

der; Alex. R. Irving, Blair Athole; Wm. Letch, Mornhall, John R. Macdoff, Glasgow; Archibald Watson, Glasgow; John Colvin, Maryhill, Wm. Robertson, St. Bernard's; J. Elder Cumming, Perth; Sir Wm. Baillie, Bart., of Polkemmet; Professor Swinton, Sheriff Barclay, Perth; Francis Cochran, Esq., Advocate, Aberdeen; George Hogarth, Esq., Banker, Cupar-Fife; J. G. Morison, Esq., Touch House, Stirling; Robert Cooke, Esq., Montrose; James A. Campbell, Esq., Glasgow; Adam Paterson, Esq., Glasgow; Thomas White, Esq., Glasgow.

The following office-bearers have already been appointed:—*President*—The Very Rev. Principal Tulloch, D. D. *Secretaries*—The Rev. William Robertson, St. Bernard's; and the Rev. J. Elder Cumming, Perth.

It was very distinctly stated, and agreed upon by all, that the Union should not interfere with the Church Courts. The subjects to be considered by it are of a kind which practically are not taken up, and, in the present state of ecclesiastical business, cannot well be taken up, in those Courts; while the great ecclesiastical questions which divide our Assemblies will not be mooted. There is only one influence which, it is contemplated, the Union can ever have upon Church Courts, and that is one which it is extremely desirable it should have. It is earnestly hoped that greater fellowship among the office-bearers and members of the Church will introduce a more brotherly and more earnest tone into public debates, and that, as the influence of the Union for good is felt by such of its members individually, that influence will be shown in the spirit manifested in Church Courts. Such is an object earnestly to be desired, and such is almost the only influence which the Union can possibly exert over the Courts of the Church. Considerable suspicion has attached to the commencement of the Union, partly from ignorance of the basis on which it was formed, and partly from the fear that it might create a new party in the Church. The former cause must now be removed by the full and explicit statement of the objects of the association, given in Resolution No. III.; and we cannot doubt that with the ignorance and the fear will be dispelled. As to the Union resulting in the formation of a party, it must be seen, on a little reflection, that in an association which includes all classes of office-bearers and members of the Church who are willing to enter it, and in which, therefore, all views will be embraced, there can be no danger of a party tendency. If membership were limited to those holding certain views, then there might be danger of party objects. Or, if there were any power of excluding (by ballot or otherwise) those who sought for admission, then it might be feared that this power would be used to create a party. But when all office-bearers and members may be admitted on expressing their wishes to that effect, the danger supposed is illusory in the extreme. There can be no party where there is no party creed. If any men in the Church dread danger from the Union, let them join it, and prevent the danger by their influence from within. The only check retained on the admission of members is a moral one. No one will seek to join who has not a community of feeling with those who have associated themselves. Such a community of feeling is absolutely needful to the working of the Union to any purpose, and more especially to its working for more directly spiritual purposes; but it will be sufficiently produced by the attraction of sympathy, and by the repulsion found in the want of it. That the Union has an object sufficiently definite, no one can doubt

who reflects upon the basis here given. That the Union is likely to have great moral influence of some kind is unquestionable; but that influence will probably be wholly for good, in stirring up the members to greater spirituality in private, and greater earnestness in public life. Its practical working will be chiefly in the branch associations in various parts of the country, which will immediately be formed. There are already, though the movement has only begun, about seventy members connected with it and with the branch association at Glasgow; and it is expected that, before next assembly, that number will be multiplied many times.—*Ed. Ch. Mag.*

### From the Scotch Correspondent of the Montreal Presbyterian.

Messrs. Editors: Before this time Scotch papers will have reached you, containing full accounts of the proceedings of the General Assembly, and, as you are accustomed to give an abstract in your pages, I shall only notice it in a general way in my letter. The Assembly was watched with much interest by the whole country, and I believe its decisions have given general satisfaction.

The reports of the different Schemes of the Church were very satisfactory, and betokened a considerable increase of liberality and zeal, as well as greater efficiency on the part of the Committees. The Jewish Committee reported the establishment of their new Mission in Turkey, where quite a large number of laborers are already employed, with much prospect of success. They have also resolved to maintain the station at Cochin, which, at one time, was talked of being given up; and another licentiate of the Church, in addition to the two who have already gone to Turkey, a Mr. Yule, has been appointed to that field of labor. The General Assembly confirmed the decision of last year, with regard to the acceptance of grants for schools in India, and that long agitated question being now set at rest, the Committee are prepared to act vigorously in extending our Missionary operations in that quarter of the world.

There is also a prospect of an increase in the number of Scotch Chaplains in the East India Company's service; here, as in other departments of the public service, the Church is beginning to press rightful claims, about which she has too long been silent, and which have, consequently, been quite overlooked. It is really insufferable that, while Episcopal Ministers and Roman Catholic Priests are sent and paid both by the Indian and Home Governments, wherever their services are required, Presbyterianism has no official existence in the fields which have been opened up during the last ten or twelve years. Both English and Romish Chaplains were sent out the other day with the troops for China; but, as a matter of course, no Scotch Chaplain to minister to the wants of the Scotch soldiers.

Both the Assembly and the whole country were taken by surprise with the report of the Endowment Scheme. It was known that the Moderator had been making great exertions throughout the year; but the utmost looked for was that the sum to be reported might equal that given in at last Assembly, while many had fears that it would fall short of it. But, when the day came, Dr. Robertson made the gratifying announcement, that the contributions for the year amounted to £61,000, being an increase above last year of £17 or £18,000. This shows plainly that there is life in the Church,

and that she has heartily entered upon the work of overtaking the spiritual destitution of our masses.

The report of the Colonial Committee was also most satisfactory, showing as it did that a greater number of Missionaries had been sent abroad since last Assembly than during any former year.

Among the younger members of the Assembly Dr. Tulloch, of St. Andrews, who, though Principal of the University, is still a very young man, made the greatest impression as a speaker. He shines equally in the professorial chair and on the platform, and, as he will be returned every year, the probability is, that in no distant day he will be the leader of the Assembly. He is a man of excellent spirit, and is allied with all the most living and earnest movements and men in the Church. Among with the Rev. Norman McLeod, of Glasgow, the originator of the movement, he has taken a leading part in inaugurating the Church Law to which, I think, I alluded in my last letter; a new society that has been recently formed for mutual prayer and counsel as to the wants and deficiencies of the Church, and the best modes of increasing her strength and usefulness. Branch Societies of Clergymen and Laymen are to be established all over the country, and, although the plans of operation are not yet fully matured, it is understood that the promotion of our Missionary schemes, the increase of Christian activity, the consideration of the religious wants and social evils of the time, and the suggestion of remedies, are the objects contemplated.

### India Mission.

Under the authority of the General Assembly, the Committee now appeal to the Congregations of the Church, urgently asking their continued liberality in support of this Mission to the heathen. The Institutions at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras have been conducted, during the past year, with undiminished activity, ability, and enlightened zeal.

Correct and extensive knowledge of Christian truth, combined with instruction in various branches of education, has been imparted to large classes of pupils at Calcutta, while in addition to this preparatory work, other means have been employed for the purpose of converting to the natives enlarged and accurate views of the Gospel of Christ. Through the power of Divine grace, the seed thus sown must eventually produce abundant fruit.

At Bombay, unremitting and energetic labors have been followed by immediate results. Graphic accounts of the circumstances attending some of the conversions that have taken place during the past year, have already appeared in the *Record*; and in the last communication it is stated, "That eight converts have joined us, that of these four belonged to the Institution, as teachers or pupils; and that they are all fitted, both by their abilities and their attainments, to take part in the great work of enlightening and evangelizing their country men."

The work is also making constant progress at Madras. From the Reports of the Examination, ample evidence may be gathered of the untiring labor of those by whom the Institution at Madras is conducted. During the past year there have been seven baptisms in connexion with this branch of the Mission.

The extension of operations to the Punjab, while supplying a new object of interest, has been increasing the demand on the funds at the