

Justification of his motion: 'It seemed to him that it was one thing to acquiesce in the *status quo* on the ground that they really did their best before the Disruption, and that, having done their best, they left the question alone and put the responsibility elsewhere. It was quite another thing when the State was called upon, and they with the State, to look at the condition of the Established Church with reference to a matter so peculiarly related to their own history, and when they are called upon in connection to make a new settlement.' 'He believed that it' (the readjustment sought by the Establishment in the abolition of patronage) 'would be equivalent to giving them not only a new lease, but in effect a new charter;' and 'he was resolved that, as far as he was concerned, he would not be a party to what appeared to him to involve a legislative action that not merely made a certain alteration on the Established Church, but really gave it, as at present constituted, related as it was to the whole history of Scotland, a new lease from the Legislature and a new charter.' 'In regard to the proposal itself, what was proposed was not the mere abolition of Queen Anne's Act, but apparently the introduction of a new set of patrons with a sort of veto law—a court of nominators elected in a peculiar way.' 'As to the state of his own mind, his conviction was growing in strength, day by day, that the only solution which was consistent with the interests of the country and the Churches, was the solution in due time by disestablishment.' The utterance of this sentiment was followed by prolonged cheering, that showed how widely and cordially it was accepted in the Assembly, which immediately put its *imprimatur* upon it by preferring Dr Rainy's motion to Dr. Begg's by 322 to 84.

This vote is full of significance, showing both the advanced state of opinion in the Free Church in regard to civil establishments of religion, and the resolution of that Church to stand aloof from the mother Kirk until both the State pay and the State control are removed.

A motion, sanctioning the use in public worship of a 'Collection of Psalms, Ver-

sions, Paraphrases, and Hymns,' was carried by 213 to 61. Dr. Begg, Mr. Kennedy of Dingwall, and Dr. Martin opposed the motion.

The following are the resolutions carried respecting Union:

"1. That the proposal with reference to the mutual eligibility of ministers in settled charges is a measure specially calculated to promote the ends for which the Committee was appointed last year, and being in harmony with the relations which this Church already sustains toward sister Presbyterian Churches, both at home and in the colonies, is one that ought to be adopted; and they accordingly direct an overture to be prepared and sent down to Presbyteries under the Barrier Act, adding the United Presbyterian and Reformed Presbyterian Churches to those specified in the Act 1850 as holding this relation. The clerks are directed to prepare this overture.

"2. That the regulations agreed to with respect to Foreign Mission are well fitted to further the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom throughout the world, in connection with the several Churches, and should be carried into effect as soon as the mind of the Free Church has been ascertained with reference to the foregoing fundamental part of this scheme of co-operation.

"3. That, as the Committee has not been able to devote such consideration to the subject of co-operation in Home Mission work as to mature any plan regarding it, the Assembly reappoint the Committee, adding the name of Sheriff Cleghorn, and instruct them to devote their special attention to the important subject during the current year, with the view of their presenting to next General Assembly, a final report on it, and on the whole matters contained in last Assembly's remit—this General Assembly, like the last, being of opinion that present duty lies in the line of seeking, by co-operation, to promote harmony and mutual good understanding between the Churches, and not in that of taking steps towards an immediate incorporating union, for which the Church is not prepared."

Respecting the Jewish Mission of the Free Church Mr. Moody Stuart announced that fourteen of the children of Abraham had been, during the year, added to the Church by baptism, being the largest accession on our records. There was much to cheer otherwise. Mr. Tomory had been so successful in collecting funds for Constantinople, that he could at once commence the erection of new mission premises there. Mr. Moody has begun his work in Prague