

Anderson of Calcutta. William Robertson of St. Bernard's Edinburgh, David Playfair of Abercorn, James Wilson of Edrom, Taylor of Westruther, Walkinshaw of Lyne, John Millar, chaplain to the Castle of Edinburgh, Colonel Macdonald of Powder Hall, David MacLagan, Esq., M. D., John Wright, Esq., W.S., &c. After praise and prayer, conducted by the Moderator, the Report of the past year, being the Eighteenth Annual Report of the Association, was read by Mr. Wright, the Secretary and Treasurer. The Rev. Mr. Thomson of Ormiston, seconded by the Rev. Mr. Bell of Haddington, moved the first resolution, which was to the following effect:—"That the Report of the Committee, now read, be adopted as the Eighteenth Annual Report of the Association; that it be printed, with an abstract of the accounts, and a list of contributors; that the office-bearers, per list now submitted, be approved of as the office-bearers of the Association for the ensuing year, and that the thanks of the meeting were due to the auxiliary associations throughout the country, to the clergy of the Church, and to the Ladies' Committee, corresponding Boards, and others, at Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, and at Ceylon, for the support which has been extended to the Association during the past year." The motion was supported in able, appropriate, and eloquent speeches, and passed by acclamation. The second resolution, moved by the Rev. J. Elder Cumming of Perth, seconded by the Rev. John Anderson of Calcutta, and eloquently enforced by these reverend gentlemen, was as follows:—

That this meeting acknowledge their unfeigned gratitude to Almighty God for the success which has attended the efforts of the Association both at home and abroad, during the past year, and resolve, under Divine assistance, steadily to prosecute a work in which it is alike their imperative duty and their high privilege to labour.

The motion was passed unanimously.

On the motion of Dr. MacLagan, the thanks of the meeting were unanimously accorded to his Grace the Lord High Commissioner, for his kindness in countenancing the proceedings, and to Colonel Macdonald, of Powder Hall, for presiding during the latter portion, Lord Belhaven being obliged to leave before the close. The thanks of the meeting were also awarded to the speakers for their valuable assistance in aid of the objects of the Association. After praise and the benediction, by the Moderator, (Dr. Crombie,) the meeting, which was a large and enthusiastic one, separated.

[For the Monthly Record.]

### A Useful Lesson.

Every Christian seems bound to regard with interest, the spiritual state of the world at large. Indifference upon this subject is justly reprehensible; and he is far from that "perfection" to which all the followers of Christ are exhorted to aspire, who shuts up his sympathies from even the meanest and most degraded of his brethren of mankind. We hear, now-and-then, of some poor, deluded creatures who have been led away by some fanatic or another, but who would have been proof against his artifices if their minds had been better informed. Hence we are led to see the great importance of a sound and liberal EDUCATION, and to do

all in our power to forward its interests. It is in ignorance, for instance,—stark and staring ignorance—that Mormonism has had its rise. Its votaries—or rather, victims—were found to be an easy prey: because, although the system from beginning to end, is, in the eyes of every intelligent man, a gross insult to common sense, and a caricature of the Gospel, there are too many growing up, at the present day, without knowledge, more especially in our crowded cities at home, where, amid our boasted civilization, there are thousands and tens of thousands, who can neither read nor write! After such a system has begun to spread, and to threaten serious consequences, men go busily to work speaking and writing against it, and seeking to show, out of the Bible, that it has no foundation in Scripture. But, to whom do they appeal? To those who, from their neglected state, are far more likely to accept a false than a true interpretation of the Word of God, and who would never have fallen away from an orthodox communion, if they had, from the first, received proper opportunities of religious instruction. We yield to no one in our respect for the Bible; we believe the Gospel to possess weapons, in its armoury, of keenest temper and invincible power, and that, with a fair chance, it will win its way over every obstacle. But in regard to this new system, which is now assuming a somewhat serious form, from the weight of numbers who have attached themselves to it, we may safely venture to affirm that it will, by-and-bye, require no formidable array of texts to bring out its weakness; but, like every other system which contradicts the laws of God, will crumble into nothing from its own inherent corruption. Godliness, or true religion, we are assured, is profitable for both worlds; but Mormonism, from all accounts, seems at least to have very little even of the promise of the life that now is. According to the latest data, the Mormons are thus distributed: America contains 68,700, of whom 38,000 are in Utah; 5,000 in New York; 4,000 in California; 5,000 in Nova Scotia and Canada; South America and the Islands, 2,000. In Europe, 39,000 Saints are thus found: In Great Britain and Ireland, 32,000; Scandinavia, 5,000; Germany and Switzerland, 1,000; France, 5,000; the rest of Europe, 500. In Asia there are supposed to be 1,000; in Africa, 100; in Australia and Polynesia, 2,400; on travel, 18,000. There are besides, 3,500 Schismatics, Strangites, Rigdomites, and Wightites. These numbers amount to 118,500, and the total cannot well exceed 120,000 heads of families. Nova Scotia thus comes in for a few hundreds, according to the above statement. But, as we have said, it is a system which is not destined to last long. It is an evil which may almost be left to cure itself, though it suggests most important lessons to men in high places to care for the sound, religious instruction of the great mass of the people; and it is only in this view that we consider Mormonism as at all deserving of notice in our periodical. There is, however, one feature in the progress of this degrading imposture which cannot fail to be highly gratifying to all the sincere friends of our Church. Very few, comparatively, have left the Church of Scotland in order to join the Mormons. In proportion to our numbers, we have supplied the least recruits for that ignominious service. The reason of this is easily found. The members of our Scottish Church, both at home and in the colonies, are, generally, too well grounded in the doctrines of their faith, to be thus led astray by the artifices of ignorant impostors, who, in other quarters,

have been more successful. Even amongst the lowest classes, the "Book of Mormon" is not likely to have much weight with those who, though only in their youth, have been trained to a knowledge of our "Shorter Catechism." And there are not a few, even among our common ploughmen and laborers, who read and hear the Word as it is preached in the pulpits of Scotland, who would easily show themselves more than a match, in theological arguments, for the Prophet himself, whose misguided emissaries are now spreading themselves over the four quarters of the globe—"seeking whom they may devour."

### General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

In the newspapers received by the last Steamer, from Britain, we have received very full and highly interesting accounts of the proceedings of the General Assembly, which met on the 22nd May, at Edinburgh; as well as the proceedings of the Free Church Assembly, which met at the same time and place. Nevertheless those who have been present at such meetings can form any adequate idea of their interest and importance, as regulating the ecclesiastical affairs and advancing the ecclesiastical prosperity of the National Church, and its missions, and branches in different parts of the world. It would require a volume, instead of a few pages, fully to develop all the movements, and discussions, and fruits, and consequences of these important meetings. Rather than to excite than to gratify the anxious inquiries of our readers, we have prepared and published such an abstract of the proceedings of the Assembly as our limited space will admit.

We shall conclude our abstract in the next number, and also insert the Report of the Colonial Committee; and, probably, abstracts of some of the other Reports presented to the Assembly at its late meeting.

### Representatives to our Synods

We were happy to meet, last week, the Rev. William Snodgrass, of St. James Church, Charlottetown, on his return, the last Boston Steamer, to Nova Scotia from his mission to the Synod of Canada, accompanied by the Rev. Dr. James George, Vice Principal, and Professor of Logic, Mental and Moral Philosophy in the University of Queen's College, Kingston. Professor George has been appointed, we learn, by the Synod of Canada as representative to the Synod of Nova Scotia, which meets on Tuesday first, at Pictou, and intends to spend some time in the Province. A representative, we believe, the Rev. William Henderson of Newcastle, Miramichi, is also expected from the Synod of New Brunswick, at the meeting to assist at its deliberations, and co-operate in maturing and adopting such measures as may be considered conducive to the prosperity of the Church in British North America.

### LATEST INTELLIGENCE

#### The Lord-Advocate's Measure.

The Lord-Advocate, with a pertinacity unworthy of his country, has again broached forward the thrice-defeated Scotch Education