

He (Dr. Cook) had also received a communication from the Clerk of the Commissioners of Supply of the County of Ayr, stating that the Commissioners, at their meeting on the 30th of April last, approved of the report of the Assembly's Committee, and agreed to recommend to all the heritors of the county of Ayr to act according to its recommendations. (Applause.)

Dr. Pirie, of Aberdeen, rose to move the adoption of the report. He was sure no subject could possibly interest the House more than that of the position of the parochial schoolmasters, and it was unnecessary for him to make any lengthened remarks on the report, or to speak of the connection between the Church of Scotland and the parochial schools which had subsisted for many hundred years. He need hardly say that it was by the efforts of their forefathers that these schools were instituted at a period when any formal educational system was unknown in the rest of the world. He need hardly say that since that time the Church of Scotland had endeavored to support the schools with all its might and all its influence; and he need hardly say further, that there never was any moment at which the necessity of encouraging a moral and religious education in some measure appropriate to the extent of physical education which was progressing over the land was more marked or more desirable. He had no doubt that the House felt on these points as he did himself, and that they were as well acquainted with them, and that therefore it would be unwarrantable for him to be detaining them on the present occasion by expressing more fully the views which they all entertained. The report would not warrant any lengthened observation, but he was sure they would all concur with him in the opinion that they could not have committed this important subject to the care of men more competent to manage it wisely and judiciously than those gentlemen who composed the committee. He was sure that on such a question as this they all reposed entire confidence in the learned Doctor before him and his learned friend (the Rev. Mr. Smith) on the opposite side. He was sure more suitable men at such a time as the present could not possibly have been selected to manage this subject. (Applause.) He was sure they were all prepared to express their gratitude to the heritors generally throughout Scotland for the liberal manner in which they had come forward, not merely to continue the salaries of schoolmasters at the maximum, but to continue them at the same rates at which they were fixed in 1828. (Applause.) They all felt that the heritors of Scotland wished not only to keep up the interests of education, but that those interests should be promoted along with the interests of the Church of Scotland, and along with the present schools; and now they had a proof of that in the clearest and most convincing way, in the

fact that these heritors, with a very few exceptions, had come forward and continued the maximum rates of salaries as they previously existed. (Applause.) He need hardly say further that he was sure he expressed the opinion of the House when he said that if the committee could by possibility do anything for the parochial schoolmasters, and do anything in order to show that their interests were identified with those of the Church, they were prepared to give to the committee the fullest authority to act for them in the matter; and the House would be prepared now, and he was sure the Church would be prepared in any future Assembly, to co-operate with any committee of the schoolmasters for the attainment of so desirable an end. (Applause.) He had nothing more to add except to move the adoption of the following motion:—"The General Assembly approve of the report, accord their thanks to the convener and the committee, and re-appoint the committee, Dr. Cook and Mr. Smith, joint-convener. They at the same time renew their expression of anxiety for the welfare of the parish schoolmasters and the efficiency of the schools, and record their lively sense of the liberality with which the heritors of Scotland have so generally acted."

The motion was carried by acclamation.

REPORT ON THE INDIAN CHURCHES.

Dr. Bryce gave in the Report of the Committee on the Indian Churches, and explained the leading points in a brief address.

Dr. James Charles, Kirkowen, said that one most important fact brought out in the report was that they had now seven chaplains in India. They remembered that they had been fighting that battle for twenty-five years, he thought it should call forth very warm congratulations from all the members of the House, and very strong expressions of gratitude to God. He knew very well what formidable difficulties had stood in their way hitherto in India—he knew what repulses had been met with again and again from influential parties; and he could not help seeing the hand of Providence in the recent events in India, which had led on by a natural process to the ground on which they now stood; and surely all should be encouraged by these successes; for if after all that contending for a quarter of a century, they had now accomplished so much, who should despair of success—who should ever be discouraged? (Applause.) In the midst of the most depressing circumstances, all should take heart and hope from a success so remarkable as this. But yet after all, the success was only partial—the ground had only been broken up, and he was quite sure that the young clergymen who had been sent to India in consequence of their appointment would meet with very formidable difficulties. It was a most serious thing to break ground in India, as they were called upon to do, and he was sure that