

The Rev. Dr. Hony having given out a hymn and engaged in prayer,

The Rev. G. SCOTT read and enforced the practical resolutions, dwelling chiefly upon the duty of Christian charity in religious controversy, following the example of John Fletcher (of Madeley,) who furnished a beautiful illustration, in all his writings, of the spirit which the Alliances ought to cultivate and enforce.

The doxology was then sung, and prayer offered by the Rev. Dr. FLETCHER.

Several matters of routine were subsequently disposed of.

BUSINESS PROCEEDINGS.

Sir CULLING EARDLEY, on the motion of Colonel Anderson, having been called to the chair, said he felt so deeply interested in the objects of the day that he could not do better than ask the Conference to proceed to business, in order that the matters of thrilling interest which were to come before it might be disposed of as speedily as possible. He could not, however, abstain from saying, that he greatly rejoiced at meeting them in times like the present, when he felt persuaded that the principle of the Evangelical Alliance presented a solution of the great majority of events that were transpiring.

The Rev. C. JACKSON (who has been officiating as Secretary on account of the illness of the Rev. J. P. DOBSON,) read the annual report, giving a sketch of the labours of the Alliance during the past year, and alluding particularly to the public meetings in England and Scotland, which it was believed had been productive of much good, not only in extending the principles of the Alliance, but in advancing the spirituality of those who had given their attendance. A better and more simple mode of admitting members and electing the council had been adopted. The recommendation of one member was now sufficient to procure the admission of another. The committee lamented the illness of the Rev. J. P. DOBSON, who had tendered his resignation, but for the performance of whose duties, for a time, they had made provision. A hope was expressed that the issue of the present war would tend to the advancement of Christian and religious liberty. Alliance meetings for prayer in behalf of the allied troops, had been held in several places, and it was believed that these would long be remembered by those who were permitted to take part in them. There were, however, other enemies more fierce and powerful than the Czar—enemies which could not be subdued by carnal weapons. The Alliance had been alive to the importance of attacking Popery and infidelity on their own ground. Able works on those subjects had been produced and largely circulated; and the council had felt themselves in a position to offer a prize for the best essay on Sabbath Observance, with a special reference to the opening of the Crystal Palace, and other places of recreation and amusement on that day. The best thanks of the Christian public, it was considered, were due to Mr. Edward Baines, of Leeds, for the calm and dignified remonstrances which he had publicly addressed to the directors of the Crystal Palace. With reference to the Alliance labours on the continent, a continued sympathy had been manifested towards the persecuted brethren. It was intended to hold a conference at Paris next year, when attention would be specially called to the subject of Christian liberty, which was unhappily not now enjoyed by Protestants in France. The report closed with an appeal for increased support and stated that out of six thousand members four thousand had contributed nothing to the funds.

Mr. FINCH, one of the auditors, in the absence of the treasurer, Mr. Farmer, read the balance sheet, which showed that the amount of subscriptions up to

the 30th of June last was 1,452l. 0s 6d, and the balance against the Alliance 104l. 12s. 1d.

M. MARTIN, Pastor of the French Protestant Church St. Martin's-le-Grand, moved the adoption of the report and expressed his thanks for the sympathy manifested by the Alliance towards his brethren in France. Liberty in France was only on the side of the Roman Catholics; but when Christ gave the cross, it was the duty and glory of Christians to bear it. Still, those who were more favourably situated should do what they could to help their persecuted brethren, and pray that they might have strength given to them to bear their persecutions. Those persecutions showed that truth existed in a country; for it was not the natural state of the church of Christ to be comfortable in this world.

The resolution having been seconded,

Sir CULLING EARDLEY mentioned, in reference to the French persecuted brethren, that it had been thought a duty to endeavour to move the heart of the Emperor on their behalf in the first instance; but the conclusion had since been come to that it would be better for them to endeavour first to move the Emperor themselves. He thought nothing would be so likely to conduce to that result as for some of them to pay the penalty and bear the consequences of their Christian faithfulness; and he (Sir Culling Eardley) had told some of them himself that he did not believe the question would be properly taken up till one or two of them had been in prison. He believed that the Emperor of the French objected in his heart as much as himself to the principle of sending a man to prison for his religious opinions; still, although the French brethren had seen the Emperor on the subject, an instance of the kind had just happened, and now, therefore, was the time for action. He hoped the result of the present Conference of the Alliance would be, that a deputation from the whole Protestantism of this country should wait upon the Emperor, and endeavour to make a bold and generous appeal to his best feelings. He believed there were sympathies in France towards England not only amongst men of the world and statesmen, of an exceedingly strong nature, and that the Emperor would be one of the first to regret anything that should happen to disturb the friendly relations at present existing between the two countries.

Several members here expressed their gratification at the alteration proposed in the mode of admitting members.

The resolution for the adoption of the report and approving of the alteration was put to the Conference and carried unanimously.

TRAVELLING SECRETARY.

The CHAIRMAN said he thought the friends would like to hear, previous to the resolution being moved and seconded, some account of the manner in which Mr. JACKSON considered that the operations of the Alliance should in future be carried on.

Mr. JACKSON accordingly stated that from what he had seen throughout the country it was his conviction that more could be done by personal visitations of ministers and others in different localities than by the holding of public meetings. If God would give him grace and strength to do the work, he would go to it willingly, with a heart warm in the cause.

The following resolution was then moved Mr. M'FIE of Liverpool, seconded by Mr. HENDERSON, and passed unanimously:—

“That the Conference especially approve of the course taken by the Council and its Committee, pursuant to instructions given them at last Conference in regard to a travelling secretariat, and accord to the arrangement which in the exercise of their constitutional function they have entered into with the Rev. Charles