

the community, and the whole course of instruction therein being based upon, and thoroughly imbued with, religion.

A long and able report was then read by Professor Esson, on the principles which should regulate the admission of students to the theological course—and on the course of study to be pursued by them. This report, after some discussion, was referred to the College Committee, with authority to draft by-laws and rules for the admission of students; and, in the meantime, to determine the status and course of study of students and entrants, according to the attainments in learning and other qualifications apparent on examination and inquiry in each particular case. The following members were appointed to constitute the College Committee for the year, viz.:—The Moderator of Synod; Mr. Rintoul, (Convener); Messrs. Gale, Stark, Cheyne, Harris, Roger, Reid, Alexander, Hamilton, Leishman, and Clugston, ministers; and Messrs. Redpath, Westland, Paterson, Burns, and Davidson, elders; Dr. Burns, Professor Esson, and Mr. McMurrich (the College Treasurer) being members of the committee *ex-officio*. The quorum of the committee for ordinary business is seven.

A report of the Committee on Accounts, in regard to collections throughout the Church, in support of the College, Foreign Missions, Home Missions, &c., was next considered, and appointments made, which we are unable to specify at present. They will be fully given in our next No. We may state, however, that it was unanimously agreed to recommend a collection to be made this year in all the congregations, in behalf of the French Canadian Missionary Society, to be applied in aid of the building fund of the Educational Institute, which that Society is about to establish near Montreal.

The subject of the Synod fund, which is established mainly for defraying the expenses incurred in conducting the business of the Church, was also brought under consideration by a report from the Committee on Accounts. Various modes of sustaining this fund have been in use, none of them very satisfactory or efficient; and it was resolved that the standing Committee on Accounts be authorized to prepare an estimate of the necessary expenditure, and to raise the amount required to meet it by an equitable assessment on the several organized congregations of the Church, through the proper office-bearers in each.

The Commission and Home Mission Committee were then appointed. The names in both cases will be given in our next No.

Two stated meetings of the Commission were fixed—both to be held at Toronto—for the convenience of College business: the one on the first Wednesday of October; the other on the first Wednesday of February; and it was especially enjoined on Presbyteries that they take effectual measures for securing the attendance of one or more of their members at each of these meetings. Adjournments of the Commission, except from day to day, were ordered to be discontinued. A Committee was also appointed to examine and settle, on behalf of the Synod, the accounts connected with the publication of the *Ecclesiastical and Missionary Record*, and to superintend the publication during the year. Their names are as follows:—Mr. Gale (Convener), Messrs. Stark and Cheyne, ministers; and Messrs. Ewen, Miller, and Colville, elders.

The thanks of the Synod were moved to christian friends in Hamilton, for their hospitality; the members of Synod, both ministers and elders, having, with scarcely an exception, been cordially welcomed and entertained by private families in the town. The ample accommodation afforded to the Synod and its committees for the transaction of business, through the arrangements of the office-bearers of Knox's Church, Hamilton, was also duly acknowledged.

The next meeting of Synod was appointed to be held at Kingston, on the first Wednesday of June, 1847.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

IRELAND.—The speech of Dr. Carlile, one of the deputies from the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, we regard as of very great importance.—There may be some variety of opinion

on the minor points raised by the speaker, but none on the great question which the speech embraces,—the deplorable state of Ireland, as still sunk in the delusions of Popery; the means which such a state of matters must necessarily imply, not on the part of the only, but on all her colonies. The responsibility resting on the Protestant Churches of the empire to undertake the reformation of Ireland; and the most likely means for extending this great blessing to her. Dr. Cunningham, in seconding a motion of thanks to the deputy, called to the guilt resting on the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, and on all the Protestant Churches of Great Britain, for allowing such a state of matters to continue. The establishment of a mission in Ireland, he said, was a matter calling for special attention, but a matter of too great importance to be hastily determined upon, and one that must be left for future consideration. He stated, in fine, that the Free Church lay under obligations to the deprivation for the able manner in which the subject had been brought before them, and for having been put in possession of certain leading ideas, how the object of evangelizing Ireland might be accomplished.

ENGLAND.—Dr. Cunningham gave in his Report of his visit to the Presbyterian Church of England. He bore his testimony to the zeal with which the brethren in that country were labouring in their almost overwhelming work, and suggested that deputations, instead of being annual visits of ceremony, should be converted into Committees for deliberation and mutual consultation.

Professor Lorimer and Mr. Gardner next addressed the Assembly, detailing several interesting facts, showing the rapid spread of Presbyterianism in England. The date of its increase was the Disruption. At that time there were only two Presbyterian congregations in Liverpool; now there are four. At the Disruption there were only two congregations in Manchester; now there are five. Mr. Gardner was for six years the only Presbyterian minister in the county of Chester,—that county, in the capital of which Matthew Henry lived, now there are four Presbyterian ministers. When the Presbyterian College was opened in London, its supporters scarcely anticipated that it would be attended by half-a-dozen students; at present the attendance is upwards of twenty-seven. Mr. McNaughton, in moving the thanks of the house to the deputation, remarked, that the ministers in England should cease to look on themselves as stationed there only for the sake of Scotsmen located in that country, but for the whole population.

THE JEWS.—Dr. Keith read the Report on the Jewish Mission. The Report contained a great variety of interesting facts relative to the present state of the venerable people contemplated by the mission, and concluded with recommending that Mr. Bonar of Collyer should be missioned for three years to the Spanish Jews resident in Constantinople, and that the Committee be empowered to fix on other ministers as his fellow-labourers. Mr. Gray, in supporting this recommendation, stated, that our Jewish Missions required immediate strengthening,—that we had only five missionaries in the Jewish field, and not fewer than fifteen in the Gentile field; while the fact was, that we had as many stations in the former field as in the latter. Dr. Duncan, while allowing the poverty at home as regards labourers, thought we should abound in the riches of our liberality, that we ought to send out not only good men, but our very best men, men who were of tried experience, the old to give the junior missionaries the benefit of their experience, and the young to aid their seniors by their energy and enthusiasm. The recommendation of the Report was adopted by the Assembly.

THE CONTINENTAL CHURCHES.—Mr. Lorimer read the Report of the Continental Churches. The Report, in adverting briefly to the religious state of France, took notice, in particular, of the noble testimony borne by Count de Gasparin in the Chamber of Peers to the indestructible power of religious principle. Lyons, in point of political importance, is the second city of France, and in ecclesiastical affairs is the first. The Committee have entered into an arrangement for having one of the faithful ministers of the Canton de Vaud settled there. As regards Germany, the Committee regret to hear that M. Czerski had a-

greed to make common cause with the rationalist party against Popery as a common enemy. Still, so far as the Committee had been able to learn, M. Czerski had not renounced the principles of Church government and Evangelical Christianity he had previously professed. The Report next adverts to the affairs of the Canton de Vaud, which are already well known to the public; and, in conclusion, called attention to the rapid and accelerating movement of an irreligious kind all over Christendom. Infidelity, Rationalism, Popery, and Calvinism, all were struggling for the ascendancy, which ought to be met by combined and vigorous efforts on the part of all lovers of the Lord Jesus to maintain and extend the truth.

Dr. Capalose, Count St. George, and two other friends were next introduced to the Assembly. Dr. Capalose addressed the Assembly in a long and very eloquent speech, in which he adverted first, to the position and prospects of the Free Church; and second, to the state of God's ancient people.

COLONIAL CHURCHES.

"The General Assembly having heard the Report of the Colonial Committee, and having been addressed by the Rev. James Begg and Alexander Somerville, who had both visited Canada since last Assembly, by appointment of the Committee, and also the Rev. John Mackail, late minister at Malta, cordially approve of the Report, and did, and hereby do, adopt the same; re-appoint the Committee with their former powers and instructions, Dr. Buchanan, Convener. The General Assembly are particularly impressed with the necessity of rearing a native ministry for the different Colonies, and they rejoice in the prosperity of the New College at Toronto, and instruct the Committee to give it every encouragement in their power; and, further, with the view of providing an Educational Seminary for Nova Scotia and adjoining Provinces, the Assembly recommend the Committee to correspond and co-operate with the Presbyteries of these provinces in regard to the means by which this may be best carried into effect.—The General Assembly deem it most desirable, if not essential, to the permanent well-being of the Church in these provinces, that a well-adjusted system for supporting the ministry should be adopted; and they instruct the Committee to turn their earliest and most serious attention to this subject, and to issue an address both to the Church and the people in the colonies, urging it on their consideration in the strongest and most affectionate terms. Further, the General Assembly sympathize with the faithful brethren in Australia, who, surrounded by so many difficulties, have declared their determination to adhere to the principles of the Free Church; and they instruct the Committee to take the interest of this colony into their special consideration, and make the best provision which circumstances may permit for meeting their spiritual wants."

BOARD OF MISSIONS.—"Last year the total sum contributed for our Missionary and Educational Schemes was £34,301, as reported, including £2674 for Nagapore, which makes the real revenue of the year £35,526. This year the revenue amounts to no less than £43,354 3s. 9½d. Thus making an increase on the whole year, of £7827 7s. 7½d. But there come to be added to this the sums contributed to other Missionary and Educational objects, making a total for the year of £76,599 11s. 5½d.

CALCUTTA, 12th June, 1846.

MY DEAR SIR:

The following is the substance of an Address on the views held forty years ago in the General Associate Synod of Scotland, respecting the management of the Temporalities of the Church by her Office-Bearers as Deacons, and respecting the duties peculiar to the Deaconship. They are in accordance with the Standards of the Church of Scotland in her purest times. I believe the same views are maintained still in the United Secession Church. The paper from which I make my extracts was an official document, being addressed by a Presbytery to a Congregation; and I have given it with little abridgement, and only with such slight alterations as were necessary to free it