

*vants*, not as *property*; that I shall give them what is just and equal for their work that I shall encourage them to obtain education for themselves and their children and to attend on such means of religious instruction as the church may be able to afford them; that I shall endeavor, as far as I can, to secure the making of laws to promote personal freedom; that as soon as it can be done, I shall legally set free all those under my care; and that, in the meantime, I shall treat them with kindness and equity, it being my constant aim to act upon the command of the Lord Jesus Christ, to do unto others as I should wish them to do unto me.”

After an animated discussion, and a very ample vindication of the Board by the Mission Secretary, the Synod adopted the following motion:—“In respect that the minute of Committee on Foreign Missions expresses an opinion designed to carry out in their spirit the previous resolutions and instructions of the Synod, which has always condemned the system of slavery, and repudiated fellowship with slaveholders; in respect that the declaration emitted by the committee to be subscribed and adhered to, if sanctioned by the Synod, as a condition of admission into the Church at Calabar, distinctly specifies that, in obedience to the law of Christ, ‘slaveryholding,’ in the ordinary sense of the expression, is renounced, and those formerly held by the parties as slaves are henceforth to be regarded and treated as “servants under the law of kindness and equity which the gospel prescribes; in respect, also, that the said declaration provides, that the nominal connection which, for a time, may still subsist between entrants into the Church and slavery, is only tolerated because it is altogether unavoidable—that it implies, while it continues, no treatment inconsistent with Christian law, and cannot be taken advantage of without, in regard to mere purposes of gain, no sale of slaves being allowed, except in commutation of the extreme penalty of the law, in the cases of those guilty of criminal offences, exposing them to death; and in respect, further, that said declaration pledges those admitted to the membership of the Church, to use every means in their power, civil, social, and religious, for effecting the extinction of slavery, and carrying out the principles of this Church in seeking to do away with slaveholding on the part of all who make a profession of Christianity, the Synod approves of the foresaid minute of committee and declaration for the guidance of the missionaries in the admission of members into the Church in Old Calabar.”—The Committee on Public Questions gave in their report, relating chiefly to the Education Bills before Parliament. After a debate unusually exciting, and characterised by consummate ability, the Synod agreed to express in a series of resolutions their strong condemnation of Mr. Stirling’s bill, and, by a majority of 70 to 43, their modified approval of the Lord Advocate’s, as the best which, at present, can be obtained.—An Overture was presented from the Presbytery of Glasgow, to the effect that a Committee on Public Questions should not again be appointed. On introducing the overture Dr. Robson said that the discussions which had taken place during this meeting of the Synod pleaded powerfully in its support. The discussion of such matters do not lie within their province, and they should not introduce political questions into the deliberations of the Court. They could, as citizens, meet on the platform for the purpose of discussing such questions, but the Church was not the proper place for them, and the Government ought to know nothing of them as a spiritual court. Dr. Brown of Edinburgh gave, as he has long done, his zealous support to the same views, and the business was disposed of by the Synod’s agreeing that, in the meantime, the Committee should not be reappointed. The Committee on Scholarships reported that fifty-three students attending the University, and twenty-seven attending the Divinity Hall had entered into competition—that twenty-seven scholarships of £10 each had been awarded to the former class, and nineteen the same value to the latter—and that the Committee recommended that hereafter scholarships should be given only to University students. The Synod approved the Report. An overture by several members of the Presbytery of Edinburgh was presented in favour of an improvement of Psalmody, and the Synod agreed to approve highly of the object of the overture, and, in terms of its prayer, appointed a Committee to take the subject of Psalmody into consideration, make provision for lectures illustrative of the principles and art of sacred music, and issue from time to time such papers as to them shall seem advisable for promoting the improve-