

movement has been very cordially supported by all to whom I have spoken on the subject, with one or two exceptions; it is strictly confined to Presbyterians. We have had occasion, since I came to the Island, to move once or twice, when we considered the Scots Church treated unfairly in comparison with the Church of England; and I was gratified to find a good, hearty, honest Scotch spirit prevailing. Of course there are some Scotsmen in every community who have little sympathy with their country, ecclesiastically or otherwise, and, if they do anything for the Church of Scotland, have an idea that they are patronising her; and their support we neither expect nor want.

I am in great hope that in a short time the number of our clergymen may be considerably increased, and that we may be united into one Church in connection with the Church of Scotland.

Then we would be able to overtake our own people, and to make aggression upon the heathen around us. There are several missionary establishments in Kandy, and connected with them are catechists in the surrounding villages. Inroads are being gradually made upon Heathenism and Buddhism. The religion of the Kandians is losing ground. Of the native Christians, however, many are probably but nominally so, and those of the lower orders are very ignorant and weak. They are a miserable race, and therefore it is vain to expect a high order of Christian at first. I have a firm faith in the Scriptural way of introducing the Gospel into a heathen country, that of earnest men preaching the Truth; but they are but pioneers, and should be followed by schools and teachers. The people are indolent, ignorant and without energy, and this of course tells upon their religion as well as upon every thing else. You have no idea how provoking their stupidity and want of energy are. Though I think myself rather good-tempered, it is very hard not to lose all patience. I have five or six servants, and, all put together, they will scarcely do as much as our good Scots servant-girl. No one will go out of his own lane, and they all disappear for a great part of the day. None will carry anything except the Coolie, and he has his fancies too. I had one the other month who would not carry the water. I asked my present Coolie, a great big powerful fellow, who has been an apprentice to a carpenter, yesterday to put a stick into a broken place in the fence, he said he had not been accustomed to that work, and could not do it. I told him to try it, and, if after a trial he could not manage it, I would get the old ayah (a woman-servant) to see what she could do. Yesterday also I told a man who works in the garden to stick some beans. I found him soon afterwards selecting sticks from the firewood. I told him I meant him not to take that, but to take the hatchet and cut off shoots from the hedges and small branches from the trees, of which there are plenty round the house. He said he could not climb a tree. I told him also to try, and, if he could not manage it, I would get the ayah to help him. I think it would be an excellent thing to import a few African negroes into the country who are vastly superior to the Asiatics. As it is, the hard work of Ceylon, that on the coffee estates, is nearly all done by Coolies, from India, who come over for a few months to the coffee harvest and then return. The climate I do not feel nearly so oppressive as I thought I would. The only crushing heat was at Aden, when it

did make me sick at the stomach. It is much cooler in Kandy than at Colombo, though we are nearer the equator. Indeed in the mornings and evenings one can walk about quite vigorously and at night it is generally cool enough. I have seen few or rather no snakes at all since I came to the Island, and no elephants except a few going from the temple, and others working on the roads. You have about as good a chance of seeing them in this part of the Island as of seeing moose deer in Canada. Upon the whole you will see that I am very comfortably situated here and have my work to do, if God is pleased to spare me. I am very anxious to do what I can to have our people all overtaken, and then that we should do something among the heathen around us. I hope the Church at Home or some of her branches may establish a mission in Ceylon, as I would like to see the Church represented here in the mission field, and would like myself to take an interest in and assist the work. You ask me to send you a communication sometimes for the *Presbyterian*. I have no objection that you should print this, if you think it worth it, and I will try and write occasionally. I thought of sending you some notes on a recent visit to the jungle from my journal, but I shall reserve them.

Proceedings of the Free Synod of Nova Scotia.

This Synod met this year at New Glasgow. Their sittings commenced on Thursday the 17th June, and extended to Tuesday, the 22nd. The number of ministers on the roll was 32, of whom only 19 were in attendance at this Synod. There were also 6 elders present—making the entire number of members present 25.

The opening Sermon was preached by the Rev. John Munro of Wallace, the retiring Moderator from Rev. xi. 15. "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ."

After constitution for business, and making up the roll, the Synod elected the Rev. Alex. Munro of Brown's Creek, P. E. I., Moderator for the ensuing year.

STATE OF RELIGION.

The greater part of one diet was occupied as usual, with hearing accounts of the state of religion in the different Presbyteries of the Church.

QUESTIONS AND FORMULA FOR LICENSE AND ORIENTATION.

Copies of the questions put to those who are about to be licensed, ordained, or inducted to office in this Church having become very scarce, the Synod ordered said questions to be re-printed, both with this year's minutes and in a separate form, and also embodied the substance of them in a formula for subscription.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH SYNOD OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

The Committee on Incorporation with the Synod of New Brunswick reported that nothing had been done to further that object since last meeting of Synod. The Committee was reappointed as a Committee of Correspondence, Rev. W. Murray, Convener, and was instructed to

secure if possible the co-operation of the Synod of New Brunswick in the support of our Foreign Mission.

HOME MISSION.

The sum in the hands of the Synod's Treasurer was £50 14s. 5d.; the sum collected at the Synod £81 3s. 9d.; and a further sum of £25 was known to be available though not actually transmitted—making a total of £160 now to be disposed of. The Synod voted £48 for nine catechists in the Island of Cape Breton who had received grants to the same amount last year, but resolved henceforth to withdraw such grants to catechists except in the case of those who are employed in stations that do not form part of any ministerial charge:—the court being of opinion that regularly organized congregations which require to employ the services of catechists ought to provide for their support themselves. £2 10s. was also granted for the services of a catechist at Wallace. The sum found to be available for aiding weak ministerial charges was £110, being £10 more than was applied to this purpose by last Synod. Of this sum £30 was voted to the newly formed charge at Woodville, P. E. I., and the remainder yielded £20 each for the four weak charges to which supplements were granted last year.

FOREIGN MISSION.

In conformity with the resolutions adopted by last Synod respecting the choice of a foreign field of Missionary labour, the Foreign Mission Committee had engaged the services of Mr. Petros Constantines, with a view to founding a mission amongst the Greeks and others in Constantinople.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON POPERY.

The Rev. G. Sutherland, Convener, gave in the report on Popery.

The report was unanimously approved of, and the thanks of the Synod tendered to the Convener and Committee for their diligence.

DEPUTATION FROM THE SYNOD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

A Deputation consisting of the Rev. Dr. Kier, Rev. Professor Ross, Rev. Messrs McCulloch, Christie and Bayne, Ministers, and Mr. David McCurdy, Ruling Elder, appeared according to previous arrangement and addressed the Synod, urging the desirableness of a speedy union of the two bodies. The Rev. John Stewart, Professor King, and others then addressed the court, reciprocating the sentiments of fraternal regard which the deputation had expressed; after which the Moderator addressed the deputation, expressing to them the pleasure with which the Synod had listened to their friendly addresses.

COLLEGE:—STATE OF THE CLASS.

Professor King reported for himself and Professor Lyall, and Mr. McKnight for himself, respecting the labours of last