

entire dependence upon the aid of the Holy Spirit.—*H. & F. M. Record.*

Protestant Alliance in Scotland.

At a late meeting of the Acting Committee on Popery, a letter was read addressed to the Convener of the Assembly's Committee, and signed by eighteen students in Divinity in the College of Edinburgh, stating their intention to form themselves into an Association for the study of the Popish controversy; and applying to the Committee for their countenance and advice.

The Committee unanimously resolve to record the high satisfaction which this letter has afforded them, and express their earnest hope that the young gentlemen who have taken the lead in this important matter will persevere and carry out their intention, so that when it shall please God to call them to the duties of the holy ministry, they may be found fully instructed in what cannot be regarded but as the great controversy of the day, and an intimate acquaintance with which will soon be considered an essential qualification for the office to which they aspire. The Committee further express their trust that this small number of students may form the nucleus of an important association, on the formation of which the Church of Scotland may, in after times, have reason to congratulate herself, and to remember with honour the names of those who originated it. They further resolve that every encouragement and assistance in the power of the Committee shall be heartily tendered; and direct that a copy of this minute be transmitted to the students in question.

This interesting Association has accordingly been formed, and most sincerely do we wish it God speed. The Popish controversy has been too long neglected by our own ministers and students. The Romish Church wisely avoids controversy as much as possible. It does not suit her to have her peculiar doctrines and practices dragged into the light of Scripture, common sense, and sound reason. Hence our ministers have too often contented themselves with despising, instead of assailing, the dogmas of the apostacy. Our own times, however, have taught us a different lesson, and we rejoice to find our future ministers seriously engaging in the study of a system, the continued prevalence of which, in this enlightened age, must appear, to those who despise the arguments by which it is defended, as a most extraordinary phenomenon; while its increasing power and influence are sufficient to inspire thoughtful men at once with astonishment and apprehension. It is full time for both our ministers and students to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with "the history, doctrines, practices, and present movements of Popery;" and we trust that this Association will soon comprehend all the students in the hall where it originated, and extend itself to our other Universities.—*16.*

Popular Lectures in Picton.

At St. Luke's Church, Salt Springs, on Thursday the 15th ult., the fifth of a course of lectures on popular and scientific subjects was delivered by the Rev. James Blair, Barney's River. The chair was taken by H. H. Ross, Esq., who introduced the lecturer. The subject chosen was, as previously announced, "Individual Industry essential to Social Happiness." The reverend gentleman commenced his address in a very happy and masterly style, evidencing an earnest desire to edify his hearers, stimulating and encouraging them to individual industry, distinctly proving that it was essential to the prosperity of a nation, colony and locality, and illustrated individuals who by industry raised themselves to the highest pinnacle in science, who dexterously availed themselves of the power of nature to subdue nature. Air, fire, water, steam, gravitation, his own muscular strength, animals rendered obedient to his will, are the instruments by which individual industry has converted the desert into a garden, drained swamps, cut canals, made railroads, turned the course of rivers, cleared away forests, hence fertile fields growing wheat, and every variety of vegetables, for the sustenance and luxury of men. The more individual industry advances, the greater will be its collective influence in the advancement of religious knowledge, science, &c; and at no time did the mental superiority of industrious men produce such changes as they do at present, because they have extended to the utmost parts of the earth, by the individual industry of missionaries, scientific travellers, colonization, and commerce; many are induced, by a spirit of industrious enterprise, to go to new countries, some for the love of gain, and many flying from oppression; but we must not, however, detract from those,—but that an industrious perseverance enabled them to accomplish much which tended to the happiness of the human race. The history of former ages exhibits nothing to be compared with the mental activity and industry of the present. Steam, which annihilates time and space, fills the industrious mind with schemes of progression; but however mercenary the motives for enterprise may be, it is instrumental in bringing individual industry together. Science has never been so extensively and industriously cultivated as at the present time, observations being made on electricity, magnetism,—on the tides, and currents of the air, and those mysterious vicissitudes of temperature and moisture which bless the labours of the husbandman one year, and blight them in another. Though thousands of miles apart, that invisible messenger, electricity, instantaneously conveys the thoughts of the invisible spirit of man to man. Vain would be the attempt to enumerate the improvements that have been made in late years; still our most distinguished men declare that we are scarcely beyond the threshold in improvements; but all, or nearly so, that has been done are the results of individual industry sublimely illustrated.—*Eastern Chronicle Correspondent.*

Appointment of Moderator of the General Assembly.

At the Presbytery of Glasgow on Wednesday, Dr. Hill moved the appointment of Dr. Leishman as one of the representatives of the Presbytery to the General Assembly, as that rev. Doctor was to be

proposed as moderator, having been, according to custom, selected to fill the office by the old moderators. Dr. Paton said that the proposal of Dr. Leishman for the moderator's chair was made by the old moderators in the usual manner. The meetings of the moderators were of a private nature; and he might state as a fact, that this was the method adopted by their friends who lately left the Church. They ought, therefore, to be careful of adopting any other mode of election, especially as, if the moderators did not consult the feelings of the Church and select those suitable for the chair, any member of Assembly could propose another moderator. (Hear, hear.) After some further discussion, Dr. Hill's motion was adopted.

Christianity in India.

The Presbytery of Glasgow, on Wednesday, had under consideration a circular from the General Assembly's committee on the propagation of the gospel in foreign countries, and especially in India.

Dr. Craik said—What I propose is, that, in conformity with a feeling that prevails very generally in the Church, we petition the Legislature as to the importance of spreading throughout India the message of salvation. We do not propose to ask the Government to usurp the functions of a Christian Church—to appoint by their authority persons whom they may recognise as Christian teachers, or to prescribe a form of Christian doctrine which such teachers would be required to proclaim. We have no wish to see any efforts put forth to make proselytes by Government influence and authority, or that inducements in the form of temporal rewards should be held out, with a view to persuade the natives to make a profession of attachment to the Christian faith. But we hold that it is the duty of our Government in India to maintain openly, and without flinching, its Christian character. The Government may in various ways give encouragement to Christian missions. Measures may be taken to secure the native converts from any injurious consequences to which they may be now exposed on abandoning their systems of falsehood and idolatry. By a recent communication, however, from Mr. Sheriff, at Bombay, it appears that "there is no regulation prohibiting Christian converts from retaining offices under Government," and that every reasonable protection against injustice and persecution will be afforded to those who may embrace the Christian faith. It is well that the Government have expressed a readiness to give assistance to missionary schools without interfering with their management, and leaving the religious element in these schools entirely in the hands of the churches with which they are united.