

of the prayers? There was no record of them, and what could they say about them, as they had nothing before them to judge of but impressions regarding them. As to the sermon, he thought it was well arranged, and he quoted several passages from the sermon, which, he maintained, showed that its author was capable of vigorous writing. After quoting one sentence, he appealed to the House, and asked if it was prepared to say that the man who wrote that sentence was fit to be a minister of Kildalton? He maintained that he was fit to be a minister of the Greyfriars'—(laughter)—or any other friars. Though he wanted brushing up a little, he was evidently a man of talent; and if he was a man of diligence he would yet vindicate that opinion, for the man that could write one noble paragraph could write a thousand. There was logic in these sermons as well as sense, and if he found all his sermons as well arranged as the first of these sermons, he should be tolerably satisfied, as arrangement was the last perfection which a man reached. Dr. Lee concluded by moving "That the sentence of the Presbytery be reversed, and the case remitted to them, with instructions to proceed with the settlement according to the laws of the Church."

Dr. Pirie said that Dr. Lee had, with his customary ability, made these discourses to put on a most respectable appearance, by filling up the blanks they contained with remarkable ingenuity. (Laughter.) He admitted that there was energy and a power of figurative expression in the discourses which many of them might envy; but they were mere notes and sketches, a series of maxims strung together loosely, and containing a vast quantity of bad grammar.

Principal Tulloch rose to say, that he never felt more perplexity as to any vote, than he did as to the vote he was to give that night. Perhaps he never did give a vote under Lord Aberdeen's extraordinary act without perplexity; and he supposed there were few members of the House who would not vote without perplexity; for how could they have clear conceptions of the case, after having first a legal contest at the bar, and then a theological contest on the floor of the House? In reference to the absolute merits of the case, he agreed with Dr. Lee, and thought them full of most vigorous thoughts clothed in most striking and most graphic language. (Hear, hear.) Were the question one of the absolute merit of the sermons, there could be no doubt as to the opinion they must come to on the subject. Were the author of these sermons a student preparing for the ministry, he would have advised him to cultivate his gifts, and he would have no doubt of his success. But if he understood Lord Aberdeen's Act, the question before them was one not of the absolute merit of the sermons, but of their relative value to the parish. He had very grave doubts whether the sermons were likely to be of benefit to the parishioners of Kildalton. It might be

true that the author of these sermons might be the minister of Greyfriars', but it was equally true that the minister of Greyfriars', might not be fit to be minister of Kildalton. Now, if they had any power under Lord Aberdeen's Act, it was the power of seeing that their clergy were located where their peculiar gifts were most likely to be useful. Upon the whole, he thought he would support Dr. Pirie's motion.

Mr. Sinclair, a Highland minister, testified to the excellence of the Gaelic sermon, stating that it was characterised by evangelical views of religion and purity of language which bordered on the Ossianic. (Laughter.)

Mr. Strachan, also minister of a Highland charge, testified to the Gaelic sermon displaying a power of thought, an excellence of diction, and an amount of imagination that he could not too much admire.

Mr. Irvine, of Blair-Athole, said that Dr. Smith, of Inverary, another gentleman whose name he did not know, and himself were of opinion that the Gaelic sermons were exceptional on the same grounds as the English sermon, but to a greater extent.

A vote was then taken between the motions of Drs. Hill and Lee, with the following result:—

For Dr. Hill's motion	102
For Dr. Lee's motion	95

Majority for Dr. Hill's motion 7

The announcement of the numbers was received with applause.

Dr. Lee dissented from the division.

— FRIDAY, May 27.

The Assembly met at eleven o'clock—Dr. Cook, Moderator.

Dr. Grant gave in a report of the Ministers's Widows' Fund Scheme, which stated that during the past year the capital stock had increased by £3,852, and now amounted to £154,000.

LAY ASSOCIATION.—The report of the Lay Association in support of the Schemes of the Church was read, from which it appeared that by means of this association there had this year been contributed the following sums to the Schemes of the Church:—Education Scheme, £464; India Mission, £158; Home Mission, £382; Colonial Mission, £201; Jewish Mission, £133; total £1,338.

On the motion of Professor Mitchell, the Assembly agreed to express their high satisfaction with the report, and their grateful acknowledgements to the association for the assistance they had given to the different schemes.

— SATURDAY, MAY 28.

COMMITTEE ON AIDS TO DEVOTION.—Dr. Crawford gave in the report of the Committee on Aids to Devotion, which stated that the committee had prepared and published a volume of prayers for the use of members of the Church of Scotland, seamen and others, be-