

counsel and co operation of the faithful laity in the proceedings of Convocation."

The Rev. THOMAS WOODGATE opposed the resolution. He moved that "it is neither just nor expedient to entertain the question of the admission of laymen to the councils of the Church until, by the enforcement of ecclesiastical discipline or by some other method, effectual means are taken to determine what constitutes a *bona fide* member of the Church of England."

Archdeacon DENISON seconded the amendment.

Mr Chancellor MARTIN said, the admission of the laity into Convocation would be a perfect revolution. He begged to move "the previous question," not that he wished to negative the motion, but simply to postpone the discussion.

The Rev. Mr FENDALL seconded it. He did not think that at any time, or under any circumstances, the laity could be admitted in Convocation.

The PROLOCUTOR then put "the previous question," and the result was a decision that Mr Seymour's motion should not now be put on a division. The numbers were—*for* the previous question, 29; *against* it, 18.

The Prolocutor, in accordance with the desire of the Upper House, nominated a Committee on missionary effort.

Shortly afterwards, the Archbishop of Canterbury formally adjourned both Houses until the 26th June.

REVISION OF THE BIBLE.—Dr Cumming delivered a lecture on Tuesday night, at Exeter Hall, to the Young Men's Christian Association. The subject of the lecture was the Revision of the Bible. Sketching the history of the early manuscripts of the Gospel and the manner in which the monks had obliterated many of them in order to record the legends of their saints, the lecturer admitted their various mistakes and readings but maintained that no other article of our faith was affected by them. Though in the hundreds of manuscripts which existed, some thousands of errors, chiefly of transcription, had been discovered, none of these in the slightest degree affected any sacred truth or doctrine. Glancing at the labours of the most celebrated Biblical critics in Germany and in this country, he showed how much they differed, and how absurd it was to call on the people to renounce the present version of the Scriptures until something like unanimity existed among scholars as to what should be substituted for it. Without denying that the time might come when new readings would be established, he maintained that the decision with regard to a new version must be adjourned. Quoting some renderings of American critics, which to English ears sounded feeble, Dr. Cumming concluded by declaring that, in his judgment, their best course was to hold fast by that old English Bible which, under Providence, had been the source of so many blessings to generations of the people of this country. The audience, a very nu-

merous one, were prodigal of their applause throughout the lecture and its conclusion.

The Late Rev. R. J. Robertson of Forteviot

In our last we recorded the death of the Rev. Robert J. Robertson, parish minister of Forteviot, which sacred office he sustained for a period of thirty-six years, his ordination having taken place in 1815. It never making a great noise by occupying a conspicuous part in the ecclesiastical world, Mr Robertson stood high in the estimation of his co-Presbyters, as well as of all who had the opportunity of judging of his superior merits, whether as an able preacher of the Gospel, or in the capacity of a humble but faithful follower of the meek and lowly Jesus. During his somewhat protracted ministerial career the deceased gentleman was well known and characterised for a devoted attachment to the Church of Scotland, in defending whose rights and privileges he was always at home. He never pandered to popular prejudice. He was a man of keen and serene feelings, of unspotted integrity and honour, ever ready to throw himself into the breach when an attack might be made upon what he considered important or suffering innocence. He was a strict but reasonable disciplinarian, of high souled sympathy for the vindication of truth over error, of right over wrong—in a word, one of whom our National Church may perhaps boast of others more publicly useful, but without a solitary instance where a consistent, holy life was more productive of counselling and deserved respect. In his best, we mean his healthiest days, Mr Robertson was never physically strong, and it was, we believe, frequently remarked by those who best knew him, that his end would be as it has proved sudden, and at the moment unlooked for. But in his case sudden death has been sudden glory. "With his body he laid down his charge, and ceased at once to work and live." Mr. Robertson, owing to failing health, obtained the sanction of the Presbytery, some four or five months ago, to have assistance in his ministerial work, but he continued to attend meetings of Presbytery occasionally, and on the Tuesday previous to his death he attended and officiated at the funeral of a relative. On the Sunday evening of his death he was able to conduct family worship in his own Manse; and, just as he had finished the last words of the prayer, he sank down in his chair and immediately expired. Mr. Robertson, we may add, was clerically descended, his father having been minister of Little Dunkeld. We have the best means of knowing that his death will be deeply regretted in numerous circles, but in none more than in the Presbytery of the bounds, where for many years he was looked up to as an authority and example whose value was felt far and near.

The Effects of Hostilities upon the Missionaries.

The London *Watchman* thus summarises the intelligence which it has received from missionaries in China on the subject of the bombardment:—Our readers will regret to hear of the interruption of Christian agencies, as well as of commercial operations. Schools, native teachers, medical missions, and the missionaries themselves, have been dispersed, with considerable loss, in some instances, of property, books, and furniture. The earliest

Wesleyan missionary to China, the Rev. George Piercy, has sent his family to Macao, and the Rev. Josiah Cox with the rest of our mission, will for some time be withdrawn from Canton. The hospital established by the London Missionary Society is deserted, and the missionary family has been obliged to retire to Hong Kong. The American Presbyterian Mission has suffered still more severely, having had its premises and property destroyed by the fire which broke out under the bombardment, and three of the missionaries having been obliged to depart for Macao. We learn by another account that the ferocious offer of a reward by the head of every Englishman had nearly been fatal, not to our own countrymen, but to several German missionaries. The facts which no one who is acquainted with the peculiarities of a Chinese mission will hear of without a shudder. The interruption of the evangelist's work just when it was becoming promising, after years of patient and costly preparation, the dispersion of schools, and the breaking up of other institutions of Christian and philanthropic character, and the ill effect produced on the native mind, are incalculably calamitous to China. At home we may sit down to consider how the loss is to be repaired by money, and by effort; but on the spot it is difficult to reason so calmly. The remembrance of blighted labours and the long weary prospect of a deferred hope, are enough to break the missionary's heart unless strengthened by Divine faith.

GLIMMURCH BIBLE SOCIETY.—The sale of Scriptures, English and Gaelic, by the Society, during the past year, have been 53,823, being upwards of 6000 more than the issues of the previous year. Of these 13,017 have been sent to Ireland, 882 have been distributed among the poor of the city by the Scripture Society, employed by the Ladies' Auxiliary; 911 (Gaelic) have been supplied to the Highland and 1409 (chiefly English) have been sent to Australia, New Zealand and Canada. In addition to the above, 2500 copies of Chinese Scriptures have been sent to France upwards of 2000 (chiefly French and Italian) have been distributed in Gibraltar, Malta, the Crimea and Constantinople, by Mr. Duncan Matheson, who acts gratuitously as the Society's agent; and the issues by colporteurs in France and Switzerland have also been increased. Mr. Haldane also states that as the annual meeting was held earlier than usual this year he could not give a statement of the exact state of the funds, but he was glad to be able to say, that notwithstanding the increased circulation of Scriptures, no debt had been incurred, they had sufficient funds to meet all the additional copies which they had circulated.

REV. DR. CAMPBELL.—Dr. Campbell, therto of the *British Banner*, is commencing a new weekly paper to be called the *Standard*.