

the duty—how exalted the privilege to which we are at this time so specially called!

Your Committee have been encouraged to hope that the country is becoming more and more alive to the call made upon it, from the appointment, during the current session of Parliament, of a committee of the House of Lords to enquire into the extent of spiritual destitution, as it affects the large towns and great mining and manufacturing districts of England. They rejoice in the appointment of this Committee, whether or not any remedial measure shall be proposed by the Legislature to meet the destitution which the inquiries of the Committee will certainly bring to light. A remedial measure is, no doubt, urgently required, and, if the Church of England shall obtain such a measure, your Committee will feel it to be matter of deep thankfulness, even if there should be no prospect of a similar measure for Scotland. Besides that the preaching of the Gospel to the poor of any part of the United Kingdom must conduce to the best interests of the whole, how should the Church of Scotland be a true Church of Christ, and yet fail to have fervent joy in the advancement of His cause in the world? Charity envieth not. Most earnestly, therefore, do your Committee pray that the Church of England may obtain all requisite facilities for the accomplishment of the great and glorious work that has been devolved upon her. Still it is the institution of the inquiry, taken by itself, and without regard to any Legislative measures that may be consequent upon it, that has afforded to your Committee the liveliest satisfaction. They anticipate from this inquiry the happiest results in rousing the mind of the country to a sense of its most solemn responsibilities. From the partial investigations made by themselves, they cannot doubt for a moment that so appalling an amount of destitution will be discovered as to force every true Christian, to whatever branch of the Church of Christ he may belong, to put to himself the question, What can I do to remove or obviate this terrible evil? If the inquiry shall have this result—if it shall stir up the Christianity of the country to a just sense of what is required of it, it may be humbly hoped that, with God's blessing, seed will be sown that shall bear to latest generations, and with ever-increasing returns, the happy fruits of righteousness and peace. The inquiry which has been entered upon by the Peers' House of Parliament, your Committee regard as of vital moment to the prosecution of their own work. They feel assured that they shall derive from it most material aid, and they must be allowed again to express the lively joy which they have in the thought that, far beyond the limited sphere of their own labors, it will prove conducive to the advancement of the Kingdom of God among men.

Adding to fifty-four prospective parishes, those for which the requisite statutory endowment has been made up without any aid from provincial subscriptions, viz., forty-three already erected, and four now in court, we have, in all, as the fruits of your Scheme up to this period, about 100 new parishes, or an addition of upwards of ten per cent. to what constituted the Parochial Establishment of Scotland, at the time when the late secession took place. No doubt, we are still far from the accomplishment of our object—which is, the erection into parish churches of all our chapels, save those on the Royal Bounty Fund in the Western and Northern Isles and poorer parts of Argyleshire; the setting free, by this erection, of the revenues of your Home Mission Scheme for strictly missionary purposes and the furnishing

of new congregations; and the raising of the allowances made to the Royal Bounty preachers or ministers from £60 to £100 a year. We are far, it is allowed, from the attainment of this object. We are, nevertheless, approaching the attainment; and a much smaller sum than that which has been already subscribed would enable us effectually to compass it. And not to compass our object only, but to make provision, with the blessing of God, for testifying the Gospel of His grace to every family and to every individual in the land. We must not forget, it is true, that it is not endowments, nor parish ministers, nor kirk sessions, nor any outward facility or agency whatsoever, that can give to the preaching of the Word of God the wished for increase. The residue of the Spirit he reserves in His own hand. Nevertheless, if we wait on the Lord, and be of good courage, praying for His blessing on our feeble efforts with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance, we are warranted to entertain the hope that He will not be wanting to His own cause; that He will give to the Word preached a commission of mercy and peace, and that it shall not return to Him void, nor without the fulfilment of His gracious purposes. Making it our study to preach the Gospel to the poor, and looking straight before us, so as to be diverted from this object neither to the right hand nor to the left, we shall go on our way rejoicing—going in the strength of the Lord God. And thus, occupying ourselves, we shall follow, at the same time, the things that make for peace, provoking the other Protestant Churches of our country to the like good works of brotherly kindness and charity. It was well observed, in this House the other day, in the hearing of some of the members of your Committee, that the several divisions of the Protestant Churches, which are to be found amongst us, though they see not eye to eye, are yet united together by a closer and stronger tie than that which is supposed to bind into one the jarring and discordant sections of the so-called Catholic Church of Rome. But would all our Protestant Churches make it their great object to preach the Gospel to the poor—to dedicate themselves especially to that ministry to which the Lord himself was anointed with the Eternal Spirit—might we not anticipate, as they near at hand, even at the door, the blessed Ephraim should not envy Judah, and when Judah should not vex Ephraim? So converging streams, wide asunder in their upland valley, and diffusing fertility and gladness along its banks, till the lofty mountain range subsides into the joyful landscape of hill and dale, till valley opens into valley, till stream is joined to stream, till one mighty river, formed in its peaceful tide of rich and diversified blessing, to be mingled again with their ocean source, and, from being so mingled, yet further to bless the provinces or countries through which they flow, by opening up to them the fulness of the whole world. All this, in an infinitely higher sense, shall yet be true of the Church of Christ. Would that the truth were realised by the Protestant Churches of these lands! for then, blessed in themselves, severally blessed in each other, and communicating blessings to all around them, they would flow on in an ever-swelling tide of love and peace, from the blessedness of earth into the blessedness of heaven—into that full enjoyment of love and peace in the Eternal source

thereof, which eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard of, and which it hath not entered into the heart of man to conceive.

In name and by appointment of the Committee,

JAMES ROBERTSON, D. D.,
Convener.

Presbytery of Glasgow.

An ordinary meeting of the Presbytery of Glasgow was held recently,—the Rev. Mr. Hill, of Kilsyth, moderator. An appointment, by the Colonial Committee of the General Assembly, of the Rev. John McLean to be assistant minister of Castlemaine, Victoria, in connection with the Church of Scotland, was laid on the table. The Presbytery sustained the appointment, and agreed to hear discourses at next ordinary meeting. A presentation by the Church Building Society to St. Luke's Chapel, Calton, in favour of the Rev. David Mitchell, was given in and sustained. The Presbytery appointed the presentee to preach in Saint Luke's Chapel on Sabbath the 12th inst.

Presbytery of Brechin.

At a meeting of this Presbytery last month the edict anent the proposed translation of Mr. Dodds from Melville Parish Church to the church and parish of St. Clement's, Dundee, vacant by the death of the Rev. James Thomson, was returned to the Presbytery, duly executed and endorsed. Parties were then called, but, as no appearance was made, the parishioners of Melville were held as consenting to the translation. The Presbytery, after several expressions of regret, also agreed to the removal of Mr. Dodds, and he was enjoined to wait on the Presbytery of Dundee, and to obey their orders as to the time of his admission to his new charge, the Presbytery declaring at the same time that his pastoral relation to the parish of Melville should continue until he be actually so admitted. Mr. Cooke, in expressing his own feelings in this matter, which, he believed, accorded with that of the congregation generally, said that he regretted very much that Mr. Dodds had taken so short a stay in Montrose, amongst a people with whom he had closely endeared himself. But now that he was about to leave his present charge for a more important sphere of labor, he (Mr. Cooke) was confident that Mr. Dodds carried with him the best wishes of Melville congregation, who earnestly hope that he may be long spared in happiness and comfort, and that every success may attend his important labours. He would only say in conclusion that Mr. Dodds would no doubt prove a great acquisition to the Church in Dundee, which, it appears, is at present at a low ebb.

Presbytery of Arbroath.

This Presbytery met on Wednesday. Mr. Irvine gave in a report on the collections made within the bounds of the schemes of the Church and other religious and educational objects during the year ending April last. After reading the returns from the different parishes and chapels, Mr. Irvine gave a summary of the results as compared with the previous year. It appeared that the sums collected during the year reported on were, on the whole, somewhat smaller than during the previous year, which was easily accounted for by