

when there was great competition. On leaving the University he acted as tutor in several families, and among others, in the family of the Earl of Wemyss.

On the translation of Mr. Cannan, afterwards Dr. Cannan, to the parish of Murroes, the subject of this memoir was presented to the important and populous parish of Kirriemuir, where he was ordained in 1810, and where in the conscientious discharge of much arduous duty he spent the remainder of his life. A few years after he came to Kirriemuir he became a candidate for the Greek Chair in the University of Glasgow, which had then become vacant. This honourable situation he lost by one vote, Sir Daniel Stanford being preferred. The University did not, however, forget their distinguished, though on this occasion, unsuccessful alumnus, but shortly afterwards conferred on him the degree of D.D., which honour, in the circumstances, was a mark of high appreciation of merit, not more honourable to the University than complimentary to him on whom it was conferred. It was at this time that Dr. Easton became notable over the Church for the establishment and all but perfect organisation of Sabbath schools in his parish. When our excellent friend enlisted his whole energies in this department of youthful religious training the paramount utility of Sabbath schools had been only imperfectly and partially recognised. The light, bright and broad, that now falls on this part of ministerial duty had only begun to dawn upon the Church. Dr. Easton acted as a successful pioneer in this truly Christian enterprise, and his example was soon followed by many of his brethren. He not only opened schools in the manufacturing town of Kirriemuir, but in the landward part of the parish. The average attendance of pupils at these schools was upwards of 800. He appointed a numerous staff of teachers, was indefatigable in his superintendence, and by occasional public addresses to teachers and scholars, and the yearly publication of reports, contrived successfully to keep alive the interest created. It is gratifying to be able to mention that this, on the part of our friend, was no mere instance of temporary zeal, but that he continued during the whole of his incumbency to take a most parental care of the young of his fold. A subject which occupied much of Dr. Easton's time and attention, and that for many years, was the management of the affairs of the poor within his parish. It was his object to meet the pauperism that existed chiefly by collections made by his congregation in the church. For this purpose he made extraordinary efforts, put himself to a great deal of trouble, and was surprisingly successful. He frequently published a lucid statement of his plans and accompanying efforts; and it may be observed that he was twice honourably mentioned by Dr. Chalmers, in the General Assembly, on account of his indefatigable labours in this difficult and controversial field. We do not enter into the merits of this position. Suffice it to say that Dr. Easton was generally applauded for the benefits he conferred upon the poor, while the heritors of the parish, and its more wealthy inhabitants, unquestionably owed him a deep and largely substantial debt of gratitude. The South Church, Kirriemuir, Q.S., seated for about 1200, owes its existence to Dr. Easton. He first proposed its construction, raised by untiring labours the large sum of money necessary for its building, and had the satisfaction of seeing it fully equipped, and at one time completely filled. It will remain a monument of his zeal and industry. We could speak much and more favourably of our departed friend's ministerial

labours, private studies, disposition, and domestic life. We know no man who prepared more diligently and systematically for the pulpit than Dr. Easton did. His discourses, many of them able, were plain, eminently Scriptural, and suitably practical. His large church was during the whole of his life, in every part filled, we might say crowded. The people among whom he ministered have always been considered of church-going habits, and amid the changes that have unhappily taken place in our Church, the Dr. never failed in having a numerous and attentive congregation. Dr. Easton was an excellent scholar. He was so as we have seen in his youth, and he retained and augmented his scholarship during life. Our friend had no taste for the atmosphere of Church courts. In this, perhaps, we must blame him, it is one part of the duty of a clergyman of our Church to attend upon Presbyteries, Synods, and General Assemblies. But the worthy Dr. seemed to have had a morbid and continued dislike to such things. He was, perhaps, afraid of controversy and angry feeling, and truly our purest ecclesiastical meetings do not at all times display the perfection of brotherly kindness. Dr. Easton was a gentleman. There could be no mistake in this. His speech, his manner, his gentleness, his Christian charity, showed this. He warmly loved our Church, but he was no bigot. He lived in the most friendly terms with his brethren of the ministry, and with the people of his town who belonged to other churches. He not unfrequently made such his intimate companions. He was twice married, and had his share of family affliction. Four of his sons became preachers, and he lived to see them settled in life. The race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong. An acute and lingering disease at last fastened upon his system, which he bore with much fortitude. He died in the full possession of his faculties, and with the calmness and confidence of a Christian and faithful labourer in the Lord's vineyard. A very large number of mourners attended his funeral. Ministers of all denominations were there. All the shops in the town were closed, and business was for a time suspended, while thousands crowded the churchyard to witness the last sad duty paid to him who laboured among them forty-six long years, and who was closely linked to them by many associations.

The Endowment Scheme of the Church of Scotland—its successes.

We have watched with much interest the progress of the Endowment Scheme of the Church of Scotland, and perused with much satisfaction the stirring appeals of the Convener of the Scheme, Dr. Robertson. Deeply in earnest—always lucid, clear and pointed, his statements must have been productive of no little good. Persisting in spite of discouragements and many difficulties, he urged on the Scheme till it seemed to have reached its maximum, when again with new and untiring vigour another proposal was submitted, extending its operations to another sphere of labour, and the same energy that carried on the original scheme, and is still sustaining it, is now rendering the new effort largely successful. At the last General Assembly the subscriptions to the Funds of the Committee amounted to the princely sum of £194,211 8s. 8d. sterling, of which £28,000 were subscribed during the previous year. Since the commencement of the Scheme 38 new parishes have been estab-

lished, 21 of these being established by private benevolence, the rest from surplus tithes. The sum necessary for the erection of a parish in a district already possessed of a church is £3100.

GLASGOW HIGHLAND SOCIETY SCHOOLS.—The annual examination of the Glasgow Highland Society Schools took place in the school rooms, Montrose Street, on Monday and Tuesday last, in presence of the directors and the Rev. Dr. M'Leod, the chaplain of the society, when the progress, proficiency, and general intelligence of the pupils were in the highest degree pleasing and satisfactory. On Friday the annual procession, from the schools to St. Columba Church took place. There were upwards of 750 boys and girls in the procession, accompanied by their teachers and the directors, and as the day was fine, the scene was alike interesting and delightful. The sermon and address, which were able and appropriate, were delivered by the Rev. Norman M'Leod, of the Barony parish. For a period of upwards of 80 years this society has been engaged in the beneficent work of teaching the young Highlanders of Glasgow, and the numbers who owe to it the blessings of a sound education, and a fair start in life, may be counted by thousands. The claims for admission to the society's schools have, however, of late years greatly increased, caused by the extensive influx of poor Highlanders into Glasgow, arising, no doubt from potato failure and Highland clearings. The educational wants of all cannot thus be met without an increase of the funds; and as the society has really a sound claim on the public generally, and on Highland proprietors in particular, we trust they will extend to it some portion of their liberality. In no way could it be better bestowed.

THE CHURCH IN THE COLONIES.

Meeting of the Synod of Canada.

(From the Kingston News.)

One of the most important subjects under discussion was the Fund for the support of the different Ministers, derived from their Commutation with the government of the late income Clergy Reserves. This sum it has been resolved to place under the management of Commissioners, under the name of the Temporalities Fund.—Among those appointed to this important trust are the Rev. Dr. Cook and John Thompson, Esq., Quebec; Hugh Allan, Esq., and Thomas Paton, Esq., Montreal; F. A. Harper, Esq., Kingston; John Young Esq., Hamilton; and others.

As the Temporalities Fund will not be sufficient to yield the stipulated income to the present Ministers of the Church, and also to others who may be placed over congregations, a vigorous effort is to be commenced immediately to supplement it by appealing to the laity, who, it is believed, will respond liberally to the appeal. This last scheme is under the charge of the Rev. Dr. Cook of Quebec, whose well known energy of character and talents will be devoted to the cause.

In connection with the Finances of the Church, there was some discussion as to the disposal of the sum of £14,000, being the balance remaining in the hands of the late Clergy Reserve Commissioners. It appears that the income derived from the Clergy Reserves was never fully divided among the ministers, although they had an undoubted right to the whole, a certain sum being set aside each year to meet unexpected contingencies.