

I was struck with the transparent pains taken by the Scotchmen of this Synod to speak pure English with a pure accent. Some of them almost attain to the point while they keep their temper, but the moment they become a little roused the *Scot* comes to the surface. I noted the same thing with regard to Principal Tulloch whom I heard preach last Sabbath evening; and it was strongly marked in Dr. Andrew Thomson one of the U. P. deputies who addressed the Synod.

The retiring Moderator Rev. Mr. Blythe, having preached a sermon, Rev. Mr. Ballantine was chosen as his successor. Mr. B. is one of the best Moderators I have ever seen, calm, mild, firm, knowing how business should be transacted and keeping every one to the point. His *inaugural* was admirable. He is one of the London ministers.

The first discussion was quite an unexpected one on the Organ. The congregation at Exeter say they cannot do without it, and some members of Synod think it cruel to make it so stringent a matter as to risk the well-being of a congregation on so indifferent a question. This is the ground taken by Mr. Chalmers: neither Scripture nor the Standards of the Church condemn the use of instruments in the public praise of God, and the Church should not bind where God has not bound. Dr. Munro takes high ground on the other side, and the older members of Synod sympathize with him. The whole question will come up next year. How thankful I am that our Provincial Presbyterianism is not troubled with this question! I hope our congregations will be always contented with the "good old way."

The Foreign Missions of the Synod are doing well. In China they have 355 Church members, being an increase of 70 in 1861. They have a Mission to India and to the Jews. The accounts show that financially the Synod holds its own, and like a prudent house-keeper makes both ends meet. The congregations of seven Presbyteries in England contributed £8,529 for the following objects:—£342 to the School fund; £896 to the College fund; £983 for Home Missions; £4,038 for Foreign Missions; and £268 to the Synod fund. The Synod School fund showed the receipt of £620, including a balance from the preceding year of £278, and the payments during the year left a balance of £345. The Home Mission fund balance at the end of the year was £589. The Home Mission and Supplemental fund had received £983 and disbursed £808. The Foreign Mission fund from May 17, 1861, to May 31, 1862, had received, including £560 balance, £3,053, and had disbursed this sum, including £554 balance. To the Indian Mission fund £662 had been contributed, and the remaining balance was £465.—The College fund account showed a balance of £375, the outlay having been £960.

The Presbyterians are endeavouring to make themselves heard in connection with the Bicentenary movements of the present year, and recalling to the memory of the people of England the obligations they owe to the men of 1662, who were mainly Presbyterians. Dr. McCrie having submitted a report and overture on the subject, the Synod adopted the following resolution moved by Mr. Chalmers:—

"That the Synod, approving of the overture, should express their sympathies with the leading principles held, as well as with the spirit displayed by the 2,000 ministers ejected on the 24th of August, 1662; and, without intending to pronounce any judgment that this, they cannot but admire, and admiring record to the praise of Divine grace, the conduct of our Presbyterian forefathers, who were enabled to bear such a noble testimony to the power of Christian principle, and who chose rather to suffer violence for