

time to time to weaken in the public mind a sense of the sanctity of the Sabbath; the Assembly have learned with high satisfaction the success which, through Divine Providence, has recently followed the means employed to prevent the sanctioning, by Parliament, of the flagrant violation of the Lord's Day, and in the view of the determined efforts making of having Sunday amusements practised on a wider scale and in a more enlarged form, resolve to send a petition to Parliament, praying for its protection and sanction to the due keeping of the Lord's Day; and again call on office-bearers and members of the Church to take every opportunity, by all competent methods, of promoting reverence for the Sabbath, and the religious observance of it. The motion also proposed the re-appointment of the committee, with thanks to Dr. Muir and the committee for their unwearied attention to the subject.

Mr. W. COOK seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

#### DEPUTATION TO TURKEY.

Mr. WILSON, Paisley, brought this subject again before the notice of the Assembly. He stated the reasons which rendered the collection of information from the East at present a matter of great importance to the Jewish Committee. The Rev. Messrs. McLeod and Macduff, of Glasgow, were certainly eminently qualified to undertake the task, and they had offered in the handsomest manner not to put the Church to the smallest expense if they were sent as a deputation from the Assembly.

Dr. PIRIE concurred in the objection of Mr. Lee, which he thought a very serious one. He did not approve of the matter being taken out of the hands of the Presbytery of Glasgow, who, he thought, were the most suitable parties to have it before them. He was disposed to move that the matter be referred to the consideration of the Jewish Committee, with instructions to correspond with the Presbytery of Glasgow.

The motion of Dr. Pirie was then agreed to, and the Assembly adjourned till the evening.

#### EVENING SEDERUNT.

The Assembly resumed at eight o'clock—the Moderator presiding.

#### CONVENERSHIP OF POPERY COMMITTEE.

Dr. FOWLER intimated that the Popery Committee had met that afternoon, and had chosen as Convener in room of himself, he having accepted the Convenership of the Colonial Committee, the Rev. W. Robertson, of New Greyfriars, Edinburgh.

#### ADMISSION OF DISSENTING MINISTERS.

Dr. RUNCIMAN gave in a report from the committee appointed at a previous diet to consider the application of Messrs. Dickson, Strachan, and Home, for admission to the Church. All the parties named had been connected with the Free Church, and the committee, after giving a brief narrative of

the circumstances in each of the cases, recommended that Mr. Dickson should be admitted to the position of probationer, and the cases of Mr. Strachan and Mr. Home to the favorable consideration of the assembly.

With reference to the application of Mr. Strachan a motion by Professor Swinton, that that gentleman be admitted as a probationer of the Church, was agreed to without discussion.

On the motion of Mr. Irvine, Arbroath, Mr. Home was also admitted a probationer without a vote.

#### DEBTS ON CHAPELS.

Professor SWINTON reported that, during the past year, the Committee had been able to release six chapels from debt, besides assisting others.

#### PUBLIC WORSHIP.

Principal LEE read a proposed declaratory Act on this subject, approving of the overture that had been submitted, and enjoining all ministers of the Church to observe the recommendations contained in it respecting the reading of the Holy Scriptures at each diet of public worship, and calling their attention to the regulations of the Church on that subject, as set forth in the Directory for Public Worship.

The proposed Act was approved of.

#### ENDOWMENT SCHEME.

Dr. ROBERTSON stated that the revenue of this Scheme for the year was now £44,261, 18s. 11d. He had that day received several contributions, including £400 from the Earl Selkirk, being £20 for each of the twenty chapels in one of the provincial groups. (Applause.)

The Commission, which consists of all the members of the Assembly, with Dr. Simpson added, was then appointed to meet on Tuesday at twelve o'clock.

#### Glasgow Mission to Scutari Hospital.

[Mr. McNair's Journal.]

October—As the time absorbed by the care of the sick has diminished, greater attention has been paid to the men on duty, and steps are being taken for their mental and moral, as well as for their spiritual improvement. For some time past, schools have been conducted by teachers who have undergone a regular system of training in Normal Schools at home, and have been sent here on purpose. More recently, Evening Lectures have been set on foot twice a-week, which are numerous attended by the soldiers. Such questions as "Who live in the Crimea?" "Who was Mahomet?" "The Cross and the Crescent." "Plain facts and experiments in Chemistry." "Facts in Anatomy," &c., &c., have been the subjects of lectures already delivered by chaplains and medical officers. The spectacle may now be seen of men who have met with Russians, Turks, Tartars, and others, listening to disquisitions upon the origin and habits of those with whom they have measured swords, or upon the contrast between their own religious belief, and that of their allies, their respective founders and books. The sight may now be witnessed of men to whom the explo-

sions of charcoal, sulphur and saltpetre have been familiar as the day, and who have themselves been active agents in rendering the air not only with the thunder of artillery, but also with the bursting of huge and deadly shells, intent upon explanations of the rationale of combustion, the nature and properties of substances, elementary and compound. Men who have narrowly escaped dislocations and fractures, many of whom have been witnesses to amputations and dressings of wounds, may now be seen drinking in lectures upon the structure of those bodies which are so fearfully and wonderfully made. And as the lecturers do not ignore the agency of a great First cause, but lead the thoughts of the men to Him who maketh wars, and causeth them to cease, who is at once the God of nature, and the God of grace, let us hope that the manners which war is too prone to form may be softened, and that those who have drawn the sword, may be equally ready to sheathe it, when an amicable adjustment has been made.

November.—During the early part of this month the wards were very empty, and the number of Presbyterian patients had considerably diminished, so much so that I considered this the most favorable time to apply for leave of absence, and having arranged with Mr. Cannan (who was rapidly becoming convalescent) and Mr. Johnston (Kuluhi) in regard to the conducting of the Sabbath services, I applied for, and obtained leave to visit Smyrna. The "Calcutta," a steam transport, being about to sail for England, to call *en route* at Smyrna, I took my passage in her, on the 10th, and having a Sabbath to spend on board, and being the only chaplain, I not only had an opportunity of seeing the invalids, and distributing among them some books and tracts brought for the purpose, but also conducted service, first in the saloon, with the crew and cabin-passengers, consisting principally of sick officers, and afterwards in one of the sick-wards, with the soldiers.

Being unable to learn beforehand the state of the Hospital at Smyrna, and remembering the expressed wish of the committee that something should be done for this as well as for Scutari, I made up a box of Bibles, Testaments, and other books and tracts before starting, and took this with me, as well as another box entrusted to my care, to be delivered to the English Chaplain. These were safely landed on the morning of the 13th. From the brief and somewhat hurried visit which I was enabled to pay to the Hospital, every thing seemed to be in good order; and great expense and care had been taken to fit it up for the convenience of patients. But at this time every one seemed uncertain as to the length of time during which the building might be occupied as an Hospital, and whether it might not in a few days be handed over to the Swiss Legion. When I left on the 15th, it was generally understood that all the patients, somewhere about 300 in number, were to be removed to the new Hospital at Renkioi.

This Hospital (Renkioi), situated on the Asiatic side of the Dardanelles, and very near their western extremity, I had also an opportunity of visiting. It is beautifully situated on a little tongue of land stretching out into the straits, and abundantly supplied with water brought in pipes from the neighboring heights. For occupation in summer, a more advantageous spot could scarcely have been selected, as the northern exposure secures an almost perpetual cooling breeze, which very much modifies the temperature of the otherwise scorching atmosphere. The buildings being all new,