

mittee, whose report will no doubt be favorable to admission.—We further notice the licensing, by this Presbytery, of Messrs. Gordon and Murray. We hope that these gentlemen will lose no time in making their appearance in our midst. Now is the time for “vacancies” to be up and doing.

DR. STORY, of Roseneath, in the Presbytery of Dumbarton, objected to certain of the queries issued by the Committee of Christian Life and Work, particularly those on Statistics,—the collection of which, he maintained, was not the work of the Church, but of a Government official.

THE REV. THOMAS SCOTT having been appointed to a charge in New Zealand, the Presbytery of Edinburgh met in Newington Church to forward the appointment. The Rev. John Allison conducted the services.

DUNDEE PRESBYTERY.—On Wednesday a meeting of this body was held.—Rev. Mr. Nicoll, Moderator. Rev. Dr. Watson, Convener of the Committee on Overtures, reported regarding an overture having in view the promoting of unity and friendly relations among the various Churches, in favor of allowing ministers of other denominations, and who held the vital doctrines of the Standards of the Church, to officiate in Established Churches, the minister of the congregation having afterwards to report to the Presbytery the fact of the stranger's officiating, along with his name, &c. Some discussion took place in the matter. The committee recommended the adoption of the overture. It was moved that the committee's report be approved of, and it was proposed that the overture be approved of, with the part of it deleted regarding the minister having to report on a stranger occupying his pulpit. The overture as it stood was agreed to by a majority of 9 to 6.

PRESBYTERY OF CAIRSTON.—THE PATRONAGE BILL.—The Presbytery of Cairston, Orkney, at its November meeting on Wednesday, unanimously adopted for insertion in its records the following deliverance anent the abolition of Patronage:—“The Presbytery of Cairston, considering that,

since their last ordinary meeting, a bill for the abolition of patronage in the Church of Scotland, and for vesting the election of the parish minister in the congregation, as was petitioned for by this Presbytery in 1871, has been introduced and passed through Parliament, did unanimously resolve to record their thanks to Almighty God for so auspicious an answer to the prayers of His servants. The Presbytery hail the repeal of the Act of the tenth year of Queen Anne, chap 12, as removing what has been a prolific source of weakness in, and secession from, the National Church, and a barrier to reunion. They rejoice to observe how fully, in the Patronage Abolition Act, the spiritual independence of the Church is acknowledged anew by the British Legislature, and how much more has now been granted than was insisted on by those esteemed fathers and brethren who, in 1842, petitioned the Crown for deliverance from the grievance of patronage, and in consequence of the unfavourable response which they received, seceded from the Church of Scotland in 1843. The Presbytery rejoice that, in this matter, Parliament has done all that could, after the lapse of thirty years, be reasonably expected from it. Considering also that, in accordance with the Westminster Confession of Faith, it devolves, not on the State, but on the Church, to open up to those whose patronage has repelled from her pale, but who still adhere to her principles, and choose to return to her communion, the privileges of the Establishment, the Presbytery heartily concur in the relative overture recently adopted by the Synod of Orkney, and anticipated by the similar overture sent up from this Presbytery to the General Assembly of 1871. The Presbytery likewise hereby express their gratification at the manner in which not only the adherents of the Church of Scotland, but also many adherents of the Free, Original Secession, and United Presbyterian Churches within the bounds, true to the distinctive principles on which their denominations were constituted, signed the petitions in favor of the Patronage Abolition Bill. The disinterested manner in which many patrons, by concurring in the bill, facilitated the passing of it, is