

and gave a very encouraging account of this department of the Church's operations.

The Synod instructed the Mission Committee to print and circulate their report—and the Foreign Mission Committee to introduce into their report as full a statistical account of their stations as practicable.

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*The Bicentenary of the Westminster Assembly.*

Our readers, perhaps, generally know, that for some time it has been in contemplation by those who hold those views of Scripture doctrine exhibited in the Westminster Confession of Faith to commemorate, in some suitable way, that celebrated assembly. It is now 200 years since the Assembly sat, and the present year is judged proper for the commemoration.

It is proposed that delegates from all churches, Foreign as well as Domestic, who hold the doctrines of the Westminster Confession of Faith shall meet in Westminster, sometime during the currency of the present year.—But what they are to do when met, is a difficulty which has not been surmounted. Some have proposed, that they should draw up a testimony in support of the Orthodox faith to be signed by all present. A little reflection will convince any man that such a proposition is wholly impracticable. It would lead to endless disputes, would produce alienation instead of union, and convert forbearance into hostility. Another proposal is, that the meeting should testify against prevailing errors, such as Popery, Socinianism, &c., in which all could agree,—that the testimony should be negative, not positive. It is easy to see that such a document would contain very strong condemnations of errors which every body condemns, and very weak condemnation of certain articles about which there would be a difference of opinion. The negative proposal will, in spite of the greatest caution, run into the positive one, and be followed by most of its bad effects. Our opinion is, that the manifold denominations who hold generally by the confession, owing to sectional peculiarities, are not in a condition to meet to any good purpose, and that such a meeting if it ever take place will prove a failure.

The subject was introduced into the Synod by Mr. Renton, who said, he was sure it would be matter of after and deep regret to them all, if the projected meeting should take place, and that the Synod should, through an oversight, have neglected to make provision for being duly represented at it. He submitted the following motion, "That in the prospect of a meeting this summer of the representatives of the various Churches in Great Britain, Ireland, and America, which hold the doctrines of the Westminster Confession of Faith, to celebrate the bicentenary of the Westminster Assembly, with a view to the cultivation of harmony and union among the Churches, a special committee should be appointed by this Synod, with authority to co-operate with other churches, or their