

account of the unconstitutional powers exercised by the Privy Council in its administration, but especially because of its indiscriminate support of truth and error, and its tendency to perpetuate sectarian animosity and strife.

II. That the Synod strongly condemns those provisions in the Education Bill now before Parliament, which does open violence to those principles, contained in the 27th clause, which enacts that "Every school committee under this act shall appoint certain stated hours for ordinary religious instruction by the master, and which the children shall not be bound to attend if the parents or guardians object; and no additional or separate charge shall be made in respect to the attendance of children at such subsequent hours." And the second branch of the 30th clause, which provides that it shall be lawful for the board "to contribute at such fixed rate per scholar as they may deem proper towards the support of any school that shall be reported by the Inspector to be useful and efficient, deserving of such contribution, and which will comply with the regulations prescribed, or to be prescribed, by the committee of council, and be open to children of all denominations."

III. That the Synod declare that an educational measure, from which both of these objectionable provisions are not excluded, is not only unworthy of the support, but demands the strenuous opposition of this Synod, and of the members of the United Presbyterian Church.

IV. That copies of these resolutions be sent to the members of her Majesty's Government, to the Scottish members of the House of Commons, and to such other members of both Houses of Parliament as the committee on public questions, or any other committee to be appointed for the purpose, may judge proper.

The committee on the better support of the Gospel ministry, reported that they had been successful in many cases in stirring up congregations to greater liberality, and had hoped that the plan if pursued, would result in great benefit to the church. The committee was re-appointed to prosecute still further this desirable object.

The Rev. P. Davilann, as convener of the committee, submitted the report on theological education, from which it appeared that the students of theology, with a few exceptions, had been attested by the various presbyteries as having performed all the exercises prescribed. As in the hall, 105 students attending the exegetical theology class, and 103 attended the systematic theology classes during the last session. Professors M'Michael, Lindsay, and Kadir, gave in most favourable reports of the state of their respective classes. During the year 362 books had been added to the library by purchase, and 30 by donation. The committee requested a synodical grant of £100 clear for books. The sub-committee on ministers' libraries, reported encouragingly as to the success of this scheme—107 libraries, containing a total of 1391 volumes, being now in existence. In terms of remit on English colleges, the committee recommended that Owen's College, Manchester, and the new college, St. John's Wood, London, should be placed on the same footing as the Scottish universities—the presbyteries of Lancashire and London to take the English students under their superintendance.

The report was received, and unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Thomas considered it would be satisfactory to the Synod to learn upon what grounds the two English colleges recommended in the report had been selected as those in which the English students should go through their literary curriculum. He had no doubt these grounds would be sufficient, but it is desirable that one or other of the English brethren would explain them.

Mr. Rodpath said he should only briefly advert to the new college at St. John's Wood, London, leaving Dr. M'Kerrow to refer to Owen's College, Manchester. The application had been made by the presbytery with which he was connected, and by the presbytery of Lancashire in the first instance, for the privilege recommended to be granted in the report, on the ground that, by the Christian benevolence of Lady Hewley, scholarships of £200 a year were founded, for the benefit of the sons of ministers, in the six northern counties of England, who might be anxious to devote themselves to the church; and because one of the conditions under the deed of settlement was, that they should be educated in England. Hitherto no students of the United Presbyterian Church could take advantage of these scholarships, as they had to study at some of the Scotch universities; and it was to obviate this that the application he had referred to was made. Their proposal was, that a general rule should be adopted by the church, that students attending any college in connection with the university of London, furnishing professors who taught exactly the same curriculum as that taught in the Scotch universities, should be at the end of three years admissible for examination by the presbyteries of the church. There was, however, a serious objection taken to one of the colleges in connection with the university of London; and in order to meet with the feelings of those who raised it, it was then proposed that two English colleges should be specified. Owen's college, Manchester, was one of these; and the new college, St. John's Wood, London, the other. He might state that the provision made for the education of students in the last named institution was of a very efficient character. The course of study was longer than that in Scotland, being nine months; while the course of training was stricter and closer, being of a more tutorial than professional character. Each professor having seldom more than from ten to fifteen students in his class, they cannot shirk their studies, every lesson demanding careful preparation. He thought it desirable that English students should spend a session or two at some time of the Scotch universities, as some of the most eminent independent ministers had done so. But, upon the whole, he was of opinion

that the carrying out of the new arrangement would not be the means of lowering the standard of literary education among the students of the church.

Dr. M'Kerrow said the English presbyteries were thankful to receive an interest in the minds of the young men of their congregations of the United Presbyterian Church, and they trusted that that interest would be excited by giving these students an education in some branches at home, leaving them, of course, to come down to Scotland, and to attend the Theological Hall. It really did seem unreasonable to urge the English students to come to Scotland, when the literary education they received at home was equally good. In reference to Owen's College, it was founded four years ago, under the bequest of £100,000 by a Manchester merchant. There were six chairs—Comparative Grammar, English Literature, and Moral Philosophy, Classics, Mathematics, Natural Philosophy, and from the examinations which he had regularly attended, he had formed a high opinion of the scholarship of the professors. So satisfied was the Independent denomination of the efficiency of the provision for education in Owen's College, that those attending the Lancashire college came to Owen's to prosecute their classical studies. Upon these grounds, the English presbyteries thought the Synod should accord the privilege to the students, which he was glad to see recommended in the report.

Dr. Baile thought it was only a simple matter of justice to the English students, that the recommendation of the committee should be agreed to. He was not prepared to say that the education in England was equal to the education in Scotland. He scarcely thought so, but perhaps it was not so much inferior, if any at all. (Loud laughter.) With reference to matriculation in the London University, he thought it a great advantage, as a record of the attainments of the students ere they came up for examination at the theological seminary. Under the new arrangement many young men would become students of the church who would shudder at the thought of having to come to Scotland to go through their literary curriculum.

The motion was then carried to, the words "who may have matriculated at the University of London," being inserted in the report.

SYNODICAL MISSIONARY MEETING.

The annual missionary meeting of the Synod was held at six o'clock, p.m., in the usual place of the Synod's meeting (Dr. Beattie's Church,) which was crowded in every part. With the view of enabling parties who might fail in gaining admission to hear the different speakers, it was arranged that the delivery of the report and addresses should be repeated in Wellington Street Church (Dr. Robson's) in the order of the programme. This was accordingly done, and the attendance in Wellington Street Church was considerable.

The Rev. A. Somerville, missionary secretary, read the following outline of the facts stated and illustrated in the report for 1853-4:—

SOME NUMBERS.

Eighty-five congregations have, during the year, been aided in the way of supplement of stipend, and thirteen congregations have received grants. Seventy-two of the supplemented congregations have sent in full returns, and from these it appears that there have been admitted to membership 699, and that the removals by death or otherwise have been 677, leaving a gain upon the year of twenty-two members. Thirty-two of these congregations have slightly decreased, and forty have gained a small accession. It appears also from these returns that the number of members in these seventy-two congregations is 7072, and that they have raised for ordinary purposes, £5096 13s. 7d.; for our missions, £306 12s. 4d.; for the Synod and debt liquidating funds £102, 14s. 7d.; for other missions, £95 13s. 7d.; and for benevolent purposes £40 5s. 11d., or altogether the sum of £5844, 8s. 11d., which is an average for each member of fully 16s. 6d. It is thus obvious that these congregations, the majority of whom belong to the humbler classes of society, are exerting themselves creditably, and that they are entitled to the continued sympathy and aid of the church.

Irish Evangelization.—About £120 only have been placed at the disposal of the home committee for this purpose. Several applications for aid have been on their table; they have repeatedly had the subject before them, but they have not yet been able to come to a decision. They expect soon, however, to present a scheme to the church, which, it is hoped, will meet with general countenance and support.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

I. Canada.—The Synod in Canada now consists of eight presbyteries, with forty-eight ordained ministers and seventy-six congregations.—During the year five ordinations have taken place. Last returns show that the membership of the congregations is 6400, the attendance 12,245, and that 2966 are distributed in religious classes. The total income for the year was £6425, 15s. 3d., being an average of £1 for each member; of which £4050, 12s. were expended on stipend, and £1830, 8s. 8d., on church property. It is a gratifying circumstance, that on each of these items there was a very considerable increase. There were raised of the above sum for the Synod's mission, £197 4s. 10d., and for general missions £225 7s. 0d., or the sum of £422, 11s. 10d. These facts are valuable and encouraging, as they indicate the progress which the church is thus making in numbers, in liberality, in influence. It is doing something both for the support of weak congregations among themselves, and for the spread of the gospel abroad. At its meeting in June last, the Synod of In-