

quired in order to success. Before this can be attained, however, it must be seen and felt by every Christian, that the end in view is worth the thought and the action needed. We commend the whole subject to your serious and prayerful consideration. The Christian is encouraged in the Divine Word to "sow bountifully," by the promise that he shall "reap also bountifully." He is assured that "God loveth a cheerful giver," and in conformity with this intimation, the ministers of Christ are commissioned to "charge those that are rich in this world that they be ready to distribute, willing to communicate." "To do good and to communicate, forget not," is the common rule for high and low. Let Christians of every denomination try their liberality by this test, and then ask their conscience if it is "with such sacrifices that God is well pleased!"

In name of the Committee,

JAMES SHAW, *Coureur.*

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND.

The annual meeting of this Court took place at Belfast on the 4th inst. Dr. Molyneux, of Larne, the retiring Moderator, preached a sermon from Deut. vi. 4. The Rev. David Hamilton, of Belfast, was elected Moderator. We shall briefly notice the leading subjects in the order in which they were taken up by the Assembly.

**National Education Question.**—This subject occupied the attention of the Assembly, in connection with rumours of certain contemplated changes in the administration of the scheme. It was understood that paid commissioners were to be proposed, in place of the present, and the Assembly resolved to use every effort to have one or more of the commissioners to represent the Presbyterian body. Several members of the Assembly spoke strongly against another rumoured change, viz., giving grants to separate religious denominations. Dr. Brown and others spoke strongly in favour of the present plan.

**Correspondence with Foreign Churches.**—The Committee on this subject reported that they had held friendly correspondence with various foreign Churches in America and the Continent. A sum of £700 had been bequeathed, by a member of the Church, in support of Evangelical Protestantism on the continent. The report dwelt much on the present state of the Waldensian Church, and Mr. Bleckly, Dr. Kirkpatrick, and Dr. Houston, who spoke, directed their remarks chiefly to that most interesting community. It was strongly urged that a representative should be sent over to communicate their friendly and Christian regards to that Church.

**State of Religion.**—A full and interesting report on this subject was given in. It set forth that—

"The reports transmitted by the Synods to the Committee state that the way of salvation to perishing sinners is clearly taught from all our pulpits; that there does not appear amongst us any defection from the truth of the gospel; that the holy Scriptures are abundantly supplied to our people; that attendance on the public ordinances of religion is rather increasing; that Sabbath-school instruction is systematically and vigorously pursued over the whole church; that Congregational Sabbath-school libraries have been very generally established; and that, by means of popular lectures and addresses, delivered by our ministers, or occasionally by the private members of our church, scriptural subjects have been elucidated, and the bearings of the Word of God on many of our important se-

cular and social interests have been illustrated to large and attentive audiences. The minds of our people seem to be awake; a spirit of intelligent inquiry is abroad; and there appears to be a prevailing disposition to estimate opinions and practices, not by their antiquity, nor by the amount of human authority that supports them, but by their agreement or disagreement with the infallible standard of divine truth. The tone of popular sentiment on many of our great public questions is evidently improving; a deeper interest is evinced, from year to year, in all that concerns both the temporal and spiritual well-being of our fellow-men; a considerable number of our students, at the close of every collegiate session, offer themselves to be employed in the service of the Home Mission; and whilst unusual efforts are made by our own, as well as by every other section of the Protestant Church, for the evangelization of our native land, there is also manifested a growing desire to diffuse the knowledge of God to the ends of the earth."

In regard to saving results, the report stated that—

"On this subject our ministers report sparingly and cautiously. They often express themselves disappointed, and not a little discouraged, that their labours seem so ineffective in accomplishing the great end of the gospel ministry; they complain that they do not discern in the members of the Church that fervour of spirit, that desire and delight in devotional exercises, that converse and communion on spiritual subjects, that consistency of conduct and character, that zeal for the conversion of souls, which the Word of God, and the history of the Church in its best days, and of our own Presbyterian forefathers in this land warrant us to expect. They are not satisfied with the present state of things in the Church, and they long for the outpouring of the Spirit of God.

"Still, however, in the midst of many anxieties and perplexities, our ministers are sustained and comforted by observing, from time to time, among their flocks, some unquestionable tokens of the presence and power of divine grace."

The report further dwelt on the encouraging results of open-air preaching in various places; and in regard to hindrances to vital religion, after enlarging on Sabbath desecration, want of family religion, and intemperance, it added:

"The grand obstacle to the progress of vital religion in our own, as in all other sections of the Protestant Church, in the present day, is a besetting worldliness. Notwithstanding all the appliances and facilities provided by modern art and science for the despatch of business, men seem to have little time to look into the condition and prospects of their own souls, and still less to investigate and provide for the spiritual wants of others. Every one is running the full career of worldly business, or pleasure, or ambition; and, amidst the engrossing urgencies of time, is in danger of forgetting or neglecting the incomparably higher interests of eternity.

"One alarming form in which the power of the world appears in these times is, in diminishing our supplies of candidates for the office of the holy ministry."

The report concluded with the expression of earnest aspirations for a revival, and the outpouring of the Spirit of God.

**Sabbath Observance.**—The report mentioned some gratifying changes that had occurred on canals and railways in the better observance of the Sabbath, and referred to various measures that ought to be zealously advocated and encouraged.

**Home Mission.**—Dr. Edgar read the report of this Scheme. It entered into full details regarding both branches of the Scheme, the extension of divine ordinances to Presbyterians, and the conversion of Romanists. Both branches are in a prosperous state—particularly the latter. There are twenty-five missionary stations in dif-

ferent parts of Ireland. The report adverted very specially to the Birm Mission, and to the devoted labours there of the late distinguished Dr. Christie. The missions in Connaught occupied the largest share of the report. We subjoin one or two brief extracts—

"The Presbyterian mission-field, extending over 400 square miles of four counties in Connaught, where the Roman Catholic and Protestant population are as twenty to one, is occupied by eighteen ministers, officiating in thirty-two preaching stations, nine Scripture-readers, and thirty-five teachers; the average attendance on public worship being 1300, of whom 350 are Romanists; 1440 being in attendance on the schools, 870 of whom are Romanists, and the whole number who, in a few years, have passed through these schools being not less than 4480. What a change has been effected in Connaught since our missionaries commenced their labours! In the last two or three years, what an unexampled change! The old landlords displaced by others and hundreds of thousands of acres in new and better hands; the old hut, without window or chimney, gone, and its pauper tenant dead or hunted away; the old wages of sixpence a-day displaced by double the sum; the idleness that used to burrow in ashes, or dance at the pattern, or play ball at the illicit shebeen, banished in disgrace by the spade, the needle, and the loom. But the great change on Connaught is not seen in its new landlords or newly-imported settlers, in its myriads of black cattle and sheep, or its enormous cultivated farms. The great reformation, the invaluable change, is in the habits and morals of the people, and in changing the habits and morals of the people God has graciously permitted our missionaries to take a large and prosperous share. They see, with delight, day by day, industry, and cleanliness, and sobriety, and peace, and order; increasing among those around them; the Sabbath is sanctified, the house of God frequented, the household hearth made a sanctuary of God, and, amidst increasing light, and inquiry, and liberty, a goodly number have seen the errors, and deserted the altars, of the Church of Rome."

The following is the concluding sentence of the report:—

"Ireland is thus the battle field against Popery for Britain, and America, and all the world. Ireland has been too long more Roman than Rome. Romanism dying in the Pontine marshes—Romanism, stupid and torpid in Spain, is alive and active in Ireland, and very full of ill. Its evil influences are on every wind; its Maynooth priests are travelling pests on the road. If Great Britain and America would not be invaded by pestilence in the shape of Irish Popery, by every thing foul and destructive in the shape of Irish slaves of Rome, then, in Ireland, let them help the work of reformation. The stream is poisoned at the fountain-head. Let us go to it, like Elisha to the wells of Jericho, and, casting in the salt of truth, cry, in the name of the Lord God of Elijah—"Let there be no more death or barren land."

**Colonial Mission.**—The report of this Committee gave details of the labours of the various ministers and others who occupy spheres of labour in the colonies, chiefly North America and Australia. A considerable number have already been sent out, but the destitution is still very great, and very urgent appeals are made for additional labourers.

**Foreign Mission.**—The following tabular statement shows the state of the work at the different stations in India:—

#### RAJPOTE.

One Missionary—The Rev. A. D. Glasgow.  
One Native Assistant—Keshawar.  
A daily vernacular service at the mission-house.  
Two vernacular services on the Sabbath.  
One English service on the Sabbath.  
A weekly prayer-meeting.