

Committee shall be empowered to elect an Acting Committee, which shall report from time to time to the General Committee; and that both the General and the Acting Committee shall have power to add to their numbers, to sub-commit, to appoint a Treasurer and Secretary, and to employ such agency as may be found necessary.

Thereafter, Presidents and Vice-Presidents (of whom a list is appended), and a large General Committee, were appointed, on the motion of Maurice Lothian, Esq., seconded by Councillor Gowans; whereupon a vote of thanks to the Chairman was unanimously passed.

PRESIDENTS.—The Most Hon. the Marquis of Tweeddale; the Right Hon. the Earl of Haddington; the Right Hon. the Earl of Aberdeen; the Right Hon. Lord Saltoun; the Right Hon. Lord Balfour of Burleigh; James Baird, Esq., of Cambusdoon.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.—Sir Robert Anstruther, Bart., M. P.; Sir Windham C. Anstruther, Bart., M. P.; Sir James Gardiner Baird, Bart.; Rear-Admiral Sir Wm. Edmonstone, Bart., M. P.; Sir David Dundas, of Beechwood, Bart.; Sir William Baillie, of Polkemmet, Bart.; Sir W. Gibson-Craig of Riccarton, Bart.; Admiral Sir W. J. Hope Johnstone, K. C. B.; the Hon. Robert Baillie, Dryburgh Abbey; the Hon. Charles Hope, Bridge Castle; Archd. Orr Ewing, Esq., M. P.; R. Vans Agnew, Esq., M. P.; J. J. Hope Johnson, Esq., M. P.; Wellwood H. Maxwell, Esq. of Munches; G. H. Monro Binning Home, Esq. of Argaty; A. Smollett, Esq. of Bonhill; Allan A. Maconochie Wellwood, Esq. of Medowbank.

Treasurer.—A. T. Niven, C.A., North St. David Street, Edinburgh.

Secretary.—J. B. M'Intosh, S.S.C., 15 Young Street, Edinburgh.

It is gratifying to observe several prominent Episcopalians, Free Churchmen, and Seceders holding the principles of Cameron and the Erskines, among the movers and seconders of the resolutions, and in the list of the office-bearers. It is also worthy of notice that the Association has in its membership men of all shades of political opinion. It has been intimated that a Branch Association is to be formed in Glasgow, and an earnest hope is entertained that there will soon be no parish in which the Association

is without representatives. A small expenditure of time, labour, and money, on the part of our National Establishments of Religion, is all that is necessary to ensure the signal defeat of the disestablishment movement, and to render its renewal impossible for many years to come.—*Ch. of Scotland H. & F. Record.*

The Sabbath School.

LESSONS FOR MAY.

FIRST SABBATH.

SUBJECT.—*The death of Samson*, Judges 16, 25-31. Golden Text, Prov. 13, 20. Parallel papages, Prov. 4, 14-15. Ps. 101, 4. 1st Cor. 15, 33.

Study Samson's previous history, and particularly the 16th chapter from verse 4. From this we learn the greatness of his fall, and the heinousness of his sin. To gratify a vile, false and treacherous woman, he surrendered into her hands his consecration to God, and the glorious gift with which God had endowed him for the protection of his people.

In teaching the lesson, advert first to his *punishment*. His eyes were put out, he was bound with chains, and in his prison he was compelled to grind corn—the occupation of the meanest slaves. How appropriate was this punishment to one who had followed his eyes too much, and had allowed himself to be fettered by sensual pleasures. How galling must such treatment have been to his noble spirit; and how calculated if God had not graciously sustained his erring child, to drive him to madness or sink him into the grave. Still more humiliating must it have been to have his blindness and wretchedness made objects of ridicule by the assembled populace of Gaza, and to be insulted and abused by the lowest of the mob.

Secondly, to his *penitence*. His soul had returned to its allegiance, and strength from on high was being again imparted. The eyes of his spiritual nature were re-opened, when the eyes which had led him astray were closed for ever. The Lord had departed from him when he fell before the wiles of Delilah, but now the Lord returned. The statement that his hair began to grow again is significant. His marvellous strength had not proceeded from the length of his hair; but this had been the token of his consecration to God, and the reference to its growth shows that the consecration had been renewed. A truly praying spirit is a penitent spirit.

Thirdly, to his *prayer*. It was earnest. He called on God by all the names by which he knew Him, Adonai, Jehovah, Elohim. It was *humble*. He did not ask for deliverance from bondage, that his sight might be restored, that his life might be spared; of all