

FOURTEENTH SEDERUNT.

On the same day, and at the same place, at half-past seven o'clock in the evening:—

The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with devotional exercises, prayer being offered, at the request of the Moderator, by Dr. Reid.

The Minutes of the last Sederunt were read and sustained.

HOME MISSION COMMITTEE—WESTERN SECTION.

Mr. R. H. Warden asked and obtained leave for the Home Mission Committee (Western Section) to meet for business, for some time during this Sederunt of the Assembly.

STATE OF RELIGION—REPORT.

The Assembly called for the Report of the Committee on the State of Religion. The Report was presented and read by Mr. D. D. McLeod, for Dr. James, the Convener of the Committee. On motion of Mr. D. D. McLeod, duly seconded, it was agreed to receive the Report and consider its recommendations. The first and second recommendations were read and adopted. The third recommendation was read as follows:—3. That instead of sending out printed queries as heretofore, each Presbytery appoint its own Committee on the State of Religion, whose duty it shall be to collect information on this subject within its own bounds, and report as previously to the Conveners of Synodical Committees, and they in turn, to the Convener of the General Assembly's Committee. It was moved by Mr. John Thompson, and duly seconded, that this recommendation be adopted. It was moved in amendment by Mr. W. Meikle, and seconded:—That we deem it more prudent in the present circumstances to issue queries by the Committee appointed by the General Assembly. It was moved in amendment to the amendment by Mr. Neil MacKay, and seconded:—That the Committee issue questions as usual, and that Presbyteries be instructed to add any queries they may think necessary. Votes were taken on the two amendments, and on the main motion, when the amendments were negatived, and the recommendation as submitted was adopted. The fourth recommendation was read and adopted. The recommendations adopted, severally, were now adopted as a whole, and are as follows:—

1. That the Presbyteries be enjoined to secure returns from every Session.
2. That the religious conditions of the congregations be carefully watched over, and be made the subject of investigation by the Presbyteries, as circumstances may seem to them to require.

3. That instead of sending out printed queries, as heretofore, each Presbytery appoint its own Committee on the State of Religion, whose duty it shall be to collect information on this subject within its own bounds, and report as formerly to the Conveners of Synodical Committees, and they in turn, to the General Assembly's Committee.

4. That at all times in the services of the Church, as well as in the houses of the people, earnest prayer be offered for the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit upon the membership of the Church, and upon all those who are labouring under her oversight for the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom.

It was moved by Mr. John Thompson, seconded by Mr. Thomas Goldsmith, and carried:—That the Assembly adopt the Report as a whole, and that the thanks of the Assembly be tendered to the Committee, and especially to the Convener, and also to Mr. D. D. McLeod, for the excellent services rendered by them on this important subject.

TEMPERANCE.

The Assembly called for the Report of the Committee on Temperance. The Report was presented and read for the Convener, Mr. James McCaul, by Mr. W. A. MacKay, of