

but has not ventured up to the town, having come no farther than the lower end of Parrot Island. The Calabar people say that the boat which came up from the slaver informed them that it had plenty of demiboons and rum on board, and that five other vessels were to follow, that they (the Calabar people) refused to trade with it, as they had entered into treaty with England, pledging themselves to have nothing more to do with the traffic; and told the slaver that if he wished to come up the river, he must come up himself, as they could not give him a pilot. One gentleman informed me that they had it in contemplation to ask Governor Boscott to let the slave trade treaty stand in abeyance for one year till they got all their bad slaves sold, and that then they could renew it. Whether they will make this vain application remains to be seen, but they lament much the loss of the slave trade, and should the cruisers, at any time, be withdrawn, will eagerly embark in it again.—*Miss. Record U. P. Church.*

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

It seems admitted, on all hands, that the establishment has come out with more pomp and splendour this year, than it has done since the disruption. A Tory administration is in power, and this naturally raises the hopes of those who cling to past traditions. The Earl of Mansfield, the Lord High Commissioner, has been spending money freely, and making the old halls of Holyrood ring with the sounds of festivity. The Whig Commissioner, the Earl of Belfour, was considered rather stingy, and there is a pretty general suspicion that he always contrived to put into his own pocket a part of the sum of £2000, which is taken out of our pockets to pay the official expenses of the Lord High Commissioner of the very venerable, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.—Not so Lord Mansfield. It is said he spent £3000 additional. This will prove some compensation for his not being a Presbyterian. The Assembly met in the Assembly Hall, in Edinburgh, on Thursday, 20th May—the Rev. Dr. Forbes, of Boharra, was chosen moderator.

The liberality of the Established Church does not appear to much advantage in the proceedings of this Assembly. There is the *Auchterarder case*. A sum of about £1000 of damages, incurred during this well-known controversy, is still resting upon the members of the Presbytery. The Free Church; and the share of £1400, which was allocated to the members who came out at the disruption. This was a matter of justice, for this Presbytery was fighting the battle of the church; and yet the establishment has not had sufficient spirit to pay it off, and release the poor members of presbytery from their obligation. The matter was remitted to a committee. It would appear that the claim was subsequently rejected. There is the *fund for the general expenses of the church*. Out of this fund are paid salaries of clerks, expenses of moderator, &c. A sum of £1000 is granted from the public funds for this purpose, but it is not sufficient. An assessment of ten shillings was levied upon each congregation to make up the deficiency. To this appeal only one hundred and forty-five congregations had responded, and their entire contributions amounted to £79 7s. 6d. The debt was now £487. The Colonial Commission Committee report an income of £2684, being a decrease, as compared with last year, of £359. The parochial collections are less by £403. The Home Mission Committee's Report is very gloomy. The whole deficiency is little short of £600, and the outgoings for the financial year, ended 15th April last, exceed its income by upwards of £300. "This financial position of matters," it is stated in the report, "demands the very serious attention of the Assembly; for, unless some remedial measure be devised and speedily applied, the most disastrous and deplorable results are inevitable." The *Indian Mission's Report* concludes in a similar melancholy strain. "It is with no ordinary feelings of apprehension, that we point, at this date, to our balance-sheet, with the large deficiency therein contained of £626." The only exception to those lugubrious reports was that of the endowment scheme. Its funds this year are £23,531; while, for the previous year it had been upwards of £16,000. But still the funds are exhausted, the claims are increasing, and an urgent appeal was requisite to the wealthy and benevolent. Its spirit is desponding. It is thus manifest, that whatever be the other excellencies or defects of an Established Church, it has a deadening effect upon Christian liberty. So far from the members of a national establishment giving larger contributions for religious and benevolent purposes, because they are exempted from the obligation of supporting their own religious institutions, it has the very opposite effect.

**Stipends of Ministers.**—This subject was brought up, principally in connection with the abolition of the Corn Laws. It was stated that the stipends had fallen one-third since the Corn Laws were repealed. The country ministers had lost £60,000 or £70,000 each year since 1848.—Dr. R. Lee, curiously enough, said that this money had gone into the pockets of the landed proprietors; but he was corrected by the Earl of Selkirk, who said, that if the money had gone anywhere, it must have been into the pockets of the consumer. We should think so. A committee was appointed, "with the view of devising such measures as may, by the divine blessing, tend to remedy a state of things which occasions so much embarrassment and suffering." The Established Church is preparing work for Dissenters. An effort will be made to raise the stipends thus reduced from the unexhausted tithes; and where the tithes are exhausted, an appeal will be made to the national Exchequer, to supplement, as it now does, all stipends under £150.

**Parochial Schools.**—The report embraced many recommendations, but

its substance was this:—The exclusive jurisdiction of the Established Church over the national schools. The salaries of parochial teachers would be reduced next year, probably one-fourth; and it was proposed that application should be made to Parliament for a bill to compel the heritors, despite of the Act 1803, to maintain the salaries at their present pecuniary amount; and also, that an augmentation should be made, as we understand, from the Consolidated Fund. An animated discussion arose on this question, which was rather significant. To go to Parliament with other ecclesiastical bodies, on the subject of a national education, in which they are all equally interested, would be a compromise of their distinctive principles as an establishment. They are as proud and as insolent as if there were not a single Dissenter in Scotland.—"No surrender!" is their motto. We say again, more work for Dissenters.

**Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths.**—An overture was brought up from the presbyteries of Dunfermline and Dalkeith, praying for the adoption of a better system. There is great need for this, as we suppose the presbyteries of Dunfermline and Dalkeith know full well.—Most disgraceful to a civilized country is the system of registrations in Great Britain; but this national scandal, it should never be forgotten, is one of the penalties which we pay for the blessing of a national church. The Established Church will have the registrars from their own sect; and the consequence is, that we have a number of careless or disreputable men, to whose care those valuable records are entrusted. The Established Church must be watched here. We must have registrars who are not confined to any religious sect, and who are placed under civil, not under ecclesiastical control. And we add, a third time, more work for Dissenters. Our committee upon public questions need not be idle for the next twelve months.—*G. P. Mag.*

FREE CHURCH ASSEMBLY—SCOTLAND.

The General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland met in Tanfield Hall, Edinburgh, on the 20th May. It had less show than its sister Assembly, but it had more real glory. The want of red coats, and cocked-hats, and plush breeches, was not much felt. Dr Mackellar was chosen moderator.

**Financial Schemes.**—Almost all the money raised in the Congregations of the Free Church is reported to committees, and makes its appearance in the annual accounts presented to the Assembly. Unless this be remembered, no fair comparison can be made between the contributions of the Free Church and those of other denominations. Much is done in other denominations, which does not appear in their public proceedings. Nothing is done in the Free Church which does not appear. The accounts are made up to the 31st March. We give two statements.

By the Home Mission Committee, .....	£1941	2	5			
By the Committee on the Highlands, .....	3533	8	3			
Making a total for these two home objects, of, .....				£5774	10	8
From Stations in connection with the Home Mission Scheme, through the Sustentation Committee, .....	1323	15	2			
From Stations in connection with the Committee on the Highlands, .....	559	10	0			
Total contributed by the stations, .....				£1883	5	2
Total of available funds for these two Committees, .....				7657	15	10

For the Education scheme, exclusive of the Government Grant for the Normal School, .....	£13664	3	10			
For the General College Fund, including Fees (L. 1236), .....	4325	9	11			
For the College Endowment Fund, .....	987	19	7			
For the College Building Fund, .....	1666	2	0			
For the Bursary Fund, .....	575	2	10			
For the Foreign Mission Scheme, .....	4569	14	3			
From Associations, .....	2103	19	4			
Miscellaneous Contributions, .....	4246	19	4			
For Mission Buildings, .....	1680	2	1			
For the Colonial Scheme, .....	3968	14	8			
For the Jews' Conversion Scheme, .....	4476	2	1			
For the Church Building Scheme, from all sources, .....	1489	15	6			
For the Glasgow Church Extension Scheme, .....	2552	16	5			
Making a total of, .....				£53,876	14	8

"In estimating aright the virtual revenues of their schemes, it might be proper to state that, superadded to these there ought to be a sum of upwards of £2,000 received from ladies' auxiliaries, that in various ways most generously aided their schemes. He did not think he could state the deficiency this year at a larger sum than £1727 2s. 5d. In the item of congregational offerings, there was an increase this year over that of last year of £255 5s. 1d. There had been a decrease this year, as compared with the previous year, of £230 in the Fund for colonial churches, of £191 7s. 9d in the Jews' Conversion Fund, of £1303 13s. 10d in the Church Building Fund, and of £1191 12s. in the Education Fund, but there had been an increase in the Foreign Mission Fund of £763 18s. 7d. He had this year also, as well as last year, to report a diminution in the Juvenile Offerings of £95 6s. 5d."

Here is a briefer summary:—  
"The whole sums raised for the various objects, for the year from 31st March, 1851, to 31st March 1852, were—