churches of Christ, and we mourn over the great and increasing mass of heathenism which still confronts the Church in this nineteenth century of the Christian era. It is one great object of the Conference to be assembled in June, to look this appalling fact fully in the face, and by applying the lessons taught by the past to the conditions of the present, to awaken the Church of Christ, by every possible effort, to a due sense of the obligation under which she lies to the perishing heathen, and to her Divine Head and Lord.

Our great object in now addressing you is to ask you to unite with your brethren of other denominations, if such there be in your neighbourhood, or in solitary stations with your converts, in earnest and united prayer for a Pentecostal blessing on the Conference, from Sunday, the third of June, to Tuesday, the 19th of the same; being the week before, and the ten days during which the Conference will be in session.

Pray that the presence of God, the Father, Son and Spirit, may be in our assemblies, and that gracious manifestations of His power may be displayed in the midst of His people gathered from all parts of Christian and Heathen lands. That the Spirit of union and peace and love may reign in and among us, and that all our deliberations may be "*in the Spirit*." Pray for the single eye and the undivided heart, for strong faith and ardent zeal, and for that "wisdom from above," which is "first pure, then peaceable, gentle and easy to be intreated, without partiality, and without hypocrisy": and that, in all our assemblies, we may "be of the same mind, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind; doing nothing through faction or through vain

glory, but in lowliness of mind, each counting other better than himself."

Pray that, under God, the Conference may be the means of introducing a new era in Missionary enterprise. That it may hasten the day when "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord," and when "the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together."

We do not fix hours, nor prescribe subjects for prayer. The one special gift which includes all "good things," is the gift of the Holy Spirit, whose presence we seek in all the plenitude of His grace and power.

Let us, dear brethren, encourage one another in the thought, that unnumbered brethren throughout the whole world, are uniting in the same prayer. We have good reason to hope, that this will be the most universal cry that has ever gone up from this sinful world into the ear of "the Lord of Sabaoth." Through the promised help of the Missionary Societies, this request will be sent out into all lands, wherever the feet of the Messengers of the Gospel of peace have trod, and will be read in the languages of almost all the nations upon earth.

But most of all would we strengthen our mutual faith, by the promise of the Father, as learned from the lips of His only begotten Son—"If ye then being evil know how to give "good gifts unto your children, how much more will your "Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that "ask Him."

We are, Beloved Brethren,
Yours in the Lord,

Signed,

ABERDEEN, *President*.
EDWD. B. UNDERHILL, *Chairman*.
S. G. GREEN, | H. MORRIS, } *Honorary*
H. M. MATHESON, | J. SHARP } *Secretaries*
JAMES JOHNSTON, | } *Secretaries*.
R. SCOTT MONCRIEFF, }