

Saturday, May 18.

Rev. Mr. FAIRLY, assistant minister of Mauchline, was appointed to lecture and preach before the Commissioner on the forenoon of Sabbath se'ennight; and the Rev. Mr. Murray, assistant minister of Balmaclellan, on the afternoon.

The Queen's letter to the Assembly, and the Assembly's answer, were then read, paragraph by paragraph and the answer unanimously agreed to, which was then signed by the Moderator, and presented to the Commissioner to be transmitted to her Majesty.

Mr. CANDLISH said, that a series of works has of late years been published anonymously in this city, with the following titles, viz;

1. The Morning and Evening Sacrifice.
2. The Last Supper.
3. Farewell to Time; or, Last Views of Life, and Prospects of Immortality.
4. The True Plan of a Living Temple, 3 vols.
5. A Manual of Conduct, or Christian Principle exemplified in Daily Practice.

He moved therefore that these books should be remitted to the Presbytery of Dalkeith, with instruction to inquire into the subject complained of, and to proceed therein according to the rules of the Church.

The Rev. Mr. M'KELLAR seconded the motion, but spoke in a tone inaudible to the reporters.

The motion was then unanimously agreed to.

NEW CONSTITUTIONS.

On the motion of Mr. DUNLOP the new constitutions for Dunfermline, Catrine, Milton, Blackridge, Ladlop, Linwood, Rothsay, Methil, Milton of Balgonie, Edenslee, St. Matthew's, Brownfield, Chapelton, were unanimously carried. Mr. Dunlop stated that the Marquis of Bute had given an endowment of £75 per annum to the new church of Rothsay, in addition to his late endowment to the North Church of Bute.

The Assembly adjourned after some other business being transacted at the table, at half-past six till eleven o'clock on Monday.

Monday, May 20.

The Clerk read a letter from Lord John Russell, stating that the under-mentioned reports were to be forwarded by post, for the use of the Moderator and the Assembly;—Six copies of the Report on the Poor, six copies of the Report on the University of Glasgow, and six copies of the Second Report on the University of Aberdeen.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE RETURNS RESPECTING THE MANAGEMENT OF THE POOR.

Mr. DUNLOP, convener of the Committee, presented the report. The first table, he stated consisted of a view of the whole parishes of Scotland, with the exception of fourteen, returns from which had not been received. Under the head of each parish there was contained all the information, that could be gathered on the amount of the poor; the number of paupers on the permanent roll for three years; the number of lunatic paupers; the number of persons receiving occasional relief, with a calculation of the average in all these classes; then the average number of children for whom education was provided. Branch Second—consisted of the funds for the support of the poor; the average of collections at the church doors for 1835-36-37; average of voluntary contributions; the amount of assessment; yearly average of collections. Third Branch—The number giving gratuitous services in the management of the poor; the number of hired agents; the number of persons employed in levying assessments; the average expense of levying assessments; the number of persons employed in managing the poor. Last Branch—The distribution of funds; calculation of the average amount for lunatic paupers; average amount of occasional relief to the poor; average amount expended on education to children; total annual amount of funds distributed.

Mr. Dunlop concluded by stating, that the whole expense of the report to Government, besides the free transmission of letters and the expense of the schedules, was £165.

Mr. WHIGHAM said that there was no one, whether clergyman or layman who did not feel under obligations, for the extensive and important information which the report was calculated to impart. He proposed that the Committee should be instructed by the Assembly, to prepare a petition to Government, to direct a copy to be transmitted to every parish minister.

Mr. CANDLISH said that this could be no more than reasonable, considering the great labour which the ministers had been put to, in furnishing such valuable information. He begged to move a vote of thanks to the Committee in general, and especially to the Convener.

Mr. SHAW STEWART seconded the motion. The MODERATOR then rose to present the thanks of the House to Mr. Dunlop, and said he had great pleasure to be the medium, through which the Assembly return their thanks to Mr. Dunlop, for the indefatigable labour he had undertaken, and for the uncommon clearness with which he had brought out the facts contained in the report. The Assembly considered every thing connected with the poor, as a matter of great interest, and he was persuaded, from his own experience in country parishes, that the principle laid down so judiciously in that report, might be of great use to Kirk-sessions, in making proper regulations for the management of the poor.

The Assembly then adjourned at 8 o'clock.

Tuesday, May 21.

The Assembly met at eleven o'clock forenoon.

REPORT ON ASSEMBLY HALL.

Mr. ALEX. DUNLOP reported verbally the proceedings taken by the Committee on the erection of a hall for the meeting of the General Assembly. The Assembly, on hearing Mr. Dunlop's report, agreed, on his motion, to appoint a committee to consider the report and documents, and to report to the Assembly as to what steps should be adopted in the circumstances.

CASE OF MR. ROBERT LAING, STUDENT IN DIVINITY.

The petition of Robert Laing, student in divinity of Jedburgh might be authorised to proceed to take him on trials, which, in consequence of his certificates not having been forwarded in time to the Synod, they were unable to do without the concurrence of the Assembly. Considering the peculiar circumstances of the case, the Assembly agreed that the Presbytery should proceed with his trials, dispensing with the certificates to the Synod.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN ENGLAND.

The Assembly then proceeded to the consideration of a petition, statement, and overtures to the General Assembly, anent the Synod of the Presbyterian Church in England in connection with the Church of Scotland.

"That your petitioners have already received certain privileges at your hand—that the ordained ministers of the Synod, by being licentiate of Presbyteries in Scotland, do already enjoy pulpit and sacramental intercourse with their brethren—that, by a deliverance of your Venerable Court in 1836, they possess the privilege of giving an account of the state of religion among them, and of receiving advice—and the Synod is declared to be a branch of your Church.

"That for reasons which they are prepared to state, your petitioners consider these privileges to be insufficient, for the great ends of edifying that part of the body of Christ to which they have been sent—that they are desirous of being placed in still closer connection with the Assembly of the Church—and that they humbly conceive that, were two ministers and two elders from the Synod in England, to be received as corresponding members into the General Assembly, with power to deliberate and vote this

would be satisfactory to them, profitable to their people, and beneficial to the Church at large.

"May your Venerable Court be pleased to grant the prayer of their petition to the above effect.

"And your petitioners will ever pray.

"CHARLES THOMSON, Modr.

ALEXANDER MUNRO, Clk. S.

WILLIAM HAMILTON, Elder.

HUGH RALPH, LL. D.

JAMES R. BROWN, D. D."

The petition was followed by overtures from the Presbytery of Annan, the Synod of Stirling, the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, the Presbytery of Inverness, the Presbytery of Stranraer, and the Synod of Moray, to grant to the Synod of Presbyterian churches in England the prayer of their petition.

On the motion of Mr. Candlish, the deputation (the ministers and elders who signed the petition) were allowed to be heard at the bar.

Parties being removed.

Mr. DUNLOP, moved that the Gen. Assembly having heard the deputation, from the General Synod of the Presbyterian Churches in England, and having considered the overtures anent their relations to this Church, desire to renew their expression of their heartfelt satisfaction at the formation of said Synod, as the supreme judicatory of the Presbyterians of England, adhering to the Westminster Standards and Confession of Faith, and earnestly desire to strengthen their hands, in so far as it is in their power, by establishing an intimate relation between these Presbyteries and the Church. And the General Assembly resolve that, with the concurrence of said Synod, the two Churches shall mutually interchange frequent communications, by means of deputations to and from their respective judicatories; and the General Assembly recommend their Presbyteries in their communications, and transactions with said Presbyteries and Synod in England, such as translating Scotland and the like, to follow the same rules and procedure, which they adopt in similar communications and transactions with their several Presbyteries in Scotland. And the General Assembly enjoin their ministers and licentiates in removing to England, whether temporarily or permanently, to enter into communion and intimate correspondence with the ministers, and congregations of said Synod in the places where they reside, and to evince by their conduct their sense of the truth and importance, of the principles on which both Churches are founded. And the General Assembly farther direct their Presbyteries, in the event of any irregularities or misconduct on the part of their ministers or licentiates, while residing in England, being reported to them by the Presbyteries of said Synod, immediately to inquire into the same, and thereupon proceed in the case according to the rules of the Church. And, lastly, the General Assembly nominate and appoint—a deputation to attend the meeting of said Synod at—, to communicate to the Synod this act, and to assure them of the warm and brotherly affection, wherewith they regard the allied Church, which they are the Supreme Court, and their earnest desire to co-operate with them to the utmost of their power, in promoting the interest of the Presbyterian Church, to which they are attached alike by present ties, and a grateful recollection of former days."

Dr. Cook intimated his intention to move that the motion of Mr. Dunlop be sent down as an overture to the Presbyteries in terms of the Bar-Act.

The Assembly adjourned shortly after ten o'clock.

Wednesday, May 22.

AUCHTERADER CASE.

Previously to the commencement of the business for the day, Dr. Cook begged it to be understood that the debate should terminate to-night, and that there should be no adjournment. Rev. Mr. WALKER, Muthill, suggested that