

largely of his means both for the secular and religious education of the district. His wife is also equally devoted to the good work. I hope to see a mission station and christian congregation established there, as the result of their work of faith and labour of love. I ought to mention, however, that he is very mindful of us here too, although he resides some forty-seven miles from Kingston. This is emphatically a congregation of poor but respectable people. I have never known so large a church with so few people of wealth in it. Some of them however, are rich in faith and heirs of a glorious inheritance, and I have learned to value them very highly.

KINGSTON is the capital of Jamaica, and the mission there is of importance with relation to the whole island.

Mr. Downie writes as follows from Hampden :—

During the past year my experience, upon the whole, has been such as was well fitted to sustain and animate me in my extensive sphere of labour. Although the liberality of the people is yet far short of what I could wish to see it, the congregational receipts for 1868 show an advance of £85 over those of 1867. The attendance at the ordinary Sabbath service has, in favourable weather, been uniformly large; and the past year has witnessed a considerable addition to the Sabbath classes. A Sabbath school library was lately opened, and I have reason to believe that the circulation of the books has developed a taste for reading among many of the scholars. The meetings which I have held with the Sabbath school teachers have been seasons of much enjoyment; and the reading of an essay by one of their number has added a new feature of interest to the exercises. There are now four week-day schools connected with the congregation, and at two of them, the attendance during the year was as large as it has ever been. At Goodwill the number on the roll during one quarter was 166. In the course of the year I examined the scholars on their bible knowledge, and went over in this way a considerable part of the Old and New Testament narrative. In this department of my work a wide and promising field of usefulness was opened up. The interest which not a few of the young in the congregation have begun to exhibit in the subject of religion has been to me a source of much encouragement; and the hope may be entertained that some at least of these will, with the divine blessing, continue through life honoured and useful members of the Church. Altogether, the retrospect of the past year is fitted to awaken in my mind the apostolic sentiment, *'to thank God and take courage.'*

Free Church Assembly.

In our last we gave a brief account of the meeting of the United Presbyterian Synod. The Free Assembly met ten days later; Sir H. W. Moncrieff was chosen Moderator. The proceedings attracted much public attention. The Rev. Dr. Duff made a noble speech on Missions which occupied two and a half hours in delivery. The Sustentation Fund was in advance of any previous year, and afforded a dividend of £150 to all the ministers, and small extra sums to a large proportion of them. All the funds contributed during the year amounted to the splendid aggregate of £421,626 sterling.

Dr. Robt. Buchanan submitted the Union Committee's Report. Professor Fairbairn moved the following resolution with respect to it :—

"That the General Assembly receive the report, approve the diligence of the committee, and of the pains and labour they have bestowed upon the various and important heads of enquiry which it embraces; appoint the report to lie on the table till the Assembly of next year, and meanwhile, and in order to ripen the mind of the Church for such further action as may be called for in connection with the Union question, direct the report to be published for the information of all the office-bearers and members of the Church. That the Assembly re-appoint the committee with the former instructions, and in particular with the instruction to watch over the whole subject; and in the event of receiving from any quarter suggestions or information tending to throw additional light upon it, to bring up, if they shall see cause, a supplementary report to next Assembly. And, further, that being deeply alive to the heavy responsibility which must lie upon the Church in connection with the ultimate disposal of this Union question, and to the consequent and urgent need she has of Divine light and guidance, the Assembly exhort all her faithful people to abound in prayer to Almighty God that he may be pleased to bring all the courts and congregations of the Church to see eye to eye, and to be of one mind and of one heart regarding it; and, meanwhile, recommend them to cultivate fraternal intercourse, as means and opportunity may offer, with the office bearers, congregations, and members of the Churches concerned in these Union negotiations, and with all others who love in sincerity the Lord Jesus Christ."

Mr. Nixon, of Montrose, moved the fol-