

the improvement is as thorough as it ought to be. We are still slow to respond to the call of Christ and to make sacrifices for his cause. How many congregations do little or nothing for our Home Missions, our Educational Schemes and our Foreign Missions; and, what is still more profoundly sad to contemplate, how many starve their own ministers, and by an ill judged and cruel penuriousness deprive themselves of the ordinances of grace!

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN SYNOD.

EVERYTHING connected with the late meeting of the Supreme Court of this denomination indicated vigorous action, great and healthy progress, and a determination on the part of the Church to spend and be spent in the work Christ has given her to perform. The attendance was larger than on any previous occasion; more business was disposed of in less time, and the speeches would compare favourably with those delivered in either the Free or Established Assemblies.

The Synod met on the 13th May. Dr. Robson of Glasgow was elected Moderator. We cannot give even an outline of all the business transacted—we can only indicate the salient points:—

STATISTICS OF THE CHURCH.—Number of communicants, 165,566. Accessions during the year, 4682. Baptisms, 9587. Of these, 94 were adults. Amount raised over the Church for strictly congregational purposes, £157,627 13s. 1½d. For missionary and benevolent purposes, £40,152 9s. 4d. The sum of £46,000 was raised during 1860 for liquidating debt on churches. The amount raised for stipends was £78,387. Average contribution for all purposes by each member, £1 3s. 10¾d. Each congregation raised on an average £366 13s. 9d. There are 942 Sabbath Schools in connexion with the Church. These are sustained by 8719 teachers, and attended by 68,854 children. Fifty-six congregations had made no returns to the Statistical Committees;—a few through inadvertence, and a few through wilful neglect. The number of prayer-meetings held was no less than 1632, which would give more than two for each congregation. Aggregate attendance at these, 43,970. The entire income of the Church for 1860 was £197,780. This shows an advance of nearly £50,000 in ten years.

DEBT EXTINCTION.—Nothing clogs the operations of a Church more disastrously than to have its buildings encumbered with debt. One cause of the great success of the Free Church of Scotland is that its churches and manses are free from the millstone of debt. The United Presbyterian Church has put forth noble efforts within the last four years to secure to itself a position of financial independence. Since 1857 no less a sum than £182,278 has been raised by 483 congregations for the purpose of wiping out old debts. The scheme is to be prosecuted with unabated vigor till every congregation is relieved.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.—An able debate arose on the proposal to have a representative General Assembly. The elders seemed especially desirous of change in this respect. At last a large Committee was appointed to consider the subject and report to next Synod.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.—The United Presbyterian Church has Missions in Jamaica, Trinidad, Old Calabar, Caffraria, Algiers, Altona, Hamburgh, Aleppo, India, and Australia. The amount expended in support of these is £15,206. The total income for Home and Foreign Missions during the year amounted