

THE SCOTCH SYNOD IN ENGLAND.

A letter was read from the Synod in England in connection with this Church.

Mr. M'Brian of London then addressed the Assembly. He expressed to the House the attachment of the English Synod and said that Synod was careful to avoid interference with the Church of England; and they were met in a similar friendly spirit by many members of that Church. He specially commended to the care of the Church the Scotch soldiers stationed in the various garrison towns.

Dr. ROBERTSON referred to the desirability of the Church following her people to England, and proposed a deliverance to the effect of sending a letter to the Synod in England, and appointing a Committee, with a view of strengthening the hands of the brethren in England, in enabling them to provide for the spiritual wants of our countrymen in the towns, &c., there.

This deliverance was adopted; and thanks were conveyed to the deputation.

THE CHURCH BENEFICES' ACT.

Dr. HILL reported verbally from the Committee appointed last year to consider the Benefices' Act, and to report how far the same has been, or may be, made effectual to secure the settlement of suitable presentees; and also, as to regulations to be passed by the Assembly or otherwise; to abridge the time and expense connected with cases brought up under the Act. It was the opinion of the Committee, on the whole, that the working of the Act had been favourable to the Church. The Committee also thought that the question as to whether the Act had secured suitable presentees should be answered affirmatively.

Dr. COOK then submitted the following motion, viz.,—"That the General Assembly approve of the diligence of the Committee, re-appoint it; and further, considering the importance of a mature deliberation before altering the regulations on the conduct of Presbyteries under the Benefices Act, the Assembly agree without a vote to send down the Report of the Committee to Presbyteries to be fully considered by them, requesting them to send their views and suggestions to the Convener, so that they may be reported on the next meeting of the General Assembly."

This motion was agreed to.

AIDS TO DEVOTION.

Dr. CRAWFORD read a Report by a Committee appointed in 1849 for the purpose of taking into consideration the necessity for providing aids to social worship for Presbyterian soldiers and sailors, as well as for colonists destitute of a settled pastor. As the result of their labours, the Committee submitted a number of forms of worship, consisting of five morning and five evening services, together with a variety of special prayers, to be introduced in the course of the services when used by soldiers, sailors, colonists, sojourners in India, and

in foreign countries, as also a considerable number of occasional prayers adapted to particular circumstances and exigencies.

In compiling these forms, the Committee availed themselves of the devotional writings of Calvin and other Presbyterian Reformers, of the prayers contained in the Book of Common Order, Knox's "Treatise on Fasting," and the Order of Public Repentance, and of the methods of prayer in the Directory for Public Worship. The Committee suggested that the Assembly, without giving any deliverance on the subject of the forms of worship, should, if they approved of the Report, sanction the Committee to print and publish the same as they might see fit, and upon their own authority. In submitting their Report, the Committee state that it is "not their object to introduce any innovation into the ordinary worship of the Church when conducted by a minister or licentiate, but simply to facilitate the exercise of social worship by soldiers, sailors, sojourners in India, or in other colonies of Great Britain, or in foreign countries, when the services of a minister or licentiate cannot be obtained."

On the motion of Dr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Macrae, Hawick, the Report, and the suggestion contained in it, were unanimously approved of.

DEFICIENCY OF ELDERS.

In reference to an overture from the Presbytery of Aberdeen, praying the Assembly to take steps for remedying the deficiency of elders in many country parishes, it was agreed to enjoin on Presbyteries to inquire into the state of the eldership within their bounds, and to report to the next Assembly the extent and cause of the deficiency of elders, if such existed.

GAELIC PREACHING.

Mr. Fergusson, Fortingal, supported an overture from the Presbytery of Weem, praying the Assembly "to take into their consideration the important fact that no provision is made, either by statute or in any of the acts of the General Assembly, for students in the Highlands who intend to come out for the ministry as Gaelic preachers, being made thoroughly acquainted with that language." The Gaelic language, he stated, was not now, as formerly, taught in the parochial and other schools in the Highlands; and as there was no provision for studying it at the universities, a Highland student might receive his licence without being able to write, or even to speak, grammatically or idiomatically that language in which he purposed conveying his future ministrations. He suggested that the Assembly should require that every student intending to become a Gaelic preacher should receive proper instructions in that language.

After some remarks from Mr. McIntyre of Kilmonivaig in support of the overture, the subject was, on the motion of Mr. A. S. Cook, remitted to a committee for in-

quiry, with the view of reporting to the next General Assembly.

MONDAY, May 31.

The Assembly met to-day at 11 o'clock. INCREASED PROVISION FOR CHURCH OF SCOTLAND IN INDIA.

A memorial to Government from a committee appointed on this subject recommended that in any legislation now to be adopted for the better government of India, the claims of the Church of Scotland to a larger share of the countenance and support which it had hitherto enjoyed might not be overlooked, but that such increased provision might be made for the spiritual wants of those of her communion in India as was manifestly demanded, if her existence in that country was to be continued. The memorial was agreed to.

THE LATE PRINCIPAL MACFARLAN.

Dr. Muir read as an addition to the Assembly's deliverance on the Colonial Committee's Report, a tribute to the memory of the late Principal Macfarlan, who had for so long a period taken the deepest interest in the Colonial Scheme.

The minute was approved of, and ordered to be recorded.

GRANTS TO MINISTERS ABROAD.

Dr. Crawford gave in a report from a committee appointed to consider the subject of supplying religious ordinances to Scottish Presbyterians resident in Constantinople, and to Scotch sailors frequenting that port, recommending that earnest recommendations be given to the Colonial Committee to turn their immediate attention to supplying these wants, not only at Constantinople, but at any other ports on the continent of Europe in which there was a necessity or desire for divine ordinances in connection with their National Church; and, further, that the attention of the same committee should be especially called to the Consular Act, in which it was enacted that wherever a church was erected or hired, or a minister appointed, according to the rites either of the Church of England or the Church of Scotland, the sum raised by voluntary contribution in the locality for such purposes should be supplemented by an equal sum out of the British Treasury. The committee were in hopes that if the Colonial Committee moved in the matter, in the course of a few years they might have ministers stationed and supported at Paris, Marseilles, and other of the principal cities of the continent.

After some remarks from Dr. Cook of Haddington, Dr. Macfarlane and Mr. Brewster, the report was approved of, and remitted to the Colonial Committee.

CHAPEL DEBTS.

Professor Swinton reported from the Committee on this subject that they had memorialized the trustees of the Ferguson Bequest Fund for aid; that their application had been most favourably entertained,