

an heritor in Fife, £3000; Mrs. Bruce of Falkland, £500; Sir James Fergusson of Killykran, Bart., £500; Mr. Campbell of Blythswood, for churches in Paisley, £400; James Johnston, Esq., of Alva, £400; James Luamsden, Esq., Glasgow, £300; Thomas Erskine, Esq., £100; — Aitken, Esq., £200; — Knox, Esq., Glasgow, of Linnathin, £200; Peter White, Esq., Glasgow, £200; Edward S. Gordon, Esq., advocate, £100; the Earl of Leven and Melville, £200; (in all £9600 of special subscriptions); the total subscriptions for the year 1854-5 being thus £28,293, 13s.; and for the amount reported up to the Assembly of 1854 having been £165,907, 15s. 8d., the gross amount of subscriptions to the Scheme had now reached the sum of £194,201 8s. 8d.

Dr. Bisset, in the absence of Principal Lee, who had to withdraw on account of indisposition, moved that the report be approved of, and that the best thanks of the Assembly be given to Dr. Robertson and the committee. He said he believed that Dr. Robertson had brought qualities to the promotion of the scheme such as perhaps no other individual within the Church possessed. They could not forget the marvellous progress, under the most unfavourable circumstances, that this scheme had made, and how the rev. Doctor had hoped amidst the fears of others, and how with untiring energy he had prosecuted the work which enabled him this day to present so gratifying a report.

Professor Campbell, Aberdeen, seconded the motion.

Dr. Grant (who presided in the absence of the Moderator) conveyed the thanks of the house to Dr. Robertson and the committee. He adverted to the magnitude of the work, as requiring continued, vigorous, and sustained effort, and as being fitted only for one who was of sanguine temperament, and who would persevere amid discouragements. It was a work which had already achieved a large amount of good; but the reverend convener was but reaping the first fruits of the scheme—its harvest he would never see gathered. He was bestowing, from the very nature of the scheme, a boon on generations yet unborn, many of whom would yet rise up and call him blessed.

THE MISSIONARY RECORD.—Dr. Simpson read the report of the joint Committee on the Schemes, proposing some change in the arrangements of the *Missionary Record*, and in the other details for conducting the business of the Schemes.

Professor Swinton moved the approval of the Report.

The report was received, and the committee reappointed.

THE GAELIC SCRIPTURES.—Dr. Colvin Smith, Inverary, gave in a report from the Committee of Assembly on the Gaelic Scriptures. The Committee stated that they had the present version of these Scriptures under their consideration, and had made various alterations in the translation, with the view

of making the present authorized version more accurate. The alterations, however, were not very numerous, and a specimen-sheet, showing the alterations made on several books of the Old Testament, was submitted for the inspection of the Assembly. The Committee trusted that they would soon, if re-appointed, be able to report that the whole Gaelic Scriptures had been subject to the same revision.

Dr. Norman McLeod thought the Assembly were under great obligations to the Convener of the Committee. He had brought to the work of revising the Gaelic Scriptures an intimate knowledge of the language, and there was no individual more capable than he was of terminating the task successfully. The rev. Doctor called the attention of the Assembly to the want of any authorized party to superintend the printing of editions of the Gaelic Bible, in consequence of which any person was at liberty to print them; and the danger was, that the text might thereby get corrupted.

Dr. Hill expressed the sense which was entertained of the value of the Committee's services, and moved their re-appointment, with instructions to them to apply, if they thought necessary, to Government, with the view of getting a competent party to superintend the authorized version of the Gaelic Scriptures.

The motion was agreed to, and the Committee re-appointed.

CHAPEL DEBTS.—Professor Swinton gave in a report from the Committee for the Liquidation of Chapel Debts. It stated that, independent of the munificent bequest of £2000 from the late Mr. Macfie, £1100 of income had been realised.

Dr. Hill moved the adoption of the report, and that the Assembly give instructions in terms of the committee's recommendation; which was seconded by Mr. Cheyne, and agreed to.

INDIAN CHURCHES.—Dr. Bryce made a brief verbal report on this subject. The committee had addressed a representation to the Marquis of Dalhousie, founded on evidence recently taken before the House of Commons, as to having an increased number of Scotch chaplains in India; and they are now waiting an answer to the communication. Dr. Bryce also mentioned that the Presbyterian bodies at Madras, which, in conformity with an act of last General Assembly, had formed themselves into a Presbytery, wished to have from this Assembly some official recognition.

The report was approved of.

LIBRARY OF THE CHURCH.—Principal Lee verbally reported, that for the want of funds, many valuable works that would have been of use to the library could not be purchased. He thought it desirable, however, that the Committee should be kept up, and mentioned a number of instances in which they had proved of much service. The committee was re-appointed.

SPIRITUAL SUPERINTENDENCE OF STUDENTS.—Dr. Cook, Haddington, gave in a report

stating the amount and character of the spiritual provisions made for students at the different Universities.

Principal Lee moved the approval of the Report, and that the committee be re-appointed to suggest and carry out such means as would conduce to proper pastoral superintendence of the students.

Professor Macpherson seconded the motion, which was approved of.

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO THE CHURCH.—The Assembly then took up the application of the Rev. James Dickson for re-admission to the Church of Scotland. The applicant stated that he received license from the Church of Scotland, and that previous to 1843 he was appointed assistant minister of Marytown, Presbytery of Brechin, very much on account of his connection with that parish, but having, during a period of mental excitement, and restricted freedom of action, pledged himself in the event of a Disruption—which event he had sincerely hoped to the very last might be averted—to leave the Church of Scotland, he left the Church in 1843, and became minister of Marytown in connection with the Free Church. The petitioner was not satisfied previous to the Disruption with the principles of the Church on the subject of patronage, but any exception he could take to it on that point had been removed by the declaratory Act of 1844, (Lord Aberdeen's Act.) He had all along been conscious that, by his withdrawal from the Established Church, he had placed himself in a false position—a position in which it was easier to become more deeply involved than to get out. He had, in fact, undergone a ten years' conflict between a sense of duty and a desire for consistency, and he had long been reluctant to acknowledge his fault; which, however, he now did. Various documents were produced, testifying to the good character of the petitioner, and to his having demitted his charge at Marytown from ill health in 1849, and to his subsequently having ceased to have any connection with the Free Church.

Principal Lee said it had long been the practice to require some term of probation from ministers from dissenting bodies coming forward and asking admission to this Church.

Dr. Craik moved that the Presbytery be called on to give in their report to the first meeting of the Commission, which should be authorised to decide the case.

Dr. Bisset seconded the motion, and thought they should throw no unreasonable obstruction in the way of receiving Mr. Dickson. He believed he had made a statement which not a few in the Free Church might also make—that he had been outtrapped.

Dr. Craik's motion was agreed to.

The Assembly then took up the application of the Rev. W. Strauchon, late minister at Gibraltar, in connection with the Free Church, on which case the committee reported that it was informally made, and that it must come through the Presbytery