

contributions in money and books amounting to £780, Nova Scotia currency. The Synod then resolved unanimously that, having heard with delight the cheering accounts which had been given of the success of his mission to Scotland, they express their thanks to Mr. McCulloch for the great zeal and diligence with which he had prosecuted his mission, and to return their cordial thanks to the Synod and people of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland for the kindly aid which they had given them.

Australia.—Mr. Somerville, mis. sec'y, stated, on behalf of the board of Missions, that the Rev. Robert Hamilton, Waterbeck, had applied to be sent out as a missionary to Port Philip, in Australia. In the event of his being accepted, he had intimated that he would require a sum of £250 to cover the expense of a passage and outfit. The Board entertained a highly favorable opinion of Mr. Hamilton's qualifications for laboring in the missionary field, but brought his case before the Synod for two reasons.—1. On account of the peculiar relation in which they stood to this mission. On a former occasion, a committee appointed to consider the question of a mission to Australia reported that it was a favorable field, provided the claims of other missions on their funds admitted of their entering upon it; and it had been remitted to the Board of Missions to report to the Synod when their funds were a league for the undertaking, they had never as yet, however, found themselves in a position to report to this effect. 2. The two brethren in Port Philip, formerly connected with this church had united with other two ministers, and formed a separate and independent ecclesiastical community, which they designated the United Presbyterian Church of Australia. The Board felt that they could not, without the sanction of the Synod, send out a missionary to a church however sound it might be in the faith, which declared itself a separate and independent church.

A committee was then appointed to consider the application, and report.

The committee afterwards reported that, looking at the necessities of the district of Port Philip, and the importance of increasing the number of those who should faithfully preach the Gospel to a rapidly increasing population, the Synod should agree, without pronouncing any opinion with regard to summary of doctrine and church polity of the United Presbyterian Synod of Victoria, to remit to the Board of Missions to assist the Rev. Mr. Hamilton in going out as a missionary to that district.

Irish Associate Presbytery.—A communication received from the Associate Presbytery of Ireland, requested that the committee for the distribution of preachers should have authority to send preachers to supply pulpits in Ireland, the Presbytery engaging to give a free passage in addition to the usual remuneration.

After a short conversation, it was agreed to authorize the committee in terms of this request.

Liquidation of Debt.—Mr. Greig reported on the part of the Debt-Liquidating Board. There was a remit last year to the Debt-Liquidating Board on three points. First, a recommendation by the Synod to those congregations which had not collected to the Liquidating-Debt Fund, to do so without delay; and the Board was instructed to take steps to bring the subject before these congregations. The Board carried out the instructions of the Synod; but their appeal was not generally or heartily responded to. In the previous year there were 283 congregations who had collected the sum of £700; but the remaining 220 congregations had only raised during the last year £91. The second point remitted to the Board was to proceed with the consideration of the application for aid, and to extend aid to such cases as they found required immediate relief. The Board had between twenty and thirty applications lying on the table, and found it a difficult and invidious thing to pick out this one and that one, seeing there was no case of a struggling congregation. The Board therefore found it necessary to decline running indefinitely into debt; and, having pledged themselves to the amount of some hundreds more than they had already received, they were rather disposed to wait till the means were duly provided, before they relieved congregations of their debt by running more deeply into debt themselves.

Dr. Young knew nothing distinct from, and subordinate to the preaching of the Gospel, which had done more for the public service of the church than the origination of this measure. It had been the means of giving very extensive relief to no small number of congregations. A large portion of the work was done, and they were now over the hill top and down a good way on the other side; and he had no doubt if an appeal was made to their people they would find them ready to finish the work which they had already so far accomplished. After expressing the obligation of the Synod to the few friends who had interested themselves in this matter, he said that they might leave the whole matter in their hands, as they would know better how to proceed with the subscription than the Synod could.

The following resolution was then agreed to:—The Synod cordially approving of the proposal made in the report, are of opinion that subscriptions should be entered into with the view of providing adequate funds to enable the Board to prosecute its operations, and remit to the Board to carry out in such a manner as they deemed proper the resolution now come to.

Report on Statistics.—Dr. Peddie gave in the report from the Committee on Statistics for the year. After referring to the tardy manner in which the returns to the schedule of queries were sent in, and the difficulty which the Committee had, therefore, in making up their report, and regretting that, notwithstanding all that they had done, the report was not full and perfect; he was, however, happy to say that they had re-

ceived a considerably larger number of returns from the congregations than last year. Last year they received returns from 379 congregations, while this year they received returns from 417, which thus left only 90 defaulters this year, the number of congregations in the body amounting to 507. They had received returns from all the congregations in the presbyteries of Brechin, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Galloway, Kelso, Inverness, Hamilton, and (with the exception of a station) Elgin. 401 congregations had reported on the number of members, which amounted to 10,636, being an average of 29, 352 congregations reported the number of removals, which were 401, the average being 21, and consequently the average of gain on each congregation was 8 on those reporting, or about 5000 over the whole. The attendance from 375 was reported, which amounted to 140,669, or an average of 376. The sent texts in 351 congregations were reported which amounted to £37,363 13s. 11d. The collections were reported from 368 congregations, which amounted to £29,699 16s. 7d., and the subscriptions from 177 congregations, which amounted to £11,717 12s. 9d., other resources were reported from 140 congregations which amounted to £2782 12s. 3d.; 382 congregations reported the stipends they gave, which amounted to £16,529, 213 congregations reported their sacramental expenses amounting to £1902 9s. 4d. 220 congregations reported their interest on debt, amounting to £5574 18s. 3d. The debt liquidated on 119 congregations who had reported, was £12,805 7s. 5d. 310 congregations reported the general expenses; which amounted to £12,278 12s. 1d., 490 congregations reported the annual value of manse, which amounted to £2897 10s.; and the debt on the 235 congregations who had reported was £93,057 7s. 5d. The contributions to the United Presbyterian missions from 342 congregations who had reported was £9,885 5s. 7d. 283 congregations had reported the number of volumes in their libraries to be 121,682, being about a volume to each member of the Church.

Dr. Peddie then read the names of those congregations that had neglected to send in reports. He suggested the Synod should adopt some measures for securing a fuller and more regular return, as well as returns from such congregations as had not sent them in, and that the attention of Presbyteries should be directed to this subject, with a view to stimulating presbyteries to do their duty in this matter; and that the whole returns should be in the hands of the Committee, at the latest, on the 1st Feb.

Psalmody.—THE HYMN-BOOK.—Dr. Joseph Brown laid on the table of the Synod the new draft of a Hymn Book prepared by the Committee on Psalmody. He said they had been restricted to the number of 300 hymns, but, in preparing a volume which should be worthy of this church, they had trespassed beyond the limits assigned by about 150. About 50 of the paraphrases had been incorporated with the work. Almost all the hymn-books recently published contained a far greater number of hymns than that now laid before the Synod. Dr. Alexander's contained 550, without including the paraphrases, the Congregational hymn-book 620, Dr. Reid's volume 820, and Dr. Campbell's 1000. On behalf of the committee, he had to request that the Synod should appoint another Committee to look at the work, and to bring in a report at a subsequent sederunt.

A committee was accordingly appointed.

Dr. Beattie gave in a report from this committee, recommending that the psalmody committee, be re-appointed, with instructions to send down copies of the hymn-book to each minister and session, requesting such suggestions for its further improvement as they may deem proper, and that after considering these suggestions the committee be authorized to publish the hymn-book forthwith for the use of the church, in such editions and at such prices as they may approve of.

Dr. A. Thomson said, when once the hymn-book received the imprimatur of this Synod it would occupy a very important and influential place in their church. It should be brought as near the point of perfection as possible, yet further delay would be injudicious. He had looked through the work, and was quite satisfied that it was well adapted to serve the purpose for which it was intended. He moved the adoption of the report. Carried.

PETITIONS TO LEGISLATURE.—A petition to the Legislature on the subject of Australian marriages was agreed to, and ordered to be sent for presentation to the Duke of Argyll and Mr. Cowan.

A petition was also cordially adopted in favour of Mr. Cowan's bill for the abolition of Tests in Universities.

PASTORAL ADDRESS.—A committee was appointed to prepare a pastoral address adapted to the times, with a special reference to Popery.

CLOSE OF THE SYNON.—On Friday evening, the proceedings having come to a close, the MODERATOR delivered a brief valedictory address. "I congratulate," he said, "this Synod on the agreeable and profitable meeting now brought to a close, and on the fact that the business has been satisfactorily got through within the compass of a week. I trust that when the members separate, and return to their respective spheres of labour, they will carry with them impressions that will have the effect of stimulating them to greater diligence in the discharge of their important duties. We have reason to be thankful to the Great Head of the Church for the prosperity attendant on our missions, for the increasing support given to them, and for the interest in them of which this is the evidence. I trust the same spirit will go on till our efforts are augmented a hundred-fold. My earnest prayer is for the Divine blessing to rest on our church; then will she be prosperous, and all her members will be knit to one another in christian love and fellowship."

The MODERATOR having engaged in prayer and pronounced the benediction, the Synod adjourned, to meet again on the Monday after the first Sabbath of May, 1852.