

certain statistics, tabulated with very great care from returns sent in by Presbyteries, and from the abstract of missionary collections published annually in the *Record*. From these it will be seen that, in connection with the 115 new parishes reported as erected at the last Assembly, there has been since the period of their endowment an increase of communicants to the extent of 19,123, and of missionary contributions to the extent of £4043, 8s. 8d. annually; while £23,780 7s 8d. has been expended on manse, glebe, and similar additions to the property of the Church, and £41,807, 16s 11d. on schools and other parochial agencies of a permanent character. It will be observed, also, that the average amount contributed by the newly-endowed parishes to missionary objects, and the gradual rise in that average for the last three years, while contrasting most favourably, not only with what is contributed by unendowed chapels, but with what is contributed by the old parishes, present in themselves the most gratifying and encouraging results. The tables referred to present, indeed, ample proof that the Endowment Scheme has been, in its more immediate objects and bearings, a great and unquestionable success; while, considered in its less direct results as stimulating the Church to higher efforts in every field of Christian benevolence, paving the way in many cases for thorough parochial organization, and training the ministers and members of the Church to know at once their power for good and how to exercise it, the benefits of the scheme have been incalculable. It is hoped that, in such circumstances, and with such success in the past to furnish some cheering encouragement, the Church will not flag in her earnest endeavours to build up and extend her walls by prosecuting a work of so much importance. Faint-hearted whispers have recently reached the ears of the committee from quarters where other sentiments might have expected, as if, in presence of the signs of the times, with the loud clamour now so common against the existence of Established Churches, and with the policy of distinguished statesmen pointing so plainly to their mutilation, if not destruction, the costly endowment of new parishes were a work of supererogation, if not of folly, providing only additional spoil for the spoiler. But no statesman has ever ventured to propose, or is in the least likely to propose, any such measures as the seizure by the State of the endowments provided for our new parishes by the generosity of the members of the Church. It appears, moreover, to the committee that nothing is more likely to hasten the dreaded consummation, and to present Establishments as an easy prey to ruthless spoilers, if such there be lying in wait for their overthrow, than such conduct on the part of their supporters as should be the first threatening of danger issue in the surrender alike of their

weapons and their principles, and in the cowardly or pelted intermission of all their proper and incumbent work. On the other hand, they have unwavering confidence in this, that if the Church of Scotland shall continue with increasing energy to discharge all her functions as the Church of the nation and not of a sect only, and if she shall seek with increasing zeal and liberality on the part of all her faithful adherents to provide, through her Home Mission and Endowment Schemes, an effectual remedy for the spiritual destitution, and so far the poverty, intemperance, vice, and crime of the land, then in these works she will find a guarantee for her continued existence and stability, which, apart from these, no old covenants and Acts of Parliament however solemn, and no parchment titles however venerable, will in days of change and democratic rule ever secure to any institution.

Dr. Cnabteris, Glasgow, made a verbal supplementary report. He said that the late commercial crisis had for a considerable time delayed the active operations in behalf of the Endowment Scheme on which the friends of the Church in Glasgow had decided about two years ago. Within the last two months, however, they had actively commenced, and not without success. They found that of the twenty chapels proposed for endowment under the provincial scheme, only eight were erected into parishes. They proposed to help none but chapels in poor districts, and to give a grant towards the erection of a new parish if the population was not more than 3000 souls. The committee had resolved on this, as they believed that much evil had been done by including large populations in new parishes, so that the minister, however willing, had been unable to overtake the pastoral visitation of his parish, or the temporal relief of his poor. He had received £3375 within the last few weeks as a beginning and it was only right to add that they owed their successful start to the often-tried and always ready liberality of the Messrs Baird. (Applause.) During the past year, three new parishes had been erected with help from the Local Committee—in Leadhills, Parkhead, and West Church, Rutherglen; and Maxwell Church had been endowed by the liberality of its own congregation, with help from the Assembly's Committee. The committee were ready to give grants to Partick, Bridgegate, and Clarkston; and he believed that, thanks to the munificence of a generous and wise friend, they would soon be ready to endow a fourth. After some experience of Glasgow, he was prepared to say confidently that the constitution principles of the Church of Scotland command as much support in the west, when fully and fairly brought before the minds of the people, as in any other district of the country. (Applause.)

Mr Mitchell, Lieth, moved the adoption