

most powerful body that ever applied it, is confessedly unequal to the work. That work, then, as he repeated, the work of the Established Church; and if we of the Established Church, who are not inferior in point of numbers, and not less able, would make the exertions for this truly Christian object which other bodies have made, and in the face of great obstacles, for the support of their own ministry, who does not see that the work would be accomplished?

Dr. Bisset briefly followed up the Rev. Convener's appeal. He moved the following deliberance:—

The Synod of Aberdeen desire to express their warmest acknowledgments to Dr. Robertson for his interesting address, and his unwearied labors in promoting the truly patriotic and Christian Scheme of which he is the Convener. The Synod have heard with satisfaction of the gratifying returns which have already come in from a great majority of the parishes within their bounds, evidencing, as these do, the warm sympathy which the people, when faithfully appealed to, evince in the spiritual destitution of their fellow-countrymen, the removal of which is the great object of the Endowment Scheme. The Synod, adhering to the resolutions of last Synod, anxiously press on the Ministers of the Parishes from which no annual contributions have been made, that they take immediate action, so that the return may be completed from this Province before the ensuing meeting of the General Assembly. In some parishes, the Synod are led to believe, from what Dr. Robertson has suggested, that it might tend to advance the object which they have so much at heart, were public meetings held, and the people addressed by the Minister, and any friends whom he may call to his aid, on the obligations under which they lie to the great Head of the Church, and to their fellow-men, to give liberally of their substance, according as God has blessed them, for the completion of the sum required for the endowment of the Churches comprehended in Group 5.

Mr. Gillan briefly seconded this motion.

Dr. Robertson mentioned that from L.16,000 to L.17,000 had been subscribed in this province, and said, if the work were now allowed to go down, it would not be raised in our day; though he was sure it was the wish of the Synod that it should not go down.

SCHEMES OF THE CHURCH.

Mr. Allan, Peterculter, gave in a report on this subject. For the year ending 15th April, 1857, the amount contributed over the Synod for the schemes of the Church was L.1726 18s. 5d., or L.13 4s 7½d. for each congregation.

THE ELDERSHIP OF THE CHURCH.

Dr. Pirie read a report which pointed out very strongly the deficiency which existed in many districts in the number of elders in the church. The report maintained the opinion—in opposition to an argument from one quarter—that it was not influential, rich, or highly educated men that were only to be looked for as elders, but that God-fearing men, however humble in station, were such as should be desired for the work of the eldership.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Mr. Davidson, Convener of the Committee on Sabbath Schools, reported that of 123 parishes and chapel districts comprised in the Synod of Aberdeen, 113 were stated to have Sabbath schools. The number of schools is 173, having 12,864 scholars and 823 teachers, being an increase upon those reported last year of 542 scholars and 36 teachers. With but three exceptions, all these schools are superintended by the ministers, most of them

taught entirely by them, and most of the others by the parish schoolmasters or teachers. The Synod wished to encourage the formation of libraries for these schools, consisting of suitable books on religious and attractive and useful secular subjects.

Synod of Fife.

This Synod met at Kirkcaldy on Tuesday. The Rev. Mr. Mitchell, North Church, Dunfermline, was elected moderator for the ensuing half-year.

EDUCATION.

Mr. Leitch proposed a resolution to the effect that, as it had been proposed to adopt measures in the county of Fife for extending the amount of education throughout the county, the Synod highly approve of such an object. In explaining the motion, Mr. Leitch said some friends in the county had formed the intention of joining themselves together as an association for supplying the wants that exist in some parts of the county of Fife. He had a paper signed by several parties who took an interest in the subject, and who were anxious such an association should be formed. The name at the head of the list was the Earl of Leven and Melville, than whom no gentleman in the county was more acquainted with its wants. Several associations of a similar nature had done much good, as, for example, those of Ayrshire and Forfarshire.

After some remarks by Mr. Bell, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Ross, Mr. Milligan, and Mr. Scott, in favor of the motion, it was unanimously agreed to.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Mr. Leitch, Convener of the Sabbath School Committee, read the report on the Sabbath Schools for the past year, to the effect that 77 out of the 82 parishes had Sabbath-schools; that there was an increase of 204 in the scholars, the number being 2941. In the Presbytery of Dunfermline the proportion of Sabbath scholars to the population is 1 in 21; in the Presbytery of Kinross 1 in 20; in Kirkcaldy 1 in 15; in Cupar 1 in 13; in St. Andrews 1 in 18; and over the whole Synod 1 in 18.

Thanks being voted to Mr. Leitch for his excellent report, he was re-appointed convener.

EDUCATION IN INDIA.

Mr. Bowie then moved the following resolutions on the question of education in India. "That it is the duty of the Government of India openly to avow itself to be a Christian power by adopting such measures as are best calculated to convey to its native subjects the blessings of Christianity. That Government should neither countenance the idolatrous rites and immoral practices of the natives, nor seek to extend Christianity by holding out worldly motives addressed either to the hopes or the fears of their native subjects. That free toleration and the fullest liberty of conscience should be given to all the population; that complete protection should be afforded to Christian missionaries and converts, and that no prohibition should be put upon the free use of the Word of God in all schools aided by Government. That the system by which Government aid is afforded to schools in connection with Christian bodies affords the best guarantee for a religious education; and that, as the natives freely and largely avail themselves of these schools, it should be widely extended by more liberal grants from government, and more zealous efforts on the part of

the Christian community of this country. That the crisis through which India is now passing is a loud call to the Churches of Christendom to go up and possess the land under the wing of our Christian Government, and, by the union of missionary with educational agency, to make the progress of European knowledge subservient to the spread of the Gospel. That petitions in conformity with these resolutions be sent to both Houses of Parliament."

The late Rev. Dr. Cruickshank of Fyvie.

THE death of this esteemed clergyman, recorded in our last, occurred somewhat suddenly on the 1st inst. Educated at Banff Academy (where his father was long rector) and at King's College, the deceased was ordained in 1816. He was assistant and successor at Turriff till 1820, and sole parish minister there till 1843, when he was translated to Fyvie. He was in his 71st year, and was very highly respected, not by his congregations merely, but by all within his sphere. The funeral was on Thursday last; and on Sabbath the funeral sermon was preached by Rev. Andrew Todd, of Alvah.—By his will, besides legacies to relations, Dr. Cruickshank leaves several bequests to public objects. In testimony of his affection for the "dear parishioners" of Turriff, he directs his brother to purchase and present to the Kirk Session, two silver communion cups with suitable plates and wine flaggons, for use at the communion, at a cost of £50. He also leaves £50 to the minister and kirk-session of Turriff, the interest to be yearly applied in supplement of the annual collection (which, he hopes, will be continued), made on the first Sabbath of the year, for distributing coats among the poor of the place. To the minister and kirk-session of Fyvie, he leaves a like sum of £50, the interest to be yearly expended in encouraging industrious habits among the poor of the parish in the knitting of stockings. To the Aberdeen Society for the Sons of the Clergy, he leaves £100; and to the Endowment Scheme of the Church of Scotland, "particularly to the churches of Milbrey and New Byth," he leaves £200. He also bequeathes a sum of nineteen guineas to each of the Educational Scheme, the Home, Colonial, Foreign, and Jewish Missions of the Church of Scotland. Further, as a token of regard to his native town (Banff), and to the seminary over which his father was so long rector, he leaves a sum of £200 for the endowment of two bursaries at the Banff Grammar School, to be called the Cruickshank Bursaries, which are to be in the gift and subject to the regulations of the minister and kirk session of the parish of Banff. There are several smaller bequests. All the legacies and bequests are to be paid free of legacy duty.—*Miss. Paper.*

DEATH OF THE REV. ALEXANDER DAVIDSON OF NORTH LEITH.—We regret to record the death of this respected clergyman, which took place at his own house, on Sunday week, after a protracted illness. Mr. Davidson was a native of Morayshire, and matriculated at King's College, Aberdeen, where he gained several honours and took the degree of Master of Arts. He was ordained in 1839 to the *quoad sacra* church of North Esk, near Musselburgh. In 1843 he was appointed to North Leith, which parish had remained vacant since the translation of his predecessor, the Rev. J. Buchanan, to the High Church of Edinburgh,