

it contains be carefully considered; that the sessions shall endeavor, as far as practicable, to ascertain the sentiments of the managers and the church at large; and that they report to this committee before February 1853." This motion was carried by a large majority.

*Committee on provision for aged Ministers.*—Dr McMichael made a short verbal report on behalf of this committee. The committee, he said, had been at considerable pains in connection with the subject remitted to them, which they considered to be one of great importance to the church. They had been devising tables of the premiums required securely and effectually to carry out the scheme; and had received valuable gratuitous assistance from several eminent actuaries.—From the steps they had taken, the committee were more and more convinced of the practicability of the scheme. He had always regarded, as one of the weakest points, he would not say in the Voluntary principle, but in Voluntary practice, the manner in which aged and infirm ministers were treated; and it was his earnest wish, as he believed it was that of all his brethren, that he might not outlive the time when he was unable, from age or infirmity, to discharge the functions of the ministerial office with efficiency and success. He was glad to see a spirit of liberality arising in the church, which he hoped would go on increasing, in regard alike to the home and foreign field; and it would enable them to carry out successfully such benevolent schemes as that now under consideration.

To show the practicability of the scheme—Suppose a person at the age of twenty-five were to pay a premium of 15s. 6d. a year, or an entire payment of £15 12 2d. he would be entitled to an annuity of £10 at the age of sixty-five; or suppose that a person at the age of thirty paid a premium of £1 a year, or an entire premium of £18 17s., he would be entitled to receive an annuity of £10 at the age of sixty-five. Again, suppose a person at the age of thirty-five paid £1 6 10d. a year as premium, or an entire sum of £23, he would also be entitled to an annuity of £10 at sixty-five. Suppose, on the other hand, that the Synod were all young men, an annuity of £20 for each could be secured by a payment £840 a year; or £30 for a payment of £1260 a year; or £40 for a payment of £1680 a year. He suggested, in conclusion, that the committee

should be re-appointed, and instructed to report to a future meeting of Synod.

The Synod approved of the diligence of the committee, recommitted the subject for the reasons which they had adduced, that they might farther consider it and report to next Synod, with power to send the report, if completed before the next meeting of Synod, to individual ministers, or adopt whatever other course they might deem best, in order to communicate the matter to the church previous to that time.

*Summary of Principles.*—An overture was read from the Presbytery of Kilmarnock in favor of a summary of principles to be used in the admission of members. The overture stated that such a summary had been in use in one of the branches of the now united church; and was still adhered to in many congregations; but as the Synod had not pronounced any judgment upon it, its continuance could hardly be said to be in accordance with presbyterian order. The presbytery believed that if such a form were prepared by the Synod, it would lead to unity of operation, and tend to strengthen the church at large.

Mr Marshall of Coupar-Angus, thought the overture contemplated rather much. He did not believe such a summary could be secured as would have that authority which ought to attach to such a document. It would be better to draw up a formula for the admission of members similar to that used in the admission of ministers and elders—embracing all in the Shorter Catechism which entrants into the fellowship of the church should formally espouse. He moved that a committee be appointed to consider the overture and the whole subject, and report to next meeting of Synod,—this motion was carried.

*Debt Liquidating Fund.*—Mr James Greig gave in a report on behalf of the Debt Liquidating Board. After discussion, the Synod agreed to express their strong sense of the importance of the Debt Liquidating Scheme; re-appointed the Board, and in addition to the powers given them last year, appointed a general collection to be made on the second Sabbath of February; enjoined presbyteries to see that it has been made; and authorised the Board to send deputations to such congregations as should neglect making a collection.

To be Continued.