

United States occupied the attention of the assembly. The Rev. Dr. McLean, late President of Lafayette College was requested to address the assembly in connection with this subject. His address was listened to with deep interest, and at the close of it, it was agreed to set apart a diet of the assembly for prayer and conference regarding the work of God in America. This diet for prayer and conference took place on Tuesday and was a season of deep interest and solemnity.

SUSTENTATION FUND.

A Report was given in by the special Committee of inquiry appointed in 1856. This was a carefully prepared and lengthy document, and set forth a proposed plan of distribution based upon the principle of an equal dividend, but at the same time making the income of ministers of aid—receiving congregations dependent to a certain extent upon the contributions of their people. The plan was believed by the Committee to prevent any abuse of an equal dividend in future settlements, while it also provided for Church extension. After full discussion the assembly divided, there being two motions on the subject, viz., one by the Rev. Dr. R. Buchanan, to send down the Report to Presbyteries, and the other by Rev. D. Begg, proposing also to send it down to Presbyteries, but with an expression of opinion in favor of an equal dividend. Dr. Buchanan's motion was carried, 225 voting for it, and 126 for Dr. Begg's. It appeared from the ordinary Report of the Sustentation Fund Committee that the dividend to ministers for the year ended was £138.

HOME MISSIONARY OPERATIONS.

Long and interesting Reports were given in by the Home Mission Committee, the Committee on the Highlands and Isles, and by the Glasgow Evangelization Committee. The Reports were received and sustained, and the two Committees, viz., the Home Mission Committee and the Glasgow Evangelization Committee were combined into one Home Mission Committee.

NEW ASSEMBLY HALL.

Mr. B. Douglas gave in a Report from the Assembly Hall Committee. The Report referred to the movement on the part of the Ladies of the Church, to erect a suitable Assembly Hall. The sum of £3919 6s. 6d. had been collected by the Ladies, besides £1,500 contributed by fifteen gentlemen for the purchase of the site, and an additional sum of £450. The Report was cordially received and sustained.

COLLEGE AFFAIRS.

The Rev. Dr. Wood gave in a Report of the Special Commission for the quinquennial visitation of the new College. The Report entered fully into the financial and other matters connected with College. The Report was received and referred to the select College Committee, with a view to ascertain how far its suggestions could be carried out. There was a long discussion as to the filling up of the chair of Natural History in the new College, vacant by the death of Dr. Fleming. Ultimately it was agreed to delay filling up the chair.

CONTINENTAL COMMITTEE.

The Report of the Continental Committee was given in by Dr. Bonar. Dr. Bonar introduced Mr. Fisch, formerly of Lyons, now of Paris, who addressed the assembly. M. de Falt, of Lyons, M. Charbonnier, a Waldensian Pastor from Genoa, and M. Jaccard, from Berlin, also addressed the Assembly. The thanks of the Assembly were tendered to the Foreign deputies.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON POPERY.

The Report of the Committee on Popery was given in by Professor Gibson. It stated that in 1829 the number of Priests in Great Britain (not including Ireland), was 477, now it was

1241; the number of chapels was then 419, now it is 902; there were then no monasteries, now there were 27; there were then no nunneries, now there are 109. The assembly received and sustained the Report, and instructed the Committee to take such measures as may secure a proper commemoration of the tri-centenary of the Reformation in 1860.

GOVERNMENT SYSTEM OF SCHOOLS.

A number of Overtures on the subject of the Government support to Popish Schools was brought before the assembly. Dr. Begg moved that the whole question be remitted to a special Committee, for their serious attention. After some discussion it was agreed to.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The Report of the Foreign Mission Committee was given in by Rev. Dr. Tweedie. The Report referred largely to the late crisis in India. The result of this would be the expansion, not the diminution of their Missionary efforts. Four missionaries were necessary to strengthen their staff at the present time. The Report in regard to finances was encouraging. The Committee had paid off all their debts and had £500 in hand. This was mainly owing to the formation of the associations. Mr. M. Mitchell, of Bombay, was introduced and addressed the assembly. Mr. Moffat, from Africa, also addressed the assembly.

The Report was cordially sustained, and the assembly resolved as soon as funds shall be supplied, to send four additional missionaries to India. It was also agreed to petition Parliament on the subject of the encouragement given to idolatry in India.

DEPUTATION FROM ENGLISH CHURCH.

The Rev. Dr. McErie, the Rev. Mr. Alexander, of Chelsea, and C. Stewart, Esq., appeared as a deputation from the English Presbyterian Church, and addressed the Assembly. The thanks of the Assembly were moved to the deputies in appropriate terms.

COLONIAL REPORT.

Dr. Bonar then gave in the Report of the Colonial Committee. He sketched the bounds of the vast colonial field of evangelistic labour, to which twenty-nine additional labourers have this year been added to the Committee. He referred in succession to the progress of the cause in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Canada, Honduras, West Indies, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, India, Mediterranean stations, &c. Dr. Bonar dwelt upon a variety of particulars, showing the amazing rapidity of the growth of the colonies. Having illustrated a number of other matters connected with the various stations in the colonies, he introduced to the Assembly—

Dr. Mackintosh Mackay, who was received with great applause, gave some striking statements illustrative of the vastness of the Australian territory, and the lofty destiny which seems to be before that country. He expressed his satisfaction with the decision of the General Assembly regarding the late differences in the Synod of Victoria, and felt great confidence that the unanimous decision of that House would be effectual in healing the breach. He described the paralyzing effects of the division, and deplored the weakness which it had brought upon them. He represented the extremely difficult circumstances in which the brethren in Australia were placed, and pled for the charitable judgment of the Church at home on any errors they may have committed. He considered that till they had the means of training their own ministers in Australia, they had done virtually nothing for perpetuating Presbyterianism in that magnificent region. If that were done, Presbyterianism, he could not doubt, would become a leading, if not the leading, branch of the Church in Australia. He concluded his brief but telling address amidst

great applause. Mr. Tait of Geelong addressed the assembly.

The adoption of the Report was moved by Dr. Hetherington in impressive terms, and the thanks of the Assembly given to Dr. McKay and Mr. Tait.

Reports were also given in on Sabbath Schools, Sabbath Observance, Temperance, and various other subjects. Before the rising of the assembly the subject of the Revival of religion again engaged their attention, and there was another season of conference and prayer.

There were several appeals, &c., before assembly arising from cases of discipline. To these we do not think it necessary to refer. We may only state that in connexion with one of these there was an attempt to obtain an *interdict* from the Court of Session but without success. The minister who resorted to this course was deposed from the office of the ministry.

The business of the assembly being concluded, the Moderator addressed the House in suitable terms, and closed the assembly with the usual form.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ESTABLISHED CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

The General Assembly of the Established Church met at Edinburgh on the 20th May, the Earl of Mansfield being Lord High Commissioner, and was opened with the usual formalities. Dr. Leishman, of Govan, was appointed successor to Dr. Robertson in the Moderatorship. We note below some of the items of business transacted.

CONVERSION OF THE JEWS.

The Report on the conversion of the Jews was given in by Professor Mitchell of St. Andrews. The Report referred to the operations carried on at Carlsruhe and at different stations in Turkey with greater or less success. The total income from all sources was £1,285, being a little more than last year. Mr. Sutter, Missionary from Carlsruhe addressed the assembly. The Report was received and adopted.

HOME MISSIONS.

The Report of the Committee on Home Missions was given in by the Rev. Dr. Simpson, Convener. The Report referred to the operations of the Committee, which have been fully sustained, and to various other points, such as funds, grants of money for Church building, aiding unwedded Churches, and the employment of Probationers as Missionaries. The Report referred to several localities where missionary operations had been carried on with marked success. The Report was adopted and the thanks of the assembly tendered to the Convener, Dr. Simpson.

KILMACOON CASE.

Our readers must have seen frequent reference in the newspapers to this case, which has been for a long time before the Church Courts. A presentation was issued to Rev. A. Leck, Paisley, to the Parish of Kilmacoon. Mr. Leck was, in accordance with the laws of the Church, appointed to preach in the Parish Church. Objections were given in by a number of the Parishioners on account of his lameness and an impediment in his utterance. The Presbytery after taking evidence sustained the validity of the objections. The case was then appealed to the Assembly. Two motions were brought forward, one by Dr. Muir, sustaining the decision of the Presbytery, and another by Mr. Brewster, of Paisley, reversing said decision, and appointing the Presentee to be settled as Minister of Kilmacoon. Mr. Brew-