

of the ministry. The framers of these resolutions are now sanguine that something has been done for forwarding the interests of the cause of Christ in this district, and that a decided step in advance has therein been taken.

I merely add that immediately after this meeting I proceeded to Wallace, a distance of fully fifty miles, where I preached last Sabbath. I preach next Sabbath in Pugwash, and in a district in the country.—*Ibid.*

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

THE REV. DR. CUMMING.—The Rev. Dr. Cumming, of the Scotch Church, London, has just been presented with a service of plate, valued at 300 guineas, and a purse of 1000 guineas. The service of plate bears the following inscription, expressing the object of the presentation:—“Presented, with one thousand guineas, to the Rev. Dr. Cumming by a few of his friends, as a testimonial to the faithfulness, eloquence, and ability, with which he has advocated and maintained the purity of that faith so dear to Christians of every denomination of the Protestant Church, 1831-52.” The subscribers to the testimonial are extremely numerous, and amongst others is the name of the premier peer of England, the Duke of Norfolk.

DORNOCH, March 19, 1853.—The farmers connected with the Established Church congregation here, considering that the induction of the Rev. W. Forsyth will take place too late to enable him to get his glebe in order for a crop this year without assistance, resolved some time ago to give him a day's work with their ploughs, and, to insure good work, liberally subscribed for prizes to be given to the best ploughmen. The competition came off yesterday with great eclat. The day was uncommonly fine, and a large concourse of ladies and gentlemen graced the proceeding with their presence. The number of competitors for agricultural honours was 29, the extent ploughed about 30 acres, or about an acre for each plough, and the general quality of the ploughing such as to draw forth the encomiums of competent judges, and to reflect credit on all the candidates. * * It is but right to state that the congregation, with a unanimity unfortunately rare on such occasions, petitioned the patron, his Grace the Duke of Sutherland, in favour of Mr. Forsyth, and that his Grace with his usual kindness and consideration cordially responded to the wishes of the parishioners.—*Northern Ensign.*

THE SECOND CHARGE.—On Sunday last the Rev. Alex. Macgregor, of the Gaelic Church, Edinburgh, the presbyter to the second charge, preached in each of the Established Churches here, and on Monday before the Presbytery of Inverness. Both in English and Gaelic Mr. Macgregor was highly approved by his hearers as an earnest and sincere preacher of the Gospel. His style is simple, energetic, and impressive; and we believe that a call will be moderated in his favour on Friday, the 8th proximo, with the high approbation of all the Established Church congregations.—*Inverness Courier, March 31.*

ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL, MADRAS.

The Annual Examination of the scholars of this school was held on Tuesday evening in the school-house within the compound of St. Andrew's Kirk. The exhibition was one of the most successful this season has witnessed. The interest was well kept up, scarcely any of the numerous visitors quitting their seats before the termination of the proceedings. The chaplains of St. Andrew's have good reason to be proud of their school and its efficient head.

The R. Hon. the Governor arrived punctually at half past five, followed shortly after by H. E. the Commander-in-Chief, the Hon. Sir C. Rawlinson, and the Hon. Daniel Elliott. Among the

company present were Mrs. Davidson, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Armour, Mrs. Williamson, the Misses Bates, Miss Colbeck, Miss Macfarlane, Miss M'ister, Miss Scudder; Superintendent Surgeon Key, Major Young, Major Anderson, Major Gordon, Lieut. Roberts, Lieut. Finlay, R. Wosman, Esq., Dr. Davidson, Dr. Scott, Dr. Uquhan, R. O. Campbell, Esq., R. Bell, Esq., J. Byan I, Esq., C. Smith, Esq., the Rev. E. E. Jenkins, Rev. Dr. Scudder, Rev. S. Hardey, Rev. M. Winslow, Rev. W. Taylor, and many others. The evening's proceedings were opened with prayer by the Rev. M. Winslow, after which an examination of a portion of the school in Scripture followed, conducted by the Rev. J. R. Macfarlane, succeeded by the Rev. R. K. Hamilton, who, with other lads, took up a different portion of the Bible. The answers elicited by the reverend chaplain on this subject showed that this part of the school's discipline had not been neglected. Geography—that of Asia, with special reference to India was the next subject, the head master, J. Armour; Esq., examining the scholars himself, which he did with admirable animation, while the replies were no less admirably quick and correct. This part of the examination was listened to by all present with much interest. The highest class then came forward with Virgil's *Æneid*, B. VI, and Cicero's Orations, I. and IV. r. Cautinam, of which they displayed a very fair knowledge, the senior chaplain and the head master being the examiners. History, both modern and ancient, succeeded; the parts chiefly dwelt upon being the reign of Henry VIII. of England and the Punic wars; the boys answering very well to the questions put by Mr. Giles, one of the under-masters. Mr. Armour closed this part of the proceedings with a problem in Quadratic Equations, and the dissection of a passage from Homer's *Iliad*.

The examination having lasted upwards of two hours, Mr. Armour stated his unwillingness to encroach further on the time of the Chairman, although there were, he stated, several of the younger classes unexamined, and also several branches of instruction—book-keeping, land-surveying, commercial arithmetic, &c. in which the higher classes were proficient on which there had not been time to enter.

Rev. Mr. Hamilton then rose to express the thanks of the Committee to His Excellency the Governor for his kindness in occupying the Chair, and for the patient interest he had evinced in the whole course of the examination. While he trusted that what had been seen that evening would be sufficient to afford proof of the efficiency and usefulness of the school, and to do just credit to the high ability and diligence of the head-master and his assistants, he hoped the audience would kindly remember that such an occasion as the present could give but a very imperfect idea of the real attainments of the pupils; and that allowance should be made for his young friends being somewhat flurried in exhibiting themselves before so unusual an audience. He could truly say that all of them were in the habit of acquitting themselves much better when he had himself examined them privately; and that the best way of judging of the real usefulness of the school was for the public to inspect it on any of its ordinary working days, when, he needs not say, all visitors would be welcome. He begged also to take this opportunity of briefly stating one or two things connected with the school, and the more especially, as probably all those present might not be acquainted with them. It should be remembered that this school had not the advantage which others of a similar nature enjoyed in Madras. It had not extraneous or independent means of support. It had, thirteen years ago, received a small grant from Government for the building of the premises; but that had all been consumed in the brick and chunam around them. It had no support from public funds, no grants from societies at Home, no endowments of its own in this country. With the exception of a very small sum, about Rs. 70 a month, from a portion of the church seat-rents, it was solely and entirely dependent on its own school fees, and the

voluntary liberal 'ty of the public. Since Mr. Armour's arrival the fees had greatly increased, and were still increasing, and, if the school could be supported by that source alone, there was no fear for it. But the contributions of the public had not kept pace with this progress. They had not even kept up to their former amount. He believed, that in some measure arose from a misapprehension one point, which he would be glad, if possible, to remove. He understood that some of their friends were reluctant to give their pecuniary aid to the school, because it was not strictly a *Charitable Institution*. They said, if you will only teach poor children, who can't pay for their education, and if you will only teach the simple and necessary elements of a common education, we will support you; but we do not see why we should put our hands into our pockets merely to teach Latin, and Greek, and Mathematics, to the children of those who are well enough off to afford to pay for themselves. If this were the real state of the case, he could have nothing to say. But this was not the case. It proceeded from a misapprehension of the actual facts. The truth was, that, though Latin and Greek, &c., were taught, not one fourth of the boys were receiving instruction in these higher branches. The great mass of the pupils were receiving the elements of a useful and ordinary education. Besides it was only those who were both *willing* and *able* to pay the cost, who were taught these higher branches of learning, nay, it was really *because* these pupils *did* pay these higher fees for such things, that the great mass of the scholars—the poorer class of children—were enabled to receive a useful and simple education at so low a rate. Any one, who looks at the table of fees would see that all the necessary branches of a good English education were imparted at the low rate of from Rs. 1½ to Rs. 2, the lowest rate, he believed, in Madras; and that the chief reason why this could be done was the high rate of fees paid by the upper classes, that is, by those able to pay them; for it was only the latter fees that *paid*. Take them away, and the lower and poorer classes could not be admitted at their present rates. So far, then, from the higher fees and higher branches of education being an objection to the school, and an argument against its support, they were on the contrary the great means, along with the subscription of the public, by which the school was enabled to be so available and so useful to the less affluent classes of society. He earnestly trusted the public would remember this when the claims of the school were brought before them, and that they would recollect that they were not asked to pay for the education of the rich in classics and fluxions, but in reality for the instruction of the poor in what was useful and necessary for their good.

Mr. H. also begged to correct any misapprehension which might exist as to the school being the exclusive institution of a particular denomination. Let His Excellency look at these benches, and say whether they did not contradict any such supposition. These forms were occupied not merely by Presbyterians, but by Episcopalians, Independents, Baptists, Roman Catholics, and Hindus. There are at present nearly thirty of the last among ninety pupils. This could not be the case under any exclusive system. The Bible was used in every class as a text-book, and no objection made. But there was no compulsory instruction in the Scotch Church Catechism, nor in any peculiar religious dogmas. None learned these, but those who were *willing*. And what was the result? That of thirty Hindus, many of whom were of high caste, only three or four had expressed any disinclination on this point; while on the other hand, as had already been seen, the best Scriptural scholars, in the classes that had been examined, were all native boys. Mr. H. in conclusion apologized for having encroached so much on His Excellency's indulgence. He trusted he had said nothing that was unsuitable or unnecessary. In doing so, he had not reference to those now present, but to the public in general, in whose minds he was anxious to remove what, he