

Presbytery of Elgin of the expenses in this case, and for the providing funds for the litigation in the house of Lords.

Rev. Mr. Wyllie, Elgin, spoke in support of the petition.

Rev. Dr. Cook, St. Andrew's, said the case had been a very long and vexatious one, and what their brethren of the Elgin Presbytery wanted in now coming to the Assembly, was to ask that Court to relieve them of the expenses in this case. He did not think that the Assembly would have much hesitation in responding to their petition, seeing that the Elgin Presbytery had been only acting in accordance with the wishes expressed by the General Assembly in former years. He moved that, whereas the Presbytery of Elgin, in maintaining the rights of the Church in the case of the Elgin Burgh School, acted by advice of several General Assemblies, and in particular the Assembly of 1850, find that it was a case deserving of support if there had been funds at the disposal of the Church; and whereas the Presbytery of Elgin had incurred a great deal of expense, the General Assembly warmly recommend to the friends of the Church the strong claims which the members of the Presbytery of Elgin have to the claims of the Church in being relieved from the heavy burden which lies upon them, and authorize the Presbytery to use whatever means they may deem necessary for the purpose of raising funds, and to report to next General Assembly.

Mr. James Hepe, D. K. S., seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

#### SCHEMES OF THE CHURCH.

On Friday evening the annual meeting of the subscribers to the Lay Association in support of the 5 original schemes of the Church of Scotland—a meeting to which ladies and aid all friends of home and foreign missions were invited—was held (under sanction of the General Assembly) in the Assembly Hall. There was a crowded attendance, the audience being composed principally of ladies.

Sir William Baillie, was, on the motion of Sheriff Barclay of Perth, called on to preside; and the proceedings were opened with praise and prayer, conducted by the Rev. Dr. Maitland, ex-Moderator of the General Assembly.

Mr. C. Grant, W. S., read the report, of which the following is the substance:—

The financial position of all the schemes is far from satisfactory. In every case the expenditure has exceeded the ordinary income; and that not from any extraordinary extension of their operations, but from the shortcoming in the funds derived from the church-door collections and other ordinary sources of revenue. The contributions have been allocated to the several schemes by the subscribers and the committee respectively in the following proportions (omitting fractions):—

Schemes.	Appropriated by		Total
	Subscribers.	Committee.	
Education,	£166	£223	£389
India,	62	83	146
Home Mission,	113	167	281
Colonial Scheme,	79	111	190
Jews' Conversion,	54	74	128
Total	£473	£663	£1,135

Mr. Grant then read a comparative statement on the income of the five schemes for the year 1860-61:—

	Ordinary Income.	Total Income	No. of Parishes.
Education,	£3,021	£4,578	931
Indian Mis.,	3,126	4,300	876
Home Mis.,	3,865	4,788	904
Colonial Mis.,	2,532	3,057	830
Jews' Conversion	2,243	3,135	836
	£16,500	£19,860	
Income '59-60	£15,342	£20,533	
Decrease	652	672	

After reading the report, Mr. Grant proceeded to say that the figures it contained would satisfy the meeting that the opinion expressed in the report as to the present position of these schemes is far from satisfactory.

The report having been adopted,

The Rev. George Cook, lately of Bombay, delivered an address on the subject of Indian Missions, and was followed by the Rev. Thomas Monro, of Campsie, one of the Commissioners from the General Assembly to British Guiana, who gave an account of their voyage thither, and of the proceedings in which he had taken part with Dr. Irvine, of Blair-Atholl, in that distant yet magnificent province of their colonial empire.

The Rev. Dr. Norman Macleod, of the Barony Church, Glasgow, then addressed the meeting with his usual power. He had had a great deal of communion with men connected with India. In London he had met with missionaries and laymen from every part of it; he had had conversation with men such as Sir John Lawrance, from India; and all he had heard with regard to what had taken place there made him the more regret the present state of the missions. Many present would no doubt recollect when no missionary was allowed to put a foot upon the soil of British India, when there was no translation of the Word of God, and when there was no man able to preach or read that Word in their own language. It was little more than forty years since India was opened up for mission work. They had now 350 congregations there, and 2,000 persons throughout British India professing faith in Jesus Christ. The British officers in India were at this moment the most earnest and enthusiastic friends of missions—the men who were best acquainted with every part of India. (Applause.)