

ability all his professorial duties, but so discharge them as to exercise a most beneficial influence over the youth placed under his care. The Committee recommend this University to the continued encouragement of the General Assembly.

AUSTRALIA.—The proposed union of the different Presbyterian bodies in Australia, regarding which the Committee had very ample information before last General Assembly, has been virtually abandoned. It turned out that agreement among the parties to the proposed union upon some questions essential to its permanence, and indeed to the honesty of entering into it at all, was only an apparent agreement; and that, when explanations were mutually required and offered, irreconcilable differences presented themselves. It is only with ministers of the Church of Scotland who were engaged in these negotiations that the Committee have anything to do, and it is only in reference to them that they feel called upon to offer any remark. In doing so, it is with unfeigned satisfaction that the Committee report to the General Assembly that our brethren have held firmly by the doctrine and government of the Church, as expressed in her Confession of Faith and other standards—that, as soon as they discovered that it was designed to put upon certain chapters in the Confession of Faith interpretations inconsistent with their literal meaning, and with the practical exposition of them given by the Church; and that by these new interpretations it was proposed that they should be henceforth bound, and thereby cease to be ministers of the Church of Scotland, they repudiated the proposed union, and, it is believed, retain as cordially as ever their allegiance to our venerable Church. At this result the Committee, after a careful consideration of all the documents forwarded to them, and particularly of the object which some parties were aiming at, are not surprised; and they take this opportunity of suggesting to our brethren in Australia, that they continue to cultivate that spirit of charity and peace towards those who still differ from them, which it is incumbent on every Christian, and especially on those clothed with the sacred office of the ministry, to exhibit. At present the Committee have upon their table applications for five additional clergymen to fixed charges in Australia—one for the colony of Victoria, and four for New South Wales. These charges are all of them important and most desirable. The stipends guaranteed to each of them range from £130 to £400 a year. As speedily as possible the Committee will provide suitable ministers for these several charges.

Before closing this branch of their report, the Committee have to regret, notwithstanding the gratifying number of ministers whom they have been able to send to the British colonies during the past year, the large amount of destitution, and the want of a sufficient staff of able and devoted men to supply it, which still exist. In the meantime, the Committee are persuaded that this Venerable House will unite with them in expressing the deepest sympathy with our countrymen, who have long and patiently borne their religious privations, in anew conveying to them an assurance that they and their families are not forgotten by us; and that our earnest prayers are, that the Lord may put it, and that early, in our power to gladden them with the arrival among them of messengers of salvation. This assurance, uttered not in formal language, but in the deep and prayerful sincerity of our hearts, will be regarded as a token of better days, ere long, to dawn upon them; and when they read, as they

do with interest, an account of your annual proceedings, and especially the proceedings of this day, on which their wants and welfare are deliberated upon, they will be animated with double earnestness to avail themselves of such means of improvement as they at present possess—the perusal of their Bibles, gathering around their family altars for prayer, speaking oft one to another of the things pertaining to their immortal peace, and encouraging one another to walk in the good path that leads to heaven. The urgency of immediate provision being made for those portions of the colonies where the ministrations of the Gospel, in order to be efficient, must be conducted in the Gaelic language, the Committee take leave again to press upon the attention of the General Assembly. They do so in the hope that their fathers and brethren, whose parishes are situated in the Highlands, from which the supply must come, will be so kind as remember, when they return to their homes, the urgency of the appeals that have been made to us, and favor the Committee with their influence in answering them.

APPLICATIONS TO GOVERNMENT.—The committee, it will be remembered, submitted to last General Assembly the expediency of an application being made to her Majesty's Government, with the view of obtaining the appointment of additional ministers or missionaries to supply the charges of incumbents when ill health required their temporary absence from them; and, when not so employed, to perform missionary duty among the poorer and more remote of our countrymen. This suggestion was, of course, limited to those colonies where provision is made from the local exchequer for stipends to ministers of the Church of Scotland and of the Church of England. The Committee also submitted to last General Assembly the inadequate supply of chaplains hitherto appointed to dispense divine ordinances, according to their own form of worship, to Presbyterians in the army, and otherwise to superintend their religious and moral welfare. Your Venerable House was pleased to adopt these suggestions, and to instruct the Committee to take all competent steps to secure their attainment. In furtherance of this instruction, the Committee resolved, after mature deliberation, to send a deputation of their number to present and advocate your wishes to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and to the Right Honorable the Secretary for War. The deputation consisted of the Rev. Dr. Fowler, Convener; the Rev. Dr. Paul, Hugh Bruce, Esq., David Smith, Esq., and John Orr Ewing, Esq.

1. In waiting upon her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, the deputation were accompanied by the Right Honorable Lord Belhaven, who, this house will readily believe, entered cordially into an object in which the welfare of the Church of Scotland was involved, by Sir John Heron Maxwell, Mr. Elliot Lockhart, M. P., and Isaac Bayley, Esq. It is not enough to say that the deputation were courteously received by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Labouchere, they were received with the utmost kindness and attention, and all their statements and explanations approved of. At his request the Committee have since forwarded to the Colonial Office a statement in writing of what the Assembly is anxious to carry into effect, both in reference to the appointment of additional ministers to discharge the duties above referred to, and to the reopening of churches which had been for a considerable time shut up; and certainly no

trouble was spared by the Right Honorable Secretary to induce the Colonial Legislatures, within whose province these matters fall, to comply with your wishes, and to make sufficient provision for the establishment of religious ordinances among our countrymen. A change of her Majesty's Government has lately taken place, but the Committee have every reason to believe that the noble Lord who is now charged with colonial affairs will be equally friendly to the Church of Scotland as his predecessor. If encouraged by your Venerable House, and supported by your sanction and influence, the Committee will continue their exertions, not only to give stability to our existing charges in the colonies, but also to secure that the ministers of this Church be remunerated for their ministrations, and in every respect placed upon the same footing as the ministers of the sister establishment.

II. It is with unfeigned satisfaction that the Committee report the favorable result of their application in behalf of an increase of Army Chaplains belonging to the Church of Scotland. When waiting upon the Right Hon. the Secretary for War, Lord Panmure, the deputation were accompanied by Sir James Elphinstone, M. P., and Mr. Elliot Lockhart, M. P., and they take this opportunity of recording their sense of his Lordship's courtesy, and their gratification at the readiness which he expressed to promote the religious welfare of Presbyterians in the army, and, in doing so, to recognise the Church of Scotland as on the same footing as the Church of England. Acting upon these views, a chaplain was, immediately after the interview, on the recommendation of the Committee, appointed at Aberdeen. Having been ordained by the presbytery of the bounds, he is devoting his whole time and attention to the duties of this important charge. A few days ago, on a request from the War Office, the Committee have recommended five additional chaplains for home and foreign service. The Committee know well how much satisfaction this report will give to every member of your Venerable House. Nor will it afford you less satisfaction to learn what has been done for our countrymen in the army who are engaged in India, at present the scene of atrocity and most cruel and sanguinary insurrection. While they are engaged in that arduous struggle, and while as patriots we rejoice in the tidings that have come to us that our countrymen are maintaining the proud name which the Scottish soldier has valorously earned, and that they are shrinking from no sacrifice, even of their lives, to maintain the honor of the British Crown, and the supremacy of our beloved Queen; while as patriots we rejoice in this devoted loyalty and invincible courage of our countrymen, and recommend them to God for protection, it is worthy of their National Church to do something more—to remember their spiritual welfare in the day of trial, and endeavour to follow them amid their perils with the strengthening and consolatory ordinances of the Gospel. To secure this blessing for our brethren was a prominent part of the deputation's anxiety; and they desire to record, as they do now, their thanks to the Hon. the East India Directors, not only for the most kind reception which the Chairman and Deputy Chairman gave to the deputation at an interview arranged for them by that true friend of the Church of Scotland, Sir James Elphinstone, but for the cordiality with which your pious wishes were agreed to by the Directors, and their prompt appointment of four chaplains of our Church with a liberal remuneration. Into all these arrangements