

those parochial schools which, in their union with the Church, have for so many generations ministered to the promotion both of the learning and the piety of the Scottish people. Nay its objects are more ambitious and more destructive still. It is working for the overthrow of the Church of our fathers as a national institute. Influenced by this spirit, not a few openly proclaim, Raze her, raze her; while others seek by blandishing words to deceive us, and so spring a mine under her battlements, and such is the little confidence, which past experience proves we can repose in our Legislative Assemblies, that it is, if not probable, yet far within the limits of possibility, that, as a National or Established Church, our candlestick may be removed. Other dangers hanging over the Church might be enumerated, but enough has been said to warrant my assertion that lowering at present, and ominous of impending storm, is the sky above our heads.

But, Fathers and Brethren, while the circumstances are many that are fitted to excite anxiety or apprehension, there are at the same time not a few calculated to awaken hope and trust, and so to encourage us to go on steadfastly and zealously in the discharge of our duties to the Church and its great Head.

The harmony by which the proceedings of this General Assembly were, speaking generally, characterised, prevails over the Church to an extent which, I believe, it never before reached. Party spirit is among the things that were. The two parties into which the office-bearers of the Church were formerly divided have now become, so to speak, bone of each other's bone and flesh of each other's flesh. We have come to understand each other. We have learned that we do not differ from each other to the extent that aforesaid we apprehended we did. We meet in our judicatories as men who have the same great object in view, and are, most frequently at least, at one as to the means to be employed for the accomplishment of it. When we differ, we judge each other in the spirit of charity and candour. The wranglings of former days, grating to the ears and wormwood to the soul, are sounds well-nigh unknown; may we not hope that this is the result of the Spirit of grace, and may be regarded as an encouraging circumstance, a token of the favour of God.

Fathers and Brethren—The greater interest that is now taken throughout the Church in our Schemes of Christian benevolence must be looked upon surely as a farther indication of our being regarded with favour by Him who alone can make His people willing in the day of His power, who alone can infuse into us a missionary spirit, and make us part earnestly for the advancement of His glory. True it may be that, in consequence of particular circumstances, the contributions of last year fell somewhat short; but no one who mixes with mankind can hesitate to believe that among the adherents of the Church of Scotland there is a growing anxiety as to the salvation of others. This can have come only from God. Let us rejoice and be glad in the proof it furnishes that He is watching over us for good.

I might mention many other circumstances indicative, as I think we may without presumption say, of the favour with which, notwithstanding our unworthiness, God regards us as a Church of His Son. But I forbear; and I now proceed very briefly (availing myself of the position I occupy), to give you a few directions as to the manner in which your exertions for the defence of the Church of our Fathers in her present embarrassing circumstances ought to be made.

Fathers and Brethren—On this subject I cannot be very particular, nor should I wish to assume the attitude of dogmatism. Different minds will take different views of a subject; and besides what is suitable in one parish may be very much unadapted to another—a line of conduct which might be expediently followed in one case may be attended with disastrous results to pursue under different circumstances;—a wise discretion—the spirit of a sound mind (to use the Apostle's phrase) must be exercised by us, as if we would either ward off evil or effect good. In regard to all those matters, respecting which the Divine Word has

not tied us down either by its general principles or by its particular precepts (and many such there are), we must, combining the wisdom of the serpent with the harmlessness of the dove, adapt the mode of our procedure in our endeavours to do good to the circumstances in which we are placed, and the people on whom we desire beneficially to operate; and, taking these views, I feel it would ill become me either to be very particular in what I am to say, or to address you in a tone of dictation.

Let me urge it upon you sedulously to guard against your being charged or being chargeable with being agitators. It is not great platform demonstrations, or public argumentative discussions, and controversial meetings, but the quiet, steady, faithful, affectionate, and (toward those who are without) tolerant discharge of our professional duties in the Church and private dwelling that will effect the object, the high and holy object that we have in view; and my concluding counsel to you is so to deport yourselves as ministers of the Lord Jesus Christ that others may know your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all saints, so that "the communication of your faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus."

Fathers and Brethren—Can I close and bid you farewell without tendering to you from the very depths of my heart my thanks for the honour you have done me in placing me in the Chair that I am now about to vacate. For my errors into which I may have fallen I ask your forgiveness; for your indulgence and support of me I offer you my tribute of grateful feeling.

I feel myself knit to you all by the ties of gratitude and affection. "May the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another and toward all men: to the end He may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of peace and love shall be with you."

The Moderator then dissolved the Assembly in the usual form and announced that the next General Assembly would be held on Thursday, the 22d May, 1856. He then briefly addressed His Grace the Lord High Commissioner, thanking him for the courtesy and hospitality which he had extended to the members.

His Grace, having shortly acknowledged the address of the Moderator, dissolved the Assembly in the name of the Sovereign, and appointed the next General Assembly to meet on the day above named.

After praying and praise the Moderator pronounced the benediction and the Assembly broke up about 24 A.M.

COMMISSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

The stated meeting of the Commission took place yesterday at 12 o'clock noon. It was unanimously agreed to issue a pastoral letter to the people of Scotland in reference to the War.

There being no other business before it, the Commission then adjourned.

P. S.—Several interesting communications, some of them recently received, are unavoidably postponed.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED SINCE OUR LAST PUBLICATION.

Rev. J. Brown, New Market, 1855	0	2	6
Peter Nichol, Aurora, P. O., 1855	0	2	6
And. Jameson, Vaughan, 1855	0	2	6
David Gillespie, Montreal, 1855	0	2	6
John Morrison, Seymour, 1854-5	0	5	0
J. Marshall, St. Eustache, 1855	0	2	6
Mrs. J. Turnbull, Montreal, 1855	0	2	6
Lawrence Glass, Brockville, 1854-5	0	5	0
J. M. Browning, Beauharnois, 1854-5	0	5	0
W. McKenzie Ross, Chatham, C.W. 1855	0	2	6
A. McCrae, Lachine, 1854-5	0	5	0

John McLennan, Lancaster, 1855	0	2	6
J. G. Luckeroff, Three Rivers, 1855	0	2	6
John Howlston " 1855	0	2	6
Mr. Stephenson, Dunham, 1854-5	0	5	0
John Jardine, Brockville, 1855-6	0	5	0
D. C. P. Thompson, St. John's, C. E. 1855-6	0	5	0
Robert W. Suter, Dundas, 1855-6	0	5	0
Rev. R. F. Burns, St. Catharines, 1851-2-3-4-5	0	12	6
James Morison, Cobourg, 1852-3-4-5	0	10	0
Thomas Steel, Shipton, C. E., 1855-6	0	5	0
Ab. Johnston, Kitley, 1855	0	2	6
Mr. Hayden, William Henry, 1854-5	0	5	0
Duncan Campbell Chatham, C.W. 1855	0	2	6
Dun. McMillan, " " 1855	0	2	6
Rev. G. Weir, Kingston, 1855	0	2	6
Messrs. Jarline & Co., St. Johns, N. B.	0	2	6
Wm. Mathieson, Rupert,	0	7	6
Andrew Wilson, Toronto,	0	2	6
John Watson, Toronto,	0	7	6
James Paterson, Streetsville,	0	2	6
Alex. Mustard, Markham, 1855	0	2	6
Jacob Wales, Aurora,	0	2	6
Peter Morgan, Toronto,	0	12	6
James Benning, St. Louis de Gonzague, 1856-6	0	5	0

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