

MONDAY, May 23.

The General Assembly met to-day at eleven—Rev. Dr. Cook, Moderator.

PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS—Dr. Hill having taken the chair *pro tem.*,

Dr. Cook, St. Andrews, gave in the report of the committee appointed to take steps for promoting the improvement of the parochial schools, and raising the emoluments of the teachers.

COLONIAL SCHEME.—Dr. Fowler gave in the report of the Colonial Committee, which stated that during the last year the following appointments had been made to colonial charges:—Rev. Mr. Forbes, Presbytery of Quebec, Canada East; Rev. J. Hay, Presbytery of Hamilton, Canada West; Rev. J. Sinclair, Presbytery of Pictou, Nova Scotia; Rev. F. Nicol, Presbytery of London, Canada West; Rev. J. Mackie, Synod of New Brunswick; Rev. R. Falconer, Presbytery of Miramichi, New Brunswick; Rev. A. Young, Ceylon; Rev. J. McLean, Castlemaine, New South Wales; Rev. D. Stott, Presbytery of Hamilton, Canada West.

The report proceeded at considerable length to detail the steps taken by the committee in regard to Canada and other British American possessions. As to British Columbia the committee had used every exertion to obtain the services of a highly qualified minister, and had offered allowances twice as large as that paid to other colonial missionaries, but had not yet been able to fill up the appointment. As to British Guiana, the committee had had communication with Sir E. B. Lytton as to the means of exercising discipline over the ministers there whose conduct in regard to "strife, neglect of duty, and other irregularities," which had been publicly taken notice of by the Governor there, the Colonial Office had issued a circular in consequence, directing governors of colonies to suspend or deprive of their emoluments any clergyman who might be suspended or deposed by the General Assembly. It was with considerable gratification the committee reported the satisfactory termination of this difficulty. The committee had no information to add on the subject of Australia to that given last year. The committee reported with much gratification the appointment of the following seven army chaplains, in addition to those sent out to India last year:—Rev. Mr. Dick, Dublin; Rev. P. Beaton, London; Rev. Mr. Anderson, Chatham; Rev. Mr. Arthur, Fort George; Rev. J. Young, Shorncliffe; Revs. J. Paton and J. Milne, Army in India. On this matter a slight misunderstanding had arisen between the committee and the Moderator of last General Assembly (Dr. Leishman), to whom the communications of the Secretary of War had been addressed, and who thereby claimed the right of recommendation to these appointments, which the committee thought more naturally belonged to them. The committee had to report a slight falling off in their annual income, and a considerable increase in

their annual expenditure. Last year the income was £3,201, and the expenditure £3,225, thus reducing the balance in the hands of the committee from £7,210 to £5,183.

A separate report was given in on the subject of the mission to Paris, which had been instituted last autumn, chiefly through the exertions of Principal Tulloch, and to which the committee had provided supply, a succession of ministers of this Church having preached there. The mission had occasioned an expenditure of £427.

Mr. Phin, Galashiels, submitted the following motion, which he thought was called for by the fact, that during a few months of the year the new Parisian congregation had absorbed more than one-eighth of the whole income of the Colonial Committee; and it was also avoid what might be as painful and unpleasant discussion as to the relative claims of the committee and the Moderator for the time being, to recommend chaplains for appointment by government to our soldiers abroad. "The Assembly, learning from the report read, that a difference of opinion exists as to whether or not the Moderator of the General Assembly has a voice in the recommendation of army chaplains; and further considering the very heavy expenses incurred in connection with the Parisian congregation; and the application of the colonial committee in the special report for the sanction of the Assembly to further expenditure—remit to a committee to examine the minutes of the colonial committee, and, if necessary, to meet with that committee with a view to ascertain the steps taken before recommending the army chaplains—and to obtain a detailed statement of all the expenses connected with the Parisian congregation, along with the means taken to secure a supply of ordinances for the congregation."

After some discussion,

Dr. Pirie moved a deliverance to the following effect:—That the General Assembly approves of the report of the committee, resuming consideration of the separate report relating to the Paris Mission; renew their expressions of heartfelt interest in the spiritual welfare of their countrymen in the colonies, and resolve to renew their efforts to extend among them the means of grace; and in order to carry out this object, and to meet the increased expenditure which has necessarily arisen, the Assembly remit to the Colonial Committee to make an earnest and urgent appeal to members and friends of the Church for increased liberality, believing that when the urgency of the case is explained, they will be cordially responded to. The Assembly learn with high satisfaction the considerable addition made last year to the number of chaplains in the army to superintend the religious and moral welfare of the British and Presbyterian soldiers, and, feeling a very deep interest in the object, instruct the committee to use all competent means to prosecute it, and to remove the allusion contained in the