

DEER FREE PRESBYTERY.—This rev. body met on Tuesday.—Rev. W. M'Robbie, Aberdour, Moderator. The monthly report as to the Sustentation Fund showed a net increase of £68 13s 6d within the bounds of the Presbytery during the past eight months, as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year. In the contributions to the Foreign Mission Fund there was a decrease of £5 15s 1d. The application for a colleague and successor to the Rev. J. Yuill, Peterhead, occupied the Court for some time. It was reported that the congregation had agreed to increase the stipend proposed to be paid to the colleague to not less than £207. Mr. Yuill's application was sustained, and it was agreed to send it on to the General Assembly in due form. Rev. Mr. Paterson, Fraserburgh, gave notice that at next meeting he would move:—

That whereas certain ministers of this Church have assumed to themselves the title of the Constitutional Party, and have in that capacity on a recent occasion approached a member of Her Majesty's Government apparently for the purpose of entering into negotiations on matters concerning this Church: And whereas they are not entitled to assume such designation, nor have they authority to institute such negotiations: And whereas much offence has been occasioned throughout the Church by such unauthorised and divisive action: It is humbly overtured by the Free Presbytery of Deer to the ensuing General Assembly that they take the premises into consideration, and adopt such measures for remedying the evil as to their wisdom may seem fit.

Rev. Mr. Murdoch gave notice that at next meeting he would move:—

That whereas the existing Church Establishment is unjust and in many ways injurious to the interests of Christ's Kingdom, the General Assembly take steps for its disestablishment.

On the 23rd inst., a painful accident occurred at Stranraer. As the Rev. F. J. B. Johnstone, parish minister of Leswalt was riding on horseback into the town, his horse took fright and threw its rider on the pavement. He sustained a compound fracture of the skull, and died in a few hours.

THE REV. DR. KENNEDY OF DINGWALL AND THE TAIN FREE CHURCH PRESBYTERY.—The Free Presbytery of Tain at a recent meeting declared the action of the party which met not long ago with Dr. Begg and interviewed the Lord-Advocate to be "unconstitutional and divisive." Dr. Kennedy, as one of the party, has written a lengthened reply to this charge, strongly denying that the action taken was either unconstitutional or divisive. In his concluding remarks he says—"If you refer to our having acted apart from the Courts of the Church when you describe our conduct as unconstitutional, I ask you how could we have acted otherwise? If our action was along the course marked out for us as legitimate and dutiful by the legislation of the Church, its not being in the form of regular ecclesiastical procedure cannot suffice to make it unconstitutional. The Courts of the Church are controlled by those from whom we differ, and we have driven us into the position of protesters by their desertion of Free Church principles. We could legitimately do as members of the Church all that was attempted by us—as members of her Courts we could do nothing."

THE CELTIC CHAIRS.—Professor Blackie, who is to be absent in the East for four months, has written a letter explaining the position of the fund for the establishment of the Celtic Chair. "The sum paid up at the present moment is £11,000 and some odds, of which £10,300 is invested on landed security, paying interest at $4\frac{1}{2}$ or $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. I know of additional subscriptions which will certainly be paid to the amount of at least £200. It may be stated as certain, therefore, that by the term of Martinmas next we shall have a paid-up available sum of £11,700; that is, within £300 of the £12,000, which is our mark.