

opposed any interference with the Act, and was successful in a motion to that effect—60 to 33.

The Report of Lay Association was given in and agreed to.

SATURDAY, May 26.

The Rev. Dr. Muir gave in a Report on Sabbath Observance, which was received and adopted.

Dr. Craik gave in a long and most interesting Report on Indian Missions, setting forth many facts which we will take the opportunity of detailing in a future number. Dr. Craik afterwards resigned the office of Convener of that mission.

The Home Mission Report was next handed in, D. Crawford, Convener, showing an amount of £5022 collected for that purpose, and an expenditure £4969, which Report was unanimously adopted.

An Overture on Revivals was presented, and a motion made by Dr. Dewar to the effect that ministers be recommended to express especial thankfulness for the progress of vital religion, which was agreed to.

Mr. Wilson's—late of Iron Gray—application to be reponed as a probationer was, after a committee of enquiry, refused.

The subject of unexhausted Tiends and augmentations was then discussed, and the Assembly adjourned till Monday.

MONDAY, May 28.

A Report of Special Committee on Indian Churches was given in, after which Dr. Pirie read a Report on Education. A Report on Sabbath Schools was given in by Dr. Leitch, showing a total attendance of 135,196 scholars, and 11,246 teachers, embracing 1,143 congregations.

A Special commission was appointed to proceed to Guiana to inquire into certain irregularities of ministers in connection with our Church, and to deal with them according to facts elicited in evidence.

Dr. Robertson gave in his Report on the Endowment Scheme, showing that the total sum subscribed now amounted to £397,011, by which that not fewer than 150 new parish churches may in a few years be permanently endowed.

Many other Reports of great importance and interest were submitted, which we have not space at present to notice, but which will be submitted in the next number of the Record.

The Assembly was dissolved in a long and able address by the Moderator, to the following effect:

Right Rev. and Right Honorable,—Amid many things to dishearten us—many things to cause sorrow and deep humiliation, we have as a Church abundant cause for thankfulness, and many grounds of encouragement. At no period have our pulpits been more generally filled with faithful and energetic teachers—with rising, pious, and right-

thinking young men. There may not, indeed, be many endowed with those high oratorical gifts which cause men to hang on the accents of their lips, and at times, I fear, to be attracted to sit under their ministry more by the charms or quaintness of their eloquence than by a desire to be quickened into divine life, and become savingly acquainted with the truth as it is in Jesus. Though there may be few such amongst us, I affirm that in the aggregate at no period have there been in the Church of Scotland a larger amount of zealous and gifted ministers of the Word—of men who, knowing and feeling the influence of the truth, communicate it with power and persuasion to their flocks. The partizanship of party and of polemics has given place to the advocacy of the gospel and the advancement of its cause. The day was, and is in the recollection of some whom I am now addressing, when being of Paul or Apollos, of this or that section or party in the Church, was in the eyes of many the chief recommendation to patronage and favor—the imprimatur without which, in many quarters, gifts and attainments were barely recognised. A great and blessed change has come over all this. The question now is, not under which Gamaliel we have been trained—under which banners we have enlisted ourselves—but whether our heart is in the sacred work we have undertaken—if we are anxious to spend and be spent in our Master's cause—if the bringing back perishing sinners to the fold, and to feed them with the bread which endureth unto everlasting life, is the object of our prayers and solicitude. Then, what a marvellous and blessed change has come over our Church in reference to missionary work and enterprise. In many respects it is still with us the day of small things. There is still, in many quarters, a scantiness in our ingatherings to be deplored; and in looking over the roll of our missionary collection, blanks not unfrequently meet the eye—blanks which no sophistry, in many instances, can explain away. Our localities may be poor—our wealthier parishioners may belong to other communions, or they may give with a stinting and niggardly hand. All this may explain why our castings into the treasury of our mission may be comparatively small, but it does not in the aggregate explain the existence of the blanks I speak of. Surely the manse might do something to remove their ungainly appearance. Surely, in our poorest and remotest localities, some Christian man or woman is to be met who would respond to a call earnestly, perseveringly, and prayerfully made to assist in the extension of Christ's kingdom, and who would feel the command, "Go and preach the Gospel unto all nations," as binding in all ages upon Christ's people. But though the scantiness of our ingatherings has to be deplored, there has, nevertheless, a great and blessed change taken place in the views and doings of our Church in reference to mission-