

fruits of righteousness might have grown, there will be nothing but the noxious luxuriance of error and ungodliness deforming all the soil. I need not inform you in what strength the Man of Sin hath entrenched himself in the Canadian provinces, or with what activity he improves every advantage for extending his conquests among our neglected population. This is only one form of danger. Mormonism and other dark forms of delusion have found their way into our land from the neighbouring States of the Union, and have led away many. The enemy pauses not in his operations, and those who would come to our rescue should know that they must come soon, or they will come too late. At this moment the Church of Scotland has an opening to the hearts of our people, more favourable than is presented to any other Church, of which the happiest advantage might be taken to bring nigh to them that Word which subdues the heart to the obedience of Christ. But let the Church of Scotland delay to improve this opening, and she may soon find it shut against her. In the interval of her abandonment of those whom it was her duty to keep, the wicked one may subject them to his power, and shut her out from their hearts, so that when she would call them, they will not answer—when she would stretch out her hand to them, they will not hear. I have trespassed far too long upon the indulgence of the House, but let my fathers and my brethren permit me to make one remark more, and I have done. Should the Church of Scotland, at this season of apprehended trouble, be little concerned to exemplify that liberal spirit, “devising liberal things,” with which establishment and enlargement are so strikingly connected in the whole Word of God, and in all the dispensations of his providence? Rather is not this the only thing about which she needs to be concerned? Be it that the fears of many who love her are but too well founded—that afflictions await her. Let her only be employed in advancing the kingdom of her Lord throughout the earth—let her only care be to approve herself a good steward of the manifold grace of God—a faithful missionary Church—a light in the world, holding forth the Word of Life, and she may await in calmness the fiery trial, for she shall sustain no real damage; if pass she must through the blackness and tempest, the presence of Jehovah shall go with her, and she shall come forth unscathed, to be yet more than in the times that are past, the joy of this land, and a praise in the earth.

Rev. Mr. CLARK moved that the Moderator do from the chair express to the member of the Synod of Canada, who has now addressed the House, the thanks of the Assembly, and the deep interest which the Assembly takes in the spiritual condition of the churches in connexion with the Synod of Canada, and their anxiety to do their utmost to promote the spiritual interests of the Scottish settlers in that interesting country.

Rev. Mr. ROBERTSON of Ellon seconded the motion, and begged to suggest, in addition, that Dr. Lee should

be requested to address a pastoral letter to the members of the Synod of Canada.—Agreed.

Dr. DEWAR said that justice would not be done to the Synod of Canada until a deputation be sent to it under the sanction of the General Assembly, and be instructed to bring back such information as they could collect regarding the state of religion in those provinces.

The MODERATOR—Mr. Machar, it is quite unnecessary for me, after the expression of feeling which you have witnessed from every part of this House, to say that the General Assembly return their sincere thanks to you for the communication you have now made, and that we feel a most deep and most brotherly interest towards the Synod of Canada, and for all of our countrymen who sojourn in that interesting country; that we will do all we can to promote their spiritual interests; and that our regret is that we can do so little. The interesting statement you have made will stimulate our desires; and I do hope that in a short time you will find the voice which you have brought across the Atlantic, calling on us to come over and help you, responded to in the manner you have yourself pointed out.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN ENGLAND.

On Tuesday the 21st May, the Assembly, *inter alia*, proceeded to the consideration of a petition, statement, and overtures anent the Synod of the Presbyterian Church in England in connexion 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 licentiates 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 connexion 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, L. L. D.
JAMES R. BROWN, D. D.”

This 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.