

having been so applied has been the cause of a great part of the educational destitution which at present exists in Scotland. That the Church of Scotland should now take steps, either by means of her Education Scheme, or by such other means as may be thought advisable, to inquire into the extent of this destitution, with a view immediately to supply the same. That her efforts in this direction should be, first, to establish such additional schools in town or country, connected with a parish church, as may be needed; and, secondly, to endow all such schools as may exist, dependant on yearly subscriptions: It is, therefore, humbly overtured to the General Assembly to take this subject into their serious consideration."

Dr. ROBERTSON proposed, as a mode of terminating a discussion on which there was great difference of opinion, that some such motion as the following should be adopted.

What he would propose would be that, with regard to the overture from members of the house in favour of inquiry, the Assembly agree to refer the overture to the Education Committee, and recommend it to their favourable and serious consideration.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Dr. CRAIK, Glasgow, gave in a report from the Committee on Sabbath Schools, which stated that several of the Synods had made no returns, but that from an abstract made up from those which had done so, it appeared there were 1308 Sabbath schools, 98,685 scholars on the roll, and an attendance of 75,000, with 8337 teachers. Adding to these figures the numbers who might be calculated from former returns to attend school in those parishes from which there were no returns, there would not be fewer on the roll last year than 103,000 at schools in connection with the Church of Scotland, with nearly 8000 teachers.

Dr. PIRIE moved the adoption of the report, and eulogised the valuable services of Dr. Craik in connection with the subject of Sabbath schools.

The Rev. Mr. ANDERSON, Dornoch, seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted; and the thanks of the Assembly were returned, through the Moderator, to Dr. Craik and the committee.

The Assembly then adjourned at half-past five o'clock till Monday at eleven.

MONDAY, JUNE 2.

The Assembly met at eleven o'clock—the Moderator presiding.

CONVENERSHIP OF COLONIAL COMMITTEE.

Mr. HUGH BRUCE proposed as the successor to the venerable Principal Macfarlan, in the Convenership of the Colonial Committee, the Rev. Dr. Fowler, Ratho, who had long taken great interest in the Scheme, and whose visit to Canada some years ago, as a deputy of the General Assembly, had given him great knowledge of the Church in that Colony, and whose eminent talents, great energy, and sound sense and discretion, as well as urbanity of manners, rendered him a person in every way well qualified to discharge the duties of the office. Mr. Bruce stated that the office of Convenership had been offered to Dr. Arnot, who had discharged the duties with great zeal and ability during the short period he had acted as Convener, but who, however, had respectfully

declined. The name of Dr. Smith, interim Vice-Convener, who had also discharged the duties with great ability for some time, was also mentioned, but the reverend gentleman, being absent in London on the business of the Church, and no one present being able to state if he was likely to accept, the Committee unanimously resolved to nominate Dr. Fowler.

The nomination was cordially agreed to by the Assembly.

CONVENERSHIP OF JEWISH COMMITTEE.

Dr. BELL moved the appointment of Professor Mitchell, St. Andrews, to succeed Mr. Tait, Kirkliston, as Convener of the Jewish Mission Committee. That gentleman, he said, was well acquainted with Oriental literature, and could take an active part in the examination of any missionaries the Committee might propose to appoint; he had always taken deep interest in the Jewish Mission, and being unemployed for seven months of the year, he would have an opportunity of visiting the various missionary stations.

This nomination was also approved of.

REPORT ON POPEERY.

Dr. FOWLER gave in the Report from the Committee on Popery.

Dr. HILL said he had been requested to move the approval of the report. He moved that the General Assembly approve of the Report; request the Moderator to convey the thanks of the Assembly to the Convener and the Committee, for the prudence, diligence, and zeal with which they had acted; re-appoint the Committee, and instruct them to continue their attention to the training of missionaries, that they may be prepared to extend their operations, whether in the metropolis or in other quarters of this Church, where it may be deemed advisable to take steps to counteract the errors of Popery; direct them further to adopt such other measures as may appear, after full consideration, to be fitted to oppose the progress of this pernicious system, which the Church had at all times strenuously opposed; and recommend the ministers and members of the Church to aid the Committee in their work, by their contributions and their prayers.

Sheriff Barclay seconded Dr. Hill's motion.

The motion of Dr. Hill was then agreed to, and the Moderator conveyed the thanks of the Assembly to Dr. Fowler.

LETTER TO PRINCIPAL MACFARLAN.

The draft of a letter was read, prepared by the Moderator, expressing the Assembly's warmest veneration and respect for the Very Rev. Principal, and their regret that the infirmities of age, and other reasons, rendered it necessary for him to withdraw from the Colonial Committee, and also expressing the hope that he would be spared yet again to appear amongst them. The letter was approved of, and ordered to be transmitted, and a copy recorded on the minutes.

THE ENDOWMENT SCHEME.

Dr. ROBERTSON then read the Report of

the Committee on the Endowment Scheme. Dr. BELL said he was sure every member of the house must have listened with great interest to the very satisfactory and encouraging report now read. He moved that the Assembly approve of the report, re-appoint the committee with the same instructions as formerly, and that the thanks of the Assembly be given to Dr. Robertson and his committee for the zeal and ability with which they had discharged their duty. (Loud applause.)

Mr. MACKENZIE, Urquhart, seconded the motion.

Dr. Bell's motion was then agreed to and the Moderator conveyed the thanks of the house to Dr. Robertson, and referred to the encouraging prospects of the Scheme, which promised so largely to lengthen the cords and strengthen the stakes of the Church of Scotland.

OVERTURE ON PUBLIC WORSHIP.

The following overture, introduced by Principal Lee and Dr. Hill, was submitted.

"Whereas, it has always been the desire of the Church of Scotland, that in every part of its bounds the people should, as far as practicable, enjoy in an equal degree the benefits of public instruction and the administration of Divine ordinances, it is overtured to this General Assembly that a recommendation or declaratory Act shall be issued for the purpose of reminding all who labour in word and doctrine, that every congregation, at the several diets of public worship, should have access to the advantage of hearing a portion of the Old or New Testament read; and that there should always be included in the service of every Lord's day, not only a sermon, but a lecture on a passage of the holy Scriptures."

Dr. ROBERTSON suggested that, if the matter was left over till the evening, Principal Lee and Dr. Hill might then bring the overture before the house in such a shape as to meet with general concurrence.

After a few words from Principal Lee, who stated that he had a great objection to lengthened discourses, and a still greater objection to ministers interjecting, in the reading of the Scriptures, remarks of their own, the suggestion of Dr. Robertson was acceded to, and the consideration of the overture deferred.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

Dr. HILL, in the absence of Dr. Muir, read the Report from the Sabbath Observance Committee.

Dr. Hill added that the report which they had just heard, laid them under a deep debt of gratitude to Dr. Muir, whose services had been so great in this matter. He proposed as the deliverance of the Assembly, the following motion:—That the Assembly approve of the diligence of the Committee, approve of the note, and agree to the recommendation it contains; in particular, the Assembly resolve to renew the solemn declaration the anxious concern of the Church of Scotland on account of the endeavors made for