

## FREE CHURCH ASSEMBLY.

The General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland, met in Tenth Hall on Thursday 22nd May. Rev. Dr. Duff, of Calcutta, elected Moderator.

**DELEGATIONS.**—The Assembly received Messrs. Menad and Post from the Evangelical Mission Society of France; Messrs. Duand and Corbet Angers, from the Belgian Evangelical Society; Dr. Kilpatrick and Mr. Hamilton, from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland; Professor Innes, of the Presbyterian College in England; the Rev. John West of London, and Mr. Balfour of Manchester, from the Presbyterian Church in England.

**RECEIPTS.**—From Mr. Buchanan of Glasgow, as Treasurer of the Reformation Committee, presented to the Assembly the state of the fund for the past year, from which it appeared that the sum received from associations, donations, and all other sources of revenue amounted to £91,527 4 4.

The amount last year was ..... £97,764 3 6

Showing an increase of ..... 1,763 5 2

To which add interest ..... 422 14 4

Making a grand total for the year of ..... 91,527 4 4

There has to be deducted from this amount, however, for printing, rent, salary, and all other expenses for management, £3,776 19s 11d, amount to be paid to Widows and representatives of ministers who died during the year, £459; and the balance to be paid to the Widows' Fund, both belonging to their own Church and to those of their ministers who were still connected with the Fund of the Established Church, £3,507 16s; leaving to be appropriated to the proper objects of the fund—the payment of the stipends of the ministers—the sum of £89,198 19s 5d. The number of ministers entitled to draw stipend from the fund, was 711, admitted since to old charges, 21, do. to new charges 4, making a total of 736, but from which there are to be deducted four who died and four removed or translated beyond the bounds of the Church, making the total number 728. Out of the fund, therefore, of £89,198 19s 5d, there falls in to be paid—

To 31 ministers under the Act of 1844 ..... £3,422 10 0

21 ministers ordained to old charges ..... 1,474 10 0

8 ministers retired ..... 570 0 0

Leaving as stipend for 638 ministers on the equal dividend ..... 16,795 18 5

Giving a sum of £193 to each minister. This was the exact sum given last year, for, although there had been an increase on the grand total, seventeen more ministers had been added to the roll, which accounted for the dividend being no longer the same year.

At a conference held on the 24th, a committee was appointed to devise a new scheme for distributing the fund.

**MISSIONS.**—Rev. Mr. Jaffray made a statement relative to the Collections for the Missionary Schemes of the Church, which amounted to £20,568, 18s 3d, an increase since last year of £2,888 10s. Report on Jewish Missions, submitted by the Rev. Mr. Moody Stuart.—Seven missionaries employed; stations at Perth, Lemberg, Amsterdam, and Constantinople; debt on the scheme, amounting to £3,263. Home Mission Scheme—report presented by the Rev. Mr. Sym, and a sub-committee appointed to consider the spiritual destitution in Glasgow. Ladies' Association for the Evangelization of Ireland—report brought up by the Rev. Mr. Jaffray. The report stated that by the exertions chiefly of the Ladies' Association, upwards of £500 had been remitted for the schools and some other branches of the mission; but there had been no regular effort under the sanction of the Assembly. The missionaries continue to occupy the same field of labour in the counties Mayo, Sligo, Rosemount, and Galway, in the province of Connaught, and in county Kerry, and at Birr. In these counties the missionaries have access to about 50 English schools, of which forty are in Mayo and Sligo, in which the average attendance is between 30 and 40 to each school. In some districts there was free access to houses of Roman Catholics to a considerable extent for the missionary or Scriptural reader. The committee concluded their report, by stating that the experiment of turning Gaelic into a commercial account among the native Irish was in process of being fairly exemplified at the mission in Mayo, where a catechist from one of our western Islands has tried his mother tongue successfully with the Irish. Report on Foreign Missions, given in by Rev. Mr. Tweedie; and on Canadian Mission, by Rev. Dr. Macfarlane of Renfrew. Colonial Missions, reported on by Mr. Bonar, of Glasgow. Twenty-two appointments made during one year.

**COLLEGE BUSINESS.**—Report on New College, by Dr. Cunningham, showed the number of students enrolled last year to be 258; the total number at Edinburgh and Aberdeen, 297. Overtures sent a knowledge of Hebrew previous to being enrolled students of theology—agreed to. Overture for regulating the practice of partial attendance at the Divinity Hall—re-transmitted to presbytery; and another, on the necessity of an attendance at the class of Natural Science—referred to a committee. The question of College Extension discussed at length—a committee appointed to consider the subject, and a report adopted to the effect that the subject be remitted to committee, called the Finance and Endowment Committee, for consideration; that the Presbytery of Aberdeen be authorized to superintend the Theological Institute there, and that an addi-

tional professorship should be established at Aberdeen, so soon as sufficient means can be provided.

**CHURCHMAN AND MANSES.**—Report on the Church Building Fund, brought in by Rev. Dr. Beag. Thirty-two grants made last year, churches free from debt, £20; amount of debt on other churches, 75,568. Mr. Robt. Watson reported on Manse Building Society, that the collected list for 1847 was £113,000, and from the commencement of the fund, £116,895—Number of manse built or in process of building, 421.

**OVERS.**—Overtures considered, addresses delivered, and report presented on this subject. Resolved to petition against Papal Aggression and all endowments to Popish institutions.

**CONVOCATION.**—Report read by Dr. Candlish. Income, £13,006; total number of teachers 687, and one female, 33,738, balance due £254.

**TRANSLATIONS.**—Appeals against refusal on the part of the Synod of Glenelg to translate Mr. McArthur, the Synod of Perth to translate Mr. Stewart, and the Synod of Angus refusing to translate the Rev. T. G. Philip—considered and reported of.

**DISCIPLINE.**—Deposition by Mr. Allan Thomson, late Minister of North Berwick, imposed by the Synod of Edinburgh, and sentence confirmed and carried out *pro forma*, by the Assembly.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.**—Report on Sabbath observance, conferences, and addresses on ministerial duties, and on spiritual destitution. Diet of Hamilton held. Dr. Duff appointed as a deputy to the Evangelical Reformed Church of France.

## ESTABLISHED CHURCH ASSEMBLY.

The General Assembly of the Established Church met on Thursday, May 22—Rev. Dr. McLeod, of Morven, elected Moderator.

**DELEGATIONS.**—Mr. M. Crossland and Laumier, from Central Protestant Church of France.

**FINANCES.**—Report presented by Mr. Chryne, W. S. A debt of £312 6s. 10d., chiefly owing to heavy loss of expenses in Cambusethan castle.

**MISSIONS AND SCHEMES.**—Jewish Mission report presented by Rev. Dr. Crawford. Satisfactory accounts of Missionary agency at Chuchin, where the congregation consists of 150 members, 11 schools attended by 467 children. Other stations—London, Karlsruhe, and Hesse Darmstadt. Colonial Scheme.—Report brought forward by Rev. Dr. Clark. Total income for the year, £24,343 16s. 8d. Home Mission Scheme.—Report presented by Rev. Dr. Robertson. The contributions for the past year, £3,323 10s. 4d., and increase since last of £175. Grants voted to forty-six unendowed churches, amounted to £1765, and for supporting forty-eight mission stations, £1747 10s. Education Scheme.—Reported by Dr. Robertson. Total sum received in aid of the scheme, £19,560. Indian Mission.—Report presented by Dr. Macfarlane, Duddingstone.—Total sum contributed during the year, £43,676 7s. 5d. Education scheme, as reported by Dr. Cooke. Total sum received in aid of the scheme, £117,142 2d at present receiving instruction from this scheme. The sum received by the committee during the past year was upwards of 11,000. Annual meeting of the Lay Association in support of the five schemes held on Friday, May 23. Total sum contributed £37,219 14s. 1d. Lay Association.—Mr. Cooke, W. S., read the report. Subscribers during the year, £3,625 14s. 8d. Joint Committee on Schemes, reported on by Rev. Dr. Simpson, proposed to raise a fund for new premises to carry on the business of the schemes. Widows' Fund reported on by Dr. Grant.

**SABBATH SCHOOLS.**—Dr. CRAIG, Glasgow, gave in a report from the Committee on Sabbath schools. The Committee had issued 1100 circulars to ministers of parishes and chapels in connexion with the Church of Scotland, with the view of procuring information as to Sabbath schools. Returns had been received from 629 parishes and chapels, but some of these returns were so late that no use could be made of them in drawing up a general statement. In 617 parishes, from which returns had been made, the population amounted to 1,501,332; the number of Sabbath schools in connexion with the Church of Scotland 1095, or one to every 1400 of the inhabitants; the number of male teachers 2674, and of female 2232, giving a total of 4927 teachers connected with these 617 congregations; this number included 733 professional teachers. The number pupils on the roll amounted to 63,172, or one for every 25 of the population; the average number in attendance was 35,000, or one to 53,790. The collections made by Sabbath schools for missionary objects amounted to £104 10s. 6d. The Sabbath schools, connected with 350 congregations, enjoyed the benefit of libraries, containing in all 71,531 volumes.

**OVERS.**—Overtures received from various presbyteries, and a committee appointed to consider the duty of the church on the subject. Report brought up. Motion by Dr. Robertson—agreed to—that the Assembly resolve to petition parliament against the Papal aggression, and to render null all usurpations on the established ecclesiastical authority of the country from whatever quarter they come.

**QUOD SACRA CHURCHES.**—Overture from Paisley ancient relieving parishes from liabilities connected with quod sacra churches—committee appointed to consider the subject reported. The subject dismissed.

**OVERS.**—Overture ancient Lord Melgus's bill, considered Tuesday, May 26. Motion by Professor Swinton, that Petitions to both Houses of Parliament against the bill be sent from the Assembly—adopted. Professor Swinton, and Mr. Stewart, of Liberton, were of opinion that the same terms applied to parochial teachers should not be applied to professors in universities. General question of education discussed on Thurs-