

two or three thousand copies of which had been sold during the last two months.

Dr. Lee hailed, in common with the other members, the production of this volume, having from the beginning taken a deep interest in the subject, and having intended, had circumstances permitted, to contribute his mite to the work. He thought this volume would convince people that there was really a great deal of sense in having prayers carefully composed. He believed that ministers who read that book would admit that it would be difficult even for the ablest and most fluent men to extemporise prayers such as these were. (Hear, hear.)

HOME MISSION.—Dr. Crawford gave in the report by the Home Mission Committee. The report states that during the year ending 15th April, 1858, the sum of £3,243 2s 6d was received from 972 congregations. During the year ending 15th April last, the sum of £3,145 5s 10d, has been received from 957 parish churches and chapels—thus showing a deficiency of £97 16s 8d in the amount of collections, and a falling off to the number of 15 in contributing congregations. While the revenue has thus in some measure fallen off, the efficiency of the scheme continues unimpaired, and its operations have not only been fully sustained, but considerably increased. In course of the past year, several new and interesting localities have been occupied and supplied. The entire receipts for the year ending 15th April, 1858 (including the ordinary revenue, being £3424 8s 11d), amounted to £4737 18s 4d, while the expenditure for the same period amounted to £4904 6s 5d; thus showing an excess of expenditure for that year to the amount of £166 8s 1d. The entire receipts for the year ending 15th April last were £4662 18s 2d; the expenditure during the same period was £5573 1s 10d; the excess of the expenditure over the revenue, therefore, was £610 3s 8d. This excess of expenditure mainly arises from the payment of the building grants, amounting to £507 10s.

Mr. Gray, Lady Yester's, moved that the report be adopted; that the General Assembly lament the deficiency in the funds; regard with satisfaction the extension of the operations of the committee; thank the convener and committee, and re-appoint them, with power to add to their number, at the same time authorising the committee to make an extra collection on behalf of the funds of the Mission.

Major Baillie seconded the motion, eloquently advocating the claims of the Mission to increased support.

Dr. Norman McLeod, of the Barony, expressed his regret that this important scheme was discussed on a Saturday, when the attendance was necessarily limited, and in the course of an eloquent speech on behalf of home missionary work, said—The city of Glasgow has somehow or other got a very bad name. One would suppose, from the statements made

about Glasgow in some quarters, that we were always sitting soaking in water all the day and soaking in whisky all the night—(laughter)—that we were engaged in cheating our neighbors on week-days, and that on Sabbath days we sat sulking and gloomy in the house, and could not get out to amusements. There has been a great tendency to exaggeration in describing the condition of the working classes. If people wish to advance teetotalism they generally begin by showing what a dreadful set of blackguards the working classes are. When the question of the suffrage is brought above board, and men do not wish to accede to it, they say, "Oh, you cannot get it for the working classes." These poor fellows are struck right and left, and the impression is given that you have in Glasgow nothing but an enormous mass of people in the east sunk in degradation, while in the west you have its terraces, streets, and squares, almost entirely an intelligent and pious population, as if piety were confined within the limits of the aristocrat part of the city. Don't let us fall into these exaggerations. I can speak about the working classes. It is a favorite occupation of mine to go a good deal amongst them, and ascertain facts about their state. The other day I went into a large manufactory for welding iron, where there is the severest employment perhaps in Glasgow, before immense furnaces; and you would suppose that the men there would be a set of great drunkards. I went to the man who superintended them, and I said, and asked him about them, and he replied, "We have 130 men; and I don't know that there is a teetotaler among them; but I am perfectly sure of this, that there is not a drunkard among them." I asked him what they drank, and he replied, "Cold water from the pump." (Laughter.) And he added that they had a sick society among them, out of the funds of which not a single farthing had been paid last year, and that he had been thirty years in Glasgow, and did not know a more sober class of people. I went to another work, and I said, "I am told you have a great number of infidels here." He replied, "Infidels! I would put them all in my toolbox." (Laughter.) I am intensely alive to the deplorable amount of ignorance, and vice, and drunkenness in every great city of the earth. In all great cities you will necessarily have a lower class of people sunk in vice. We have an enormous mass of ignorant people in Glasgow—we have a mass of Irish in Glasgow neither under the care of priest nor presbyter, in a wretched, degraded condition. But I feel that there is in Glasgow a vast number of steady, sober, God-fearing men amongst our working classes who are never heard of, and who, when these drunken fellows are going up the street, are sitting quietly at their firesides. Yet when a few drunken fellows are heard making an uproar in the streets, people say, "Hear that; what a horrid set these working classes are," never thinking of the many men who are sober and steady.