

the Chaplain General, the Rev. Mr. Gleig, with whom the deputation had the happiness of an interview, has, with most gratifying readiness, entered; and assuredly the expression of interest in our Church, in the army, and of anxiety to promote the religious welfare of Presbyterian soldiers, which the deputation most gladly listened to, give every confidence that, in the influential and responsible office which that reverend gentleman holds, the interests of the Church of Scotland will be duly maintained.

The Committee will not weary the Assembly by a description of the varied and solemn duties which the India chaplains above mentioned have to discharge, but they cannot refrain from quoting the following short paragraph from a letter, addressed by one of them, the Rev. Mr. Ross, to the Convener, and received a few days ago. The letter is dated Camp, 43d Royal Highlanders, Lucknow, 25th March, 1858.

"On the evening of the 25th ult. I dispensed the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper to twenty-two non-commissioned officers and privates, and thirteen officers, at Buntual. We all felt it to be a most solemn occasion—we all felt that it might be the last time we would have an opportunity of commemorating the height and depth of a Saviour's dying love upon earth. One could not help being thrilled with the strangest feelings at the thought of this memorial ordinance being observed in a camp where every preparation was going on for the grand encounter at Lucknow. We concluded by singing the opening verses of the 103d psalm, to the old sacramental tune of Coleshill. It was, in every respect, a most interesting and deeply solemn service."

Very true, the service must have been a most interesting and deeply solemn one; and may it not be added that, with one heart and mind, do the members of this Venerable House pray that the survivors of that little flock—who, amid the turmoil around them, and the dangers before them, calmly assembled to break bread and drink wine in remembrance of our Lord—may enjoy grace, mercy, and peace from the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost while they are in this world, and that each of them may receive a crown of life hereafter in heaven!

The Committee have only further to add, that information having very recently reached them that the whole subject of Army Chaplains is at present under the consideration of her Majesty's Government, and that matters in which the Church of Scotland has a deep interest are consequently about to be arranged, the Convener, accompanied by the Rev. Dr. Paul, submitted these matters for the favorable consideration of the present Secretary of State for War, General Peel, and for that of the Chaplain General. The Lord Advocate, as well as Sir James Alphonstone, most readily and kindly accompanied them in the official interview with which they were favoured by the Right Honorable Secretary; and the committee trust that when the points which they submitted—such as, that every Presbyterian soldier should have the same facility in obtaining a copy of the Holy Scriptures and the version of the Psalms and Paraphrases authorised by the General Assembly to be used at public worship, as Episcopalians have in obtaining copies of Scripture and the authorised book of Common Prayer, and that a fair proportion of the chaplains receive commissions—the Committee hope that when these and other important points are considered, they will be conceded as nothing more than what is equitable and just towards one of the established Churches of the country.

A detailed statement of the financial affairs of the Committee will be published at the end of this Report, from which it will appear that again a large draft has been made upon their Reserve Fund, and it ought frankly to be declared that, unless their operations are more vigorously supported throughout the Church, there can be no alternative but that of the material, if not permanent, injury of the whole Mission. This catastrophe the Committee are persuaded that your Venerable House will take effective means of averting. For the increased expenditure which has been incurred, and consequently the heavy drafts which have been made upon the Reserve Fund, have arisen solely from the successful operation of the Mission,—the sending, during the two years, that these drafts have been had recourse to, of not fewer than thirty-eight ministers and missionaries to our colonial brethren. This is, indeed, a noble band of messengers of salvation, and by the blessing of God they cannot fail to be instrumental in doing inestimable good. Such a body of Gospel messengers is worthy of the Church of Scotland to have sent—a Church pledged by repeated resolutions and by a sustained course of action not to relax her obedience to the commands of her adorable Lord, until the most distant and solitary places enjoy the refreshing ordinances of religion, and the young and the old have the path pointed out to them that leads to the rest that remaineth to the people of God.

In name and by appointment of Committee.  
J. C. FOWLER, LL.D., Convener.

### General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

CONCLUDED.

FRIDAY, MAY 28.

The Assembly met this day at eleven o'clock—Dr. Leishman, Moderator.

REV. DR. SIMPSON.

Dr. PIRIE gave in a Report from the Committee appointed to look out for a successor to Dr. Simpson, as Convener of the Home Mission Committee. Dr. Crawford, Edinburgh, had consented to take the office. The Committee submitted a minute expressive of the value of Dr. Simpson's services, which was approved of.

WIDOW'S FUND.

Dr. GRANT gave in the Report of the trustees of the Widows' Fund. During the year the Fund had increased by the amount of £5000; the stock now amounts to £250,000. Since 1843 the sum of £76,000 has been added to the capital. During the year 12 widows had died, and 22 had been admitted. There are 336 annuitants. The number of contributors is 1322.

Dr. HILL moved the adoption of the Report.

Dr. MUIR, Dr. ROBERTSON, Dr. LEE, and other members, strongly expressed similar sentiments;

The Report was adopted, and thanks returned to Dr. Grant.

SUPPLEMENTARY ORPHANS' FUND.

Dr. GRANT next gave in the Report of the new Committee on this scheme. The sum of £200 has been received from the

Ferguson fund. The fund now amounted to £1946.

Mr. GIBBON, Lommay, moved the adoption of the Report which was agreed to.

LAY ASSOCIATION.

Dr. SIMPSON gave in the Report of the Lay Association in Support of the Five Schemes of the Church. The total amount received this year was £1843, being above £300 over the amount of last year's receipts, and was variously appropriated among the different schemes. The Cairnbrock trustees had given £200 to the Association during the year. A deputation had visited England, and branches had been established in Liverpool and Manchester. The establishment of contemplated branches in the colonies has been postponed.

The Report was adopted.

EDUCATION SCHEME.

Dr. COOK, Haddington, gave in the Report of the Committee on this Scheme. The Report was divided into three heads:—Assembly Schools; Normal Schools; Funds.

The whole emoluments received by 173 of the teachers, including those derived from other sources, were £9075 15s; the average income of each of 116 teachers on the first Scheme being £50 2s 1½d; of each of 43 teachers on the second, £60 5s 2d; and of each of 14 female teachers, £33 13s. The total number of children attending the Assembly Schools during the past year has been 20,304 (including 2295 Sabbath scholars not attending the week-day school. The increase of attendance since last year is 700.

Dr. PIRIE moved the adoption of the Report; and, in doing so, eulogized the Scheme.

The Earl of SELKIRK seconded the motion.

After some remarks from other members. The Report was adopted.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Mr. MACKIE, Erskine, read the Report of the Committee on Sabbath Schools, Answers to queries issued by the Committee had this year been received from 948 of the 1163 churches and chapels. In connection with these 948 there were 1593 schools, having 111,701 scholars on the roll at 1st January 1858, and 93,700 of average attendance; instructed by 9551 teachers, 12,676 of the scholars being above 14 years of age. These figures showed an increase over last year, and an increase of 20,000 scholars reported as on the roll during the last six years.

Sheriff BARCLAY moved the adoption of the Report, and urged the Church to make a full recognition of the Sabbath-School system as part of their constitution, and give it every encouragement.

The Report was adopted; and a recommendation given to Presbyteries to take cognizance of the statistics, &c., of Sabbath schools within their bounds.