

ling expenses of Commissioners and \$8441, for their entertainment during the sitting of the Assembly. From the report on statistics it was shown that the total number of Churches is 5,415, and of Ministers 4,938. The number of Commissioners present was 538—282 ministers and 256 elders.—The next meeting is to be held in Buffalo.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the Church of Scotland was opened on 20th May, with the customary formalities, by the Queen's Lord High Commissioner, the Earl of Rosslyn. The opening sermon was preached in St. Giles' by Rev. Dr. Chrystal, of Aulincleck. The Rev. Dr. Watson, of Dundee, was elected Moderator. The vacancy in the Procuratorship, caused by the elevation of Mr. Lee to the bench, was filled by the appointment of Mr. Macintosh, advocate. The report of the Colonial Committee came up for discussion on the second day. It was stated that the financial year had closed with a deficit of \$10,000. The total receipts for the year were \$34,500; the expenditure was \$45,000. This had led the Committee to adopt a policy of stringent economy and retrenchment. Grants to Australia and New Zealand had been suspended, and those to Canada had been reduced one half. Rev. Dr. Sprott gave an account of his visit to the Canadian Churches last summer, and urged the importance of the Church at Home giving substantial assistance to the Canadian Churches in view of the large number of emigrants going to Manitoba and the North-West. Dr. Snodgrass, of Canonbie, moved the adoption of the report with a resolution instructing the Committee to make certain reductions in regard to all Canadian grants, and commending the importance of the work to the ministers of the Church. The Rev. R. H. Muir, of Dalmeny, was, at his own request, relieved from the Convener'ship, and his services as such during fourteen years were suitably acknowledged. Rev. Mr. Galbraith, representing the Synod of Ontario and Quebec, entered into an explanation of the causes why his Church had not entered into the Union with other Churches, but, before he had proceeded far, was requested to abstain from reflecting upon the Presbyterian Church in Canada, whereupon Mr. Galbraith resumed his seat. In proposing the formal deliverance, Dr. Phin expressed regret for the interruption, but they could not allow a Church not represented to be attacked in that manner. They all desired union, if accomplished upon proper terms, and they all rejoiced in the Union that had taken place in the colonies, and deplored that there should be any who felt themselves conscientiously precluded from going into the Union. Dr. Story introduced an overture in favour of relaxing subscription to the confession of

faith by the eldership. The subject was remitted to a committee. On behalf of the Endowment Committee, Mr. T. G. Murray reported that ten new parishes had been erected during the year, having a population of 41,550 persons, and that, altogether, 293 new parishes had been endowed since the institution of this committee.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the Free Church of Scotland was opened on the same day, with wonted simple ceremonial, in presence of a large number of spectators. The Rev. Dr. Main, of Edinburgh, was elected Moderator, in his opening address, he reminded the Assembly that this was the year of their missionary jubilee, which ought to be made a new point of departure. It was a mistake, he said, to suppose that their past history as a Church had been merely a contest for certain principles, and to regard the sacrifices made and the liberality displayed as nothing higher than homage paid to to conscientious conviction. It was instinct with the very spirit of supreme devotedness to Jesus Christ. They were called upon to recognize the responsibilities attached to the influential position they had attained, arising from the course of events and the character of the times in which they lived. It were to miss one of the grandest opportunities ever given: it were to turn a deaf ear to one of the loudest appeals that was ever addressed to her, if the Church of Christ did not at once arise and enter in and win the nations. The report on the *Sustentation Fund*, given by Dr. Wilson, shewed the receipts for the past year to be £171,719 (\$858,500)—a decrease of £4,270 compared with the previous year. Dr. Wilson urged upon the Assembly the importance of obtaining increased contributions from the congregations. They should not rest satisfied until an income of at least \$1,500 were secured to each of their 1,000 ministers. Estimating the number of members and adherents to be 350,000, the average individual contribution was at present ten shillings a year, and it should not be difficult to increase to fifteen shillings. There was a very long debate, followed by a large vote in favour of Disestablishment.

The celebrated Professor Robertson Smith case, which has been for years disturbing the peace, and almost threatening the rending of the Church asunder, was brought to a final settlement. By a vote of 299 to 292 it was agreed to sist proceedings, and to restore Mr. Smith to his position as professor in the College at Aberdeen—admonishing him to be more careful in the future in giving publicity to his views on the authenticity and inspiration of the Holy Scriptures.