

tainly a considerable number of additional names, and in an earlier part of the day he did feel great difficulty in acceding to the proposition to strike these names off the record, for if they had continued there, the motion he would have submitted would have been in direct opposition to that now before the House. But, as only 60 objectors were before them, and the others had lost their opportunity, by the rules of the Church, of objecting, he could not feel—especially as he suspected there was a tendency in the House to agree to the motion—that he was bound to bring forward a counter-motion. He desired to make this statement, however, that it might be distinctly understood that, in agreeing to this motion, he by no means committed himself against the judgement at which he last year arrived, and to which under similar circumstances he pledged himself that he should adhere—that if they found objections of such a character brought up by a large number of the people, he at all events should do his best to give effect to these objections. (Applause.) And, if he gave his assent to this proposition, he did so with fear and trembling as to the consequences of the step the Assembly were now taking; and so far at all events he shook himself clear of all responsibility. Under the circumstances, however, and seeing the feeling of the House, he did not feel himself called upon to take any stronger step than entering the protest which he had now done.

The motion of Dr. Cook was unanimously adopted.

REPORT OF THE COLONIAL COMMITTEE.

Dr. Fowler, in the absence of Dr. Stevenson, read the report of the Colonial Committee, which gave a detailed statement of the committee's operations in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, British Guiana, Jamaica, Australia, New Zealand, Ceylon, Buenos Ayres and British Columbia, and concluded by imploring that a special effort should be made to replenish the reserve fund, which had been seriously encroached upon. The whole ordinary income of the committee for the year to 15th April last was £3264, 3s. 10., being £301, 10s. 6d. more than the income of the previous year; and the whole expenditure of the committee for the same period had been £3876, 15s. 11d., being £45, 19s. 8d., more than for the previous year. The committee had to commence the year with a balance due to the bank of £326 17s. 8d., and without the prospect of any further general collection for the period of the next ten months.

After some conversation the report was, on the motion of Dr. Cook, St. Andrews, unanimously adopted, and it was agreed to take up at a future diet the question of the position of the Church of Australia to the Church at Home. It was also agreed to remit to a committee to consider and report on certain suggestions contained in the report of the Colonial Committee.

The Assembly then adjourned till next (Tuesday) morning at 11 o'clock.

THURSDAY, MAY 28.

The Assembly met to-day at 11 o'clock—Dr. Colvin Smith, Inverary, Moderator.

REPORT OF THE COLONIAL COMMITTEE.

The Assembly then took up various matters referred to in the report of the Colonial Committee, and which had been reserved for further consideration.

Professor STEVENSON addressed the House upon the points reserved in the report. He referred to British Columbia, the wants and claims of which appeared to be very strong at this time. It was a colony that in many respects claimed their attention. Its enormous productiveness, its metallic and mineral wealth, and the great variety of races that inhabited it, all commended it to their attention, and called on

the General Assembly to adopt the earliest means for obtaining a footing for the Church of Scotland in that colony. The report suggested that the mission should consist of 2 ministers and 2 agents. One minister would, no doubt, be sent out in the first place; but he was of opinion that that provision would not meet the case.

If they looked to the very interesting report of the Church of England mission in British Columbia, and read the diary of the Bishop's tour, they would see it was a colony to which they ought as soon as possible to apply themselves. The colony was likely soon to be connected through the Grand Trunk Railway with all our other colonies in North America, and he hoped the Colonial Committee would be supported in its endeavours to obtain a footing for the Church of Scotland in that most flourishing and most promising colony. With regard to funds the committee had in their hands as much as would meet the engagements of the year on which they were entering, but they had no means of engaging in any new undertakings which appeared to crave their attention, and he implored that means might be forwarded to them of meeting all the demands that might come in in the course of the year. Dr. Stevenson then referred to the unions of the Presbyterian Churches which had taken place in Victoria. This was felt by the committee to be a most important subject, and they were perfectly prepared to recommend a course of policy to the General Assembly. He thought they should not allow themselves to be either alarmed or disappointed by the result of the unions being formed in the colonies. What they wished to have propagated was their own Presbyterian form of discipline, and what they wished to see in the colonies was a strong Church, dependent or independent, as circumstances might best permit. If the colonial Churches, by throwing aside those questions which had a local interest only, and which had a powerful influence only at Home, saw their way to union, they would be better able to meet the demands of the colonies, and to a complete extent to relieve the funds of this Church; and they would gain by their union such a position in the country as would give them strength in all questions, not only of ecclesiastical interest, but even of colonial policy. It was painful, no doubt, to think of the separations that must take place, and the contemplated union in North America gave them no small measure of anxiety, for it would depend on the relation in which the new independent Church should stand towards them in consequence of the terms of union whether or not a complete separation must ensue; but the question of union there was still in dependence and was probably some years distant. Australia alone presented them with a colony in which a union had been effected by the ministers who represented the three great Presbyterian Churches of this country. The subject was long and anxiously discussed, and difficulties of almost insurmountable magnitude seemed to present themselves, but gradually these difficulties were removed, and their brethren there, isolated to a certain extent, came to feel the need of mutual encouragement and support, and gradually were drawn together till at last they formed a complete basis of union. Of the terms of union he did not think there was anything that called for censure on their part. The third article of the basis of union might occasion reflection, for it asserted the complete independence of the new Presbyterian Church of all other Churches. Some attempt had been made in the negotiations for this union considerably to mutilate the 23d chapter of the Confession of Faith; but it had nevertheless come pretty well through the ordeal. The following was the second article of the basis of union, and he ventured to say it

was an explanation which no member of the Assembly could have any hesitation in adopting, namely:—

“That, inasmuch as there is a difference of opinion in regard to the doctrines contained in these standards relative to the power and duty of the civil magistrate in matters of Religion, the office-bearers of this Church, in subscribing to these standards and formularies, are not to be held as countenancing any persecuting or intolerant principles, or as professing any views as to the power and duty of the civil magistrate inconsistent with the liberty of personal conscience or the right of private judgement.”

After some further remarks Dr. Stevenson moved to the effect that the General Assembly, as regards the union which has been consummated in the Australian colony of Victoria, find that their ministers there, entering into that union, had done nothing which merits censure, and find that the most friendly relations may continue to be cultivated between the parent Church and the Presbyterian Church in Victoria; but that the ministers of the said Church of Victoria cannot merely as such be recognised as ministers of the Church of Scotland.

Mr. MILNE HOME seconded the motion. He said that, so far from there being any jealousy or distrust as to this new Presbyterian Church in Australia, he thought they ought to regard it with a deep feeling of satisfaction and delight, on witnessing the evidence of so much life and energy, and on witnessing the rise of an independent Church having for its purpose to establish religious worship throughout the colony, a Church founded on Presbyterian principles and which was desirous still to hold communion with the mother Church of the mother country. He congratulated the convener of the Colonial Scheme that there had been such a friendly correspondence kept up between the committee and the ministers of the Church in Victoria. He should be well pleased to see in their other colonies the same life and energy shown in providing the means of religious worship. When he looked to the vast extent of the interests committed to the hands of the Colonial Committee, and the amount of labour devolving on the committee, he thought every possible encouragement should be given to the convener and the committee in the discharge of their duties.

Mr. OSWALD and Dr. HILL both expressed their opinion as to the importance of cultivating friendly relations with the Church in Australia.

The motion of Dr. Stevenson was unanimously adopted.

(To be continued.)

MISCELLANEOUS.

POPULAR ERRORS.

From the *Pictou Record* for June.

We have spoken of congregational delusions on the subject of “pinning.” But connected with every portion of ministerial work there are popular fallacies. People accept and act upon them without thinking. Do not get angry, beloved brother reader, at a statement of some of these. If they sit you very closely—even to the pinching point—why then drop them. If you are “not guilty,” do not accuse the writer of having had you in his eye when he was writing. This little article is saying “thou art the man” only to the really guilty. And it aims not at a cloud of words but at plainness of speech. Listen then.

(1) Many members of the congregation expect that their minister should marry to please them. Agreed then; but let it be understood also