

one minister, the Rev. Duncan Anderson, had been sent out to Canada the last year. Two missionaries have recently been appointed to the Synod of New Brunswick, viz., the Rev. Robert Stevenson and the Rev. Peter Keny. But there is room for many more. From Prince Edward's Island there have been received many appeals to the Committee, pointing out the openings in that island for additional ministers, and urging the necessity of sending them. The Committee have done all in their power, by advertising and otherwise, to induce preachers to engage in the work of the colonial mission, but with very partial success. They very much regret that so few speaking the Gaelic language are found willing to go abroad. Another missionary has been appointed to Prince Edward's Island, viz., the Rev. George Harper. It gives the Committee much pleasure to report that the Synod of Nova Scotia, after having been in a state of abeyance for ten years, has been reconstituted. The scheme for sending young men to this country to be educated for the ministry has proved successful. The Committee have this year distributed among the students the sum of £136, transmitted for that purpose. The report, after referring to various other colonies, stated in regard to Ceylon:—

"The Committee consider it proper to report to the Assembly that, by a resolution of the Legislative Council of Ceylon, the stipend of the chaplain of the Scotch church at Colombo has been reduced from £500 to £450, which will materially affect the interest of the successor of the present incumbent. A change has also been made by the same body on the title of the Scotch churches in Ceylon from 'Church of Scotland' to 'Presbyterian Church,' whereby the appointment to the chaplaincy will be open to ministers not belonging to the Church of Scotland."

From recent accounts from Australia, the Committee are able to report that, with one exception, all the ministers sent out last year are now settled in different parts of that vast country. The Committee are satisfied that they are now fully warranted in inviting the attention of licentiates to this great and deeply important sphere of ministerial labour. The appended abstract of accounts showed the income last year to be £3,239, and the expenditure £2,467, there being a capital fund in bank of £8,236.

(4.) *Foreign Missions.*—The report referred to the operations of the mission in Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras. At Calcutta several young men had been in training for baptism, but, with one exception, they had drawn back. At Madras eight baptisms had taken place. At all the stations large numbers of youth were under instruction. A sum now amounting to £1,500 had some time ago been generously gifted by General and Mrs. Campbell of Lochnell, in aid of a mission to the Sikhs, and it was now proposed to commence such a mission. In regard to funds, the committee had to report a considerable deficiency,—the revenue for the year being £2,908 6s. 6d.

Dr. Charles, Kirkowan, formerly a minister at Calcutta, in moving the adoption of the report, complained of the inadequacy of the funds, whether as compared with the resources of the members of the church or the sums raised by other Christian bodies engaged in the same great work. He ascribed the comparatively limited success of the mission to the deficiency of the Church in faith, zeal, and earnestness; and never, until she shook off carnality, selfishness, and sloth, attained a higher measure of Christian life, and woke up to a higher sense of her responsibilities, would she rise and shine as she ought on a dark, troubled, and sin-lying earth. The

reverend doctor then spoke to the result of the efforts of missionary labour in India, and expressed his conviction that the various agencies employed there were telling on the native mind, in a way that sooner or later must issue in the moral and spiritual regeneration of the people.

(5.) *Endowed Scheme.*—Dr. Robertson gave in the report of this scheme, which was chiefly financial, and the substance of it is contained in the following abstract:—

"1. Church-door collections and subscriptions, and donations to central fund, and donations and subscriptions for particular churches, £4,520 3s. 0d. 2. Contributions in complement of full endowment of seven churches, and in partial endowment of three additional churches, £10,704; value of endowment of additional church by his Grace the Duke of Hamilton, £3,100. 3. Additional subscriptions in Dumbartonshire, £369 10s. 4. Provincial subscriptions, viz., the Duke of Buccleuch, £500; the Duke of Roxburgh, £600; the Earl of Haddington, £400; Lord Douglas, £2,000; an heritor in Fife, £3,000; Mrs Bruce, of Falkland, £500; Sir James Fergusson of Kilkerran, Bart., £500; Mr. Campbell of Blythwood, for churches in Paisley, £400; James Johnstone, Esq. of Alva, £400; James Lumsden, Esq., Glasgow, £300; Thomas Erskine, Esq., of Linlathin, £200; Peter White, Esq., Glasgow, £200; — Aitken, Esq., £200; — Knox, Esq., Glasgow, £100; Edward S. Gordon, Esq., advocate, £100; the Earl of Leven and Melville, £200 (in all £9,600 of special subscriptions); the total subscriptions for the year 1854-5 being thus £28,293 13s.; and the amount reported up to the Assembly of 1854 having been £165,907 15s. 8d., the gross amount of subscriptions to the scheme had now reached the sum of £194,201 8s. 8d."

(6.) *Education Scheme.*—Dr. Cook, Haddington, gave in the report of this scheme. It stated that irrespective of normal schools, there were 181 schools connected with this scheme, including 13 female schools. The number of scholars was about 14,000. Of the 181 teachers, 59 hold Government certificates. The receipts of the Committee for all purposes, including normal school fees and grants, was £8,359 15s. 7d., and their expenditure £8,589 14s. 1d. The ordinary income of the Committee had somewhat fallen off. In the normal schools 187 pupil teachers had been admitted, of whom 39 were Queen's scholars.

The report proceeded to give an abstract of Presbyterian returns regarding all the schools in Scotland examined by Presbyteries throughout the year. 2,599 schools in all had been so examined, being 955 parochials, 62 burgh, 640 subscription, 415 endowed, and 527 adventure. The number of children present at the time of examination was 166,699, being an average of 76 to parochial schools, and 61 to other schools.

In regard to agricultural schools, the report stated:—

"In September, 1853, Mr. W. A. Ross, after having studied for some time in the Glasnevin Training School, near Dublin, opened an agricultural class, under the direction of the Committee, in the Edinburgh Normal School. Eleven students attended; and their progress was such as to qualify them to undertake the charge of elementary schools, in which it may be desired that agricultural instruction should be given. During the past year, the number of students attending Mr. Ross's lectures has increased to thirty. It may now, therefore, be anticipated that a considerable and steadily-increasing number of teachers will annually leave the Edinburgh Normal