

England. The committee regret to say the petition was unsuccessful.

**THE FUNDS.**—During the past year the expenditure has reached £5214 9s 11d, as compared with £4824 4s 1d, in 1866-67.—Notwithstanding this expenditure, including the large special contribution of £500 in aid of the British Columbia Mission, the committee are able to report that their funds are on the whole in a satisfactory state. The collections considerably exceed those of 1866-67, and this notwithstanding the large special subscription of £600 in aid of the Church Building Fund in British Columbia. The following statement gives a comparative view of the receipts of the last two years:—

	1866-67.	1867-68.
Collections	£3477 6 6	£3636 13 0
Other sources	968 14 4	1378 8 6
Total	£4446 0 10	£5015 1 6

The draft minute of the committee suggesting certain alterations in the principle of giving aid to the Colonial Church, has received the consideration of the various synods. Little has been done to meet the wishes of the committee in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia; but in Canada a Committee of Correspondence has been appointed by the Synod, authorized to communicate with the Colonial Committee on the one hand, and colonial Presbyteries on the other, as to grants. This arrangement has been already of much service to the Colonial Committee, and it must give the Church—as it gives them—largely increased confidence that none of the means supplied by the Church at home are misapplied in the Colonies. At the same time, while acknowledging the advantage of the step taken by the Synod of Canada, the Committee hope ere long to be able to report that the draft minute has been adopted in its entirety, and that the contributions of the Home Church are met by similar contributions from central funds in the colonies.

#### THE IRISH CHURCH QUESTION.

Dr. COOK (Clerk) read the following overture:—"It is humbly overturned, by the undersigned, that the Venerable the Gen. Assembly of the Church of Scotland petition Parliament against the disestablishing the Irish branch of the United Church of England and Ireland, as injuriously affecting the honour and security of the Crown, subversive of the faith of treaties, a great discouragement of the Protestant religion, and striking at the root of the sacred principle by which Christian States have hitherto felt themselves bound to encourage and support the truth." (Signed by thirty-nine members of Assembly.)

Mr. CAMPBELL SWINTON then rose and said—I have now to propose, in a very few words—for I really do not think it is a matter that requires much discussion—a motion which I think ought to follow this overture

—namely, that this Assembly petition both Houses of Parliament against the proposal to disestablish the Irish Church, which is a branch of the United Church of England and Ireland. (Applause.) I must say that it is difficult for me to understand how the pacification of Ireland is to be brought about by the disestablishment of the Protestant religion in that country. (Loud applause.) Was the disestablishment of this Church to be thrown out as a kind of cure to soothe the savage spirit of Fenianism? (Laughter.) While it is not necessary for us to enter into the measures that might be introduced into the Church of Ireland to improve that institution, I cannot help saying that there are means which might be adopted for strengthening, increasing, purifying, and elevating that institution without seeking its total destruction. (Applause.) The people in Ireland do not complain of the Established Church as an evil—(applause)—and what I propose is that we should approach the Legislature with a petition against proposed disendowment, because it would be highly injurious to the support and protection of Protestant truth in Ireland; and because it is a direct attack on the Established principle which hitherto in this country has connected the Church and State, and been a solemn recognition of the duty of our rulers to acknowledge the Christian religion as the moving principle of their action, and one of the recognized principles of the constitution. (Loud applause.) We hear of parishes in which the number of Protestants is very few and poor, and very much scattered but this is the very reason why a Protestant pastor should be left living among them. If so poor, how are they to maintain a minister for themselves? It is an absolute necessity, if we do not want to have them absorbed by the Papal influence by which they are surrounded, and to have them merged in and become members of the Roman Catholic Church itself, to continue to maintain a zealous and active Protestant ministry in every parish. I trust that our friends in Scotland, especially those who are so zealous as the opponents of Popery, will now know that they are mistaken in supposing that no alternative was before them except between indiscriminate endowment and total disendowment; and that, their minds having been disabused of this error, they shall come back, to the old track, and not join their Roman Catholic, now friends, hitherto opponents, in an attack upon the Protestant institution of that land. ("Hear, hear," and applause.) I maintain that Ireland must either be treated as an integral part of the British dominions, or treated as a separate dependency. Hitherto the anxiety of our Irish friends has always been to be treated as an integral part of the empire. What, then, becomes of the argument that the Protestants are in the minority? or what becomes of the argument