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Richmond, N. B.

"SPEAK UNTO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, THAT THEY GO FORWARD"—Ezekiel xiv., 15.

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Church Courts.—Scotland.

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN SYNOD.

The Synod of the United Presbyterian Church met in the Synod House, Queen Street, Edinburgh, on Monday, 12th May, and on successive days till the Friday evening following. The Rev. H. Henry Angus, Aberdeen, the retiring moderator, preached the opening sermon from Heb. xii. 22—"The Heavenly Jerusalem" after which, on the motion of the Rev. Mr. Elles, Salcoats, the Rev. Dr. Lindsay, Glasgow, was unanimously chosen moderator.

APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION.—The committee on bills and overtures recommended that a committee should be appointed to consider certain applications for admission into this church, from persons who wished to be received with the standing of preachers and students of theology. A committee was named accordingly, consisting of J. Ellis, J. Merkle, Dr. McKeirne, Dr. McFarlane, Dr. Harper, ministers; W. Clark, W. Turner, J. Yaul, elders.—Mr. Elles, convener. Mr. Ellis, in reporting from this committee, stated that they had read and considered applications from the Rev. William Gillespie, late missionary to China, in connection with the London Missionary Society, and the Rev. Adam Gordon, late missionary in the Highlands of Scotland, in connection with the Scottish Congregational Union, and at present town missionary in Lunenburg.—This committee agreed to recommend the reception of both these gentlemen, the first of whom is a licentiate and ordained minister of our church, and had been induced to go to China as a missionary, in consequence of his acquaintance with the Chinese language, the latter was long employed in preaching in Gaelic, and was willing to be still so employed, and would therefore prove an acquisition to our church.

REPORTS OF RULING ELDERS.—The clerk read a digest of reports received from presbyteries and sessions on the remit as to ruling elders taking part in the ordination of ministers. Thirteen presbyteries and thirteen sessions were unfavourable to a change; four presbyteries and fifteen sessions were favorable to a change; four presbyteries and four sessions were not prepared to report on the subject.

The question having thus been decided by a majority of presbyteries, it was agreed, on the motion of Mr. Johnston, seconded by Mr. Merkle, Belfh, that the practice of sending apart to the office of the minister, by the imposition of the hands of the teaching elders only, should be continued as heretofore.

SYNDICAL OBSERVANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.—On this subject, which had been remitted for the re-consideration of presbyteries, reports were read from the presbyteries of Edinburgh, Paisley, and Greenock, Lonsak, and Melrose, obeying the proposal of a syndical observance of the Lord's Supper. On the motion of Dr. Beane, seconded by Mr. Ellis, it was agreed "that it is not for edification to introduce the proposed practice into this church."

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION—HALL AND LIBRARY.—Mr. Thomson, Stated Clerk, gave in a report from the committee on Theological Education, the Hall, and Library, of which the following is an abstract:—

1. **University Students.**—The number of students attending the colleges of Aberdeen during last session, in connection with this church, was about twenty. Of the students attending the last session of the University of Edinburgh, there were sixty who met with the Rev. Mr. Johnston, the superintendent appointed by the Presbytery. The number of

students in connection with our denomination, who attended St. Andrew's University during the session 1850-51, was thirteen, being four beyond the average of the seven preceding years. Of these, eleven regularly met with the Rev. Mr. Kild on Sabbath evenings, for the reading of the Greek Testament, and, as in former years, the devotional exercises were conducted by the students themselves. Mr. Kild says, "I had satisfactory proofs of their diligence in the prosecution of their studies. The chief thing is confirmed by the honorary list published by the Students of the United College. In that list the names of eleven of our students appear, some of them repeatedly, and some the first in the first rank." No report was given by the presbytery of Glasgow regarding the superintendence of university students.

In reference to the Hall, the committee reported that they had attended the opening of the Theological Hall in August, 1850, and that the introductory lecture was delivered by Dr. Lindsay; and that the first lecture at the close of the session, when a valedictory address was delivered by Dr. McMichael. On the latter occasion, the report from all the professors reports of the most gratifying description in regard to the business of the session, the state of the various classes, and the manner in which the students had fulfilled their duties and prosecuted the studies appertaining to their respective classes. The total number of students attending the Hall during that session, was 131, being nineteen above the previous year. Of these, twenty were of the fifth year, twenty-eight of the fourth, thirty-two of the third, twenty-eight of the second, and forty-three of the first. After stating the subjects of study in the various classes, the committee reported that a considerable and valuable addition had been made to the library during the past year, by means of a donation by the trustees of the widow of the late Dr. Wright of Stirling, of a portion of the library of that gentleman.

MINISTERS' LIBRARIES.—Mr. Thomson gave in the following report on behalf of the convener of the sub-committee on Ministers' Libraries, (the Rev. Thomas Finlayson):—

"I have much pleasure in reporting, on behalf of the sub-committee, having charge of the Ministers' Libraries scheme, that the subscriptions now amount to rather above £1,400, in money and books together.—That amount has been collected in Glasgow, Edinburgh, London, Liverpool, Kirkcaldy, Manchester, Bradford, Newcastle, Berwick, Kelso, Aberdeen, Forfar, Paisley, Greenock, Dunfermline, Perth, Dundee, &c. The members of the church upon whom the depuration have called, have, with scarcely an exception, approved highly of the scheme, and given it their generous support. From the fuller consideration which has been given to the subject during the progress of these practical operations, it is believed that £2600 (instead of £1800, as was at first proposed) will be sufficient to accomplish all that was originally contemplated. And the committee are of opinion, as being so, in the course of the summer, to make up that sum. Arrangements are in progress for bringing the claims of this measure before other districts of the church."

REPORT ON SCHOLARSHIPS.—Dr. King read the Report on Scholarships, of which the following is an abstract:—

At the examination connected with the Theological Hall, which took place last August, seventeen competitors were students of the first year, five belonged to the second year, five to the third, six to the fourth, and three to the fifth. The number in all was thirty-four, while the preceding year there were only twenty. To students of the first year there were awarded seven Scholarships, students of the second year got one additional, two continued and one increased, students of the third year had one continued and two increased, students of the fourth year had two continued and one increased, students of the fifth year had two continued, and in one of their number the Charles Walker Scholarship was awarded. The money voted, amounted in all to £266 10s. Out of thirty-four competitors, twenty received scholarships. Some may think that this proportion is too great, and that success would be more valued and better bestowed if it were more limited. But, in the first place, theological students have a sensitive regard to their character, and are indisposed to compete unless they are fully prepared for the competition; and hence the difficulty with the committee lies not in finding, but in ad-

* Since published under the title of "The Miracles of Scripture Defended from the Assaults of Modern Scepticism."