

hearted spirit of Disruption times. Many other things, indeed, at this particular juncture carry back our thoughts to that memorable era of our Church's history. Events and movements in the political world are reminding us of the great principles for which we testified and suffered in 1843, and are loudly calling on us to stand by them as firmly as ever. All things are thus conspiring to remind us of what the men of that day did and sacrificed for the honour of Christ's kingdom and crown, and to suggest, with equal force and tenderness, what the members of the Church ought to do on their side in support of the same noble cause."

A long debate ensued on the subject of the Surplus Fund, the motion of Dr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. T. J. Boyd, to approve of the Report, being met by two amendments—the one proposed by Mr. Rose of Poolewee, the other by Professor Macgregor; but ultimately both of these were withdrawn, and the Report agreed to unanimously, the only changes on the arrangements of last year being these: *first*, that certain portions of the Highlands are now to be recognized as placed in exceptional circumstances; and, *second*, that the next equal dividend is to be the full £150, the £7 for widows not being deducted.

**FREE CHURCH MISSIONS.**—With the exception of the year 1864-5, when upwards of £4000 were raised by the ladies to clear off an accumulation of debt, the income of the year just closed exceeds that of any previous one by nearly £1500. The sum paid into the account of the Mission Building Fund, amounts to £38,600. About five years ago the Committee made an effort by public appeals to increase the Missionaries' Widows' and Orphans' Fund. The result is that a sum of £1264 has been received, including a donation of £500 from Dr. Harry Rainy, and it has now been made possible to increase the widows' annuities from £27 to £35; but this allowance is still manifestly most inadequate, and no better object could be commended to the liberality of the wealthier friends of the Church than the fund whose object is to enable our missionaries abroad to labour with an easier mind. The number of Associations is 616; but as many as 291 sanctioned charges still continue the old and ineffective method of supporting the missions by means of an annual collection. The boarding and day schools show an increased attendance. Normal classes are carried on with excellent practical results. In India, zenana work is prosecuted with encouraging success; and during the year, native Bible-

women, native female teachers, and others, have engaged in evangelistic work. The income of the Society for the year has been £4085. An appeal made by the Committee in the interest of the sufferers from the Indian famine had issued in contributions to the amount of £514. There are 150 Presbyterian ministers in India, ministering to 30,000 souls (8000 being the fruit of missionary labour), and a strong desire is felt to bring these together so as that they make take common action. It is proposed to take advantage of the fresh interest excited in Africa by the Ashantee war and the death of Livingstone, to open a new mission somewhere on that continent.

**PATRONAGE.**—A bill for the abolition of Lay Patronage in the Church of Scotland has passed Parliament. Both the Free Church Assembly and the United Presbyterian Synod have petitioned in favour of disestablishment.

**IRELAND.**—The General Assembly held a very successful and delightful series of meetings in June. The instrumental music difficulty stands as it stood last year. A few congregations are unwilling to give up their instruments.

## STATE OF THE ACCOUNTS, JULY 24, 1874.

*Published by direction of Synod.*

### FOREIGN MISSION.

June 1. Balance due Treasurer...	\$1132 40
Exp. since June 1, to date	989 54
Rec. " " "	\$2121 94
	1270 20
Balance due Treas. ....	\$ 851 74

### MISSION SHIP AND TRINIDAD SCHOOLS.

June 1. Bal. in Treas. hands....	\$ 526 74
Receipts till July 24.....	242 77
Payments.....	\$ 769 51
	156 71
Bal. in Treas. hands.....	\$ 612 80

### HOME MISSIONS.

June 1. Bal. in hands of Treas....	\$327 19
Receipts till July 24.....	765 87
	\$1093 06
Payments " " " " " "	754 94
	\$ 338 12

### MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

June 1. Bal. in hand, Professors' advance not then pd. over.....	\$ 536 20
Principal recalled.....	146 00
Div. and int. received till July 24.....	638 49
Rec. from congregations.	730 68
	\$2051 46
Exp. to July 24.....	1442 00
Bal. in Treas. hands.....	\$ 609 46