

Mr. Bain read the report of the Committee appointed at last meeting to draft answers to the reasons of complaint handed in by Mr. Robertson against the finding of the Presbytery anent the use of Instrumental Music in the Psalmody of St. Andrew's Church, Toronto. Said report was adopted and ordered to be kept *in retentis*.

Consideration of the petition from Lindsay, craving the moderating of a call in favour of Mr. Gordon, of Markham, which had been laid over from last meeting, was next resumed. Though the matter had not arrived at that stage when Mr. Gordon's views on the subject are required to be expressed, yet, inasmuch as intimations had fallen from him that there was no likelihood of his accepting said call, even had it been fully matured, the Presbytery deemed it best for the interests of the Lindsay congregation not to accede to their request, but at the same time embraced the opportunity to encourage them to continue their praiseworthy efforts to obtain a minister, with the hope that God in His providence may soon crown these efforts with success.

The interim act anent the maintenance of Ministers, sent down for consideration of Presbyteries, was then taken up. After a lengthened and interesting discussion it was unanimously agreed to approve of the act generally with a view of its being converted by the Synod into a standing act; provided a clause were added to it granting power to Presbyteries in certain exceptional cases, particularly in the case of congregations formed in recent and struggling settlements, not to insist on £100 as the minimum stipend of the minister *at the outset*; at the same time enjoining Presbyteries to exercise this discretionary power with great caution.

At this stage of the business the Presbytery had a recess, after which they proceeded to consider the Synodical reference respecting the division of this Presbytery preparatory to the formation of a General Assembly. On the expediency of such a division at present the various members who expressed themselves seemed to have but one opinion, and that a very decided one, that the time had not yet arrived for such a division to be carried into effect. While the Presbytery unanimously resolved to send up to the Synod a Report to this purport, they also agreed respectfully to suggest that in all cases of this nature the interests of the Church, as well as the views and feelings of parties immediately concerned, ought to be consulted before any steps are taken in the matter. In connection with this subject it may be remarked by your correspondent that the parties who appeared to have the strongest objections to the proposed division were those members who are most remote from the seat of Presbytery, and who would therefore be

the most likely to be cut off, were the step contemplated to be carried into effect.

Messrs Douglas, Gordon and Barker were appointed a Committee to examine Session Records and report.

A memorial from the congregation of Port Hope to the Colonial Committee, praying for a grant of £100 sterling in aid of the erection of their church now under contract for being built, was read. Said memorial set forth the amount of local subscriptions which had been raised, together with the progress that was being made. The memorial was after full inquiry into the special claims of the case favorably received and recommended to the approval of Synod, with a view to transmission to the Colonial Committee.

A lengthened and animated discussion next took place in regard to the manner in which the wants of the Presbytery's Mission Field were to be supplied during the ensuing summer. The Mission Committee reported that they had engaged Messrs Walter Ross and Charles Cameron, young men of prudence and piety, to labour as Catechists in Fenelon and Osprey respectively, and also Mr. Alexander Maclellan to labour generally within the bounds as the Presbytery might from time to time direct him. The Presbytery approved of the diligence of the Committee in this matter and instructed them to communicate with vacancies and mission stations, either personally or by letter, and ascertain what amount each is able and willing to contribute to the Mission Funds, so as to meet the salaries of those labourers, the benefits of whose services they receive.

A list of Missionary appointments until after the meeting of Synod was then adopted and the Presbytery adjourned.

THE CHURCH IN SCOTLAND.

PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH

On Wednesday the ordinary monthly meeting of this Presbytery was held—the Rev Mr. Horne, Moderator.

THE LATE DR. BALFOUR.

Mr. Stewart, Liberton, said the Presbytery could not allow this opportunity to pass without alluding to the death of the venerable father of this Presbytery. He (Mr. Stewart) had the honour of succeeding Dr. Balfour in a parish where he had laboured for about 17 or 18 years, and he believed he might say that never did a minister on entering on his duties in any parish find it in every respect in better order than he received the parish of Sorn from their revered father. He knew that there, where he laboured so long, he was much beloved and respected, and, returning every year to discharge duties there, his presence was always a source of great gratification to his old parishioners. Those that had known him in this Presbytery knew how faithfully and ably he had discharged all his duties as a minister. He was sure there was but one feeling in the Presbytery, that of deep regret for the loss they had sustained in the removal from among them of one who was an ornament to the Church, and who to a consistent walk and conversation added that cheer-

fulness of spirit which became an enlightened Christian.

The Moderator said he was sure there was only one feeling in the breast of every member of this Court, that of regret for their much esteemed, much loved and venerable father. In him there was no usual combination of Christian excellence and Christian worth. He was distinguished by gentleness and goodness and faith and charity; and they must all feel that he had left them an example which they would do well very closely to imitate.

[From the North Briton, May.]

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

ESTABLISHED CHURCH.

THURSDAY—MAY 17.

The Established Assembly was opened to-day by His Grace the Lord High Commissioner, who held a levee in the afternoon in Holyrood Palace, at which there were numerous presentations.

After the levee his Grace went in state procession to the High Church to hear a sermon from the retiring Moderator of the Assembly. The line of route was, as usual on the opening day of the Assembly, by the Abbeyhill, Regent Road, Waterloo Place, North Bridge and High Street. The way was lined from the High Church eastwards by the military, the 13th Light Dragoons guarding the upper portion of the route, the 78th Highlanders lining two-thirds of the North Bridge and Waterloo Place, and the Royal Artillery extending a line nearly to Buns's Monument. The whole route from the High Church to the Palace was guarded by police. The day being cloudy and dull, and a slight fall of rain having taken place between 11 and 12, the turn-out of spectators was not so large as usual. The procession was fully equal to the display of former years, sunshine only being wanting to give it splendour.

At 12 o'clock his Grace attended Divine service in the High Church with the usual formalities, the streets being lined with troops. The Rev. Dr. Cook, St. Andrew's, retiring Moderator, preached from Ephesians iv. 13, "Till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the fulness of Christ."

After sermon his Grace proceeded to the Assembly Hall, and took his place on the throne accompanied by the Lord Provost, General Cameron and others.

The Assembly having been constituted, the Moderator congratulated the Assembly on meeting for another year, and then nominated as his successor in the Moderatorship, the Rev. Dr. Maitland, of Kells.

Dr. Aiton, of Dolphinton, then rose, and, after some remarks calling in question the propriety of the mode of nominating the moderators now adopted, moved that it be remitted to a committee to inquire and report what steps should be taken to effect an improvement in this respect.

Rev. Mr. Niven, of Balfron, seconded the motion, but after some discussion it was declared incompetent, and Dr. Maitland was unanimously elected Moderator, and took the chair accordingly.

His Grace the Lord High Commissioner then intimated the usual gift of £2000 from the Queen, which was acknowledged by the Moderator.

After the transaction of some unimportant business, the Assembly adjourned at 5 o'clock.

FRIDAY—MAY 18.

The Assembly having met, the Report of