

valuable, it was agreed that another Committee be appointed.

Rev. Mr. Baxter then read the Report of the Committee on Colportage, by which it appeared that they had purchased, during the year, 8032 volumes, which had been circulated in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. An attempt had been made to circulate our books in Cape Breton, which at first had failed, but there were now greater prospects of success. Our colporteurs had uniformly meet with much kindness from the Presbyterian population. They had on the whole, great reason to be encouraged, though called to meet the rivalry of private speculators, who too frequently pandered to the vitiated tastes of the community, by circulating books of an injurious, or, at least, useless character. Since July last \$2,515 worth of books had been purchased, and \$1,800 had been remitted. Since the commencement of the enterprise in 1852 the value of the books purchased has been £2,040 15s. 3d., and the number of books purchased 23,519.

The Report was pronounced extremely gratifying, and was received *nem cop.*

Same day, at 3 o'clock, an overture from Rev. Wm. McGulloch on Baptism was read, stating that the practice of the Church in reference to this ordinance has been at variance with her principles, which forbid the administration of baptism to any but the children of Church members, and which are plainly in accordance with the word of God. To administer it to others is a departure from the teachings of the Great Head of the Church, a violence to the conscience of the minister, who knows that the person receiving it will not perform his vows, and a wrong done to the recipient himself in lowering the standard of duty for his sake. The practice of promiscuous baptism by some of our ministers weakens the hearts of others who act differently, and lessens their influence; it leads to a superstitious veneration for the ordinance; and, from its many evil results, has tended very much to facilitate the progress of Antipedo Baptists. This overture was discussed at great length,

all the speakers seeming to admit the abstract impropriety of the practice, while it evidently appeared that the subject was attended by some difficulties. It was at length agreed, almost unanimously, that ministers be enjoined to administer baptism to none but those who should make public profession of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and their children.

In the evening, Rev James Byers delivered to a very considerable audience an interesting lecture on the rise, progress, and probable prospects of Mohammedanism. In the character of Arabia and its people, and the circumstances of the times in which it arose, together with the indomitable perseverance and enthusiasm of its founder, he traced the secondary causes of its success. He sketched graphically its subsequent progress, and the wide extent of its dominion. He pointed out the discrepancies which marked the statements of travellers as to its present condition; and showed that its extremities exhibited proofs of vitality even while its centre seemed approaching dissolution. On the whole, however, in the estimation of the Lecturer, it was evident that Islamism was destined soon to fall before the missionaries of the Cross.

FRIDAY, June 23.

The Morning Sederunt was principally occupied with a discussion of a motion introduced by Mr Sedgewick for holding friendly intercourse with the other Presbyterian Synods. No objections were raised to the object contemplated, but some members doubted the wisdom of taking any steps in the present state of matters. Ultimately it was unanimously agreed to appoint a committee to consider the best means of securing the end in view, the said committee to report at an early sederunt.

The afternoon Sederunt was chiefly occupied in receiving the Reports of the Home and Foreign Mission Board.

From the Report of the Home Mission Board it appeared that the labors of 233 Sabbaths had been expended in the home field during the year:—that in addition to stations formerly supplied, several new stations had been visited by preachers and probationers;—that the services of preachers have been generally well received and highly appreciated;—and that in many of the stations there are now fair prospects of forming self-sustaining congregations.