

many of whom would yet rise up and call him blessed.

CASE OF WEST CHURCH, INVERNESS.

Dr. MUIR reported that but partial success had attended the subscriptions in behalf of the widow of the late minister of the West Church, Inverness, whose means had been embarked by her husband in the erection of that church in the anticipation of repayment during his incumbency. Several members of Assembly having warmly counseled aid in behalf of the widow, whose resources had been cut off, by her husband's effort to advance the interests of the Church, the Committee was requested to continue their efforts to procure subscriptions for the lady.

CALLS OF PRESENTEES.

Dr. SYM gave in a Report of a Committee, which recommended that the moderation of a call should take place 10 days after the Sabbath, instead of after the Monday on which the presen-tee preached, so as to make it on the Thursday week instead of the Friday week, Thursday being generally the more convenient day.

Report approved of.

THE MISSIONARY RECORD.

Dr. SIMPSON read the Report of the Joint Committee on the Schemes, proposing some change in the arrangements of the *Missionary Record*, and in the other details for conducting the business of the Scheme.

Professor SWINTON moved the approval of the Report.

Dr. ANDERSON, in seconding the motion, begged to say that, although the Church was freed of the pecuniary responsibility, it still had to be responsible for the character of the *Record* itself. Now, from being, as hitherto, a loss, it could, he thought, be made a source of gain, and at the same time a far more valuable and attractive work than it now unfortunately was. Our missionaries were all men of education, who had gone the round of the sciences, and had opportunities during their College curriculum of becoming acquainted with every branch of interesting research, and he wanted them just to apply their studies by sending from time to time reports of the natural history and interesting physical features of the countries in which they were stationed, more especially upon all that bore upon the antiquities of men, the languages, and the arts. (Hear, hear.) We owe to the missionaries of the Romish Church our first acquaintance with China and other Oriental nations, and we cannot forget that to two missionaries, while pursuing these higher objects, Europe is indebted for its knowledge of decimal notations, and the immortal work, Euclid's Elements, first translated from the Arabic into Latin by the Abbé Adheland in the 11th century. And, if these things were done in the dark ages, what might not be expected in this age of light and knowledge. (Applause.) He did not want our missionaries to abandon in any degree their more peculiar duties. But the two things surely were not incompatible. Science and Religion can be made to go hand in hand, and, stationed so opportunely as they were in so many new fields of research, he doubted not but matters of the most interesting and readable kind could be furnished. What was it, he would ask, which imparted such a charm to the works of Kitto, now in everybody's hands, but his beautiful delineations and graphic descriptions of the land of the Bible in all its varied features of rural towns and craggy deserts, remarkable vegetation and wondrous scenery. (Hear, hear.) Having referred to some interesting details connected with Ceylon, Nassau, Athens and other missionary stations, the Rev. Dr. concluded by earnestly pressing the subject upon the attentive consideration of the Committee, and by expressing a conviction that in this age, pre-eminent above all others in the desire and facilities of scientific acquisition, they had at their command a staff of literary officers who would not only revive the character of the *Record* but add to the resources of the Church and increase the interest of the public in all its Schemes. (Applause.)

Mr. PHIN thought that the want of interest in the "Record" might be due in some measure to the circumstance that each Scheme got in each publication a particular department, an arrangement which interfered very much with the value of the contents.

The Report was received, and the Committee re-appointed.

THE GAELIC SCRIPTURES.

Dr. COLVIN SMITH, Inverary, gave in a Report from the Committee of Assembly on the Gaelic Scriptures. The Committee stated that they had had the present version of these Scriptures under their consideration, and had made various alterations in the translation with the view of making the present authorised version more accurate. The alterations, however, were not very numerous, and a specimen-sheet, showing the alterations made on several books of the Old Testament, was submitted for the inspection of the Assembly. The Committee trusted that they would soon, if re-appointed, be able to report that the whole Gaelic Scriptures had been subject to the same revision.

Dr. NORMAN McLEOD thought the Assembly were under great obligation to the Convener of the Committee. He had brought to the work of revising the Gaelic Scriptures an intimate knowledge of the language, and there was no individual more capable than he was of terminating the task successfully. The Rev. Dr. called the attention of the Assembly to the want of any authorised party to superintend the printing of editions of the Gaelic Bible, in consequence of which any person was at liberty to print them; and the danger was that the text might thereby get corrupted.

Dr. HILL expressed the sense which was entertained of the value of the Committee's services and moved their re-appointment, with instructions to them to apply, if they thought necessary, to Government, with the view of getting a competent party to superintend the authorised version of the Gaelic Scriptures.

The motion was agreed to, and the Committee re-appointed.

FINANCES OF THE CHURCH.

Mr. CHEYNE, W.S., on the part of the Committee entrusted with this matter, reported that the collection, which last General Assembly had authorised, had been responded to by 359 out of 1183 churches and chapels, and that the sum of L.907, 18s. 11d. had been collected. After meeting all existing liabilities, the available balance in the hands of the Committee amounted to L.312, 14s. 8d. The collection of last year, the Report stated, had relieved the Church of the heavy expense incurred in opposing Legislative measures; but the Church, in the opinion of the Committee, would never be in a proper position till funds were provided for meeting the exigencies which might from time to time arise.

Dr. COOK, St Andrews, hoped that those parishes in which no collection had been made would be induced to bear their share of the burden, and he suggested that the Assembly should give instructions to the Committee to make application to the non-collecting parishes for this purpose. He moved the adoption of the Report with this instruction.

Dr. HILL seconded the motion, which, after a few remarks from Dr. Cook, Haddington, and Mr. W. Cook, on the importance of having the necessary funds provided, was agreed to.

CHAPEL DEBTS.

Professor SWINTON gave in a Report from the Committee for the Liquidation of Chapel Debts. It stated that, independent of the munificent bequest of L.2000 from the late Mr. Macleod, L.1100 of income had been realised. The amount of collections was L.503, 8s. 6d.; last year they were L.596, 11s. 8d. The rule had been adopted of giving aid to those cases where efforts had been made to liquidate the debt, and the Committee stated that, acting on this principle, several chapels had been entirely freed from debt by the assistance given from the funds of the Committee.

After discharging the prospective obligations under which the Committee had come, the funds available were reduced to L.727, 10s. 7d. The Committee did not recommend another general collection this year, but suggested that the General Assembly should instruct that collections be made in those parishes where there were chapels in debt, and in congregations from which no collection had as yet been received.

Dr. HILL moved the adoption of the Report, and that the Assembly give instructions in terms of the Committee's recommendation; which was seconded by Mr. Cheyne, and agreed to.

INDIAN CHURCHES.

Dr. BRYCE made a brief verbal Report of this subject. The Committee had addressed a representation to the Earl of Dalhousie, founded on evidence recently taken before the House of Commons, as to having an increased number of Scotch chaplains in India; and they are now waiting an answer to the communication. Dr. Bryce also mentioned that the Presbyterian bodies at Madras, which, in conformity with an Act of last General Assembly, had formed themselves into a Presbytery, wished to have from this Assembly some official recognition.

The Report was approved of.

CHURCHES IN DUNDEE.

Mr. SHAND, W. S., on the part of this Committee, stated that they were unable to do more than report progress. The litigation with the Magistrates of Dundee was still undetermined, but the Committee hoped, if they were re-appointed, to be in a different position at next General Assembly. The case was fully heard before the Lord Ordinary, and also before the Inner House, who made a reference to Mr. Cosmo Innes. That gentleman was making an investigation into the facts, and, when his Report was presented, it was expected that the case would be fully matured.

The Report was approved of and the Committee re-appointed.

LIBRARY OF THE CHURCH.

Principal LEE verbally reported that for the want of funds many valuable works that would have been of use to the Library could not be purchased. He thought it desirable, however, that the Committee should be kept up, and mentioned a number of instances in which they had proved of much service. The Committee was re-appointed.

FEUING OF GLEBES.

Dr. GRANT stated that the Committee on this subject had not lost sight of it, though there were a good many difficulties in the way. They had been in communication with a leading member of the Government last summer, and he (Dr. Grant) had corresponded with the Lord Advocate on the subject. His Lordship had intimated that he was prepared to give his attention to the matter, but nothing further had taken place. The Committee was also re-appointed.

The Assembly then adjourned till the evening.

EVENING SEDERUNT.

The Assembly resumed at 8 o'clock.

SPIRITUAL SUPERINTENDENCE OF STUDENTS.

Dr. COOK, Haddington, gave in a Report stating the amount and character of the spiritual provisions made for students at the different Universities.

Principal LEE moved the approval of the Report, and that the Committee be re-appointed to suggest and carry out such means as would conduce to proper pastoral superintendence of the students.

Professor MACPHERSON seconded the motion, which was approved.

APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO THE CHURCH.

The Assembly then took up the application of the Rev. James Dickson for re-admission to the Church of Scotland. The applicant stated that he received license from the Church of Scotland, and that previous to 1843 he was appointed assistant minister of Marytown Presbytery of Brechin, very much on account of his connection with that