

After some further discussion, Mr. McIntyre withdrew his motion, and that of the Procurator was adopted.

#### REPORT OF COLONIAL COMMITTEE.

Dr. Stevenson of Leith gave in the report of the committee for promoting the religious interests of Scottish Presbyterians in the colonies, of which we must content ourselves for the present with the following brief abstract:—The committee finding that, at the commencement of the year in May 1859, they were already under heavy liabilities for the ensuing twelve months, and that the funds placed at their disposal had for some time past been on the decrease, resolved to restrict their operations to select cases, and to practise the strictest economy. After detailing the operations in various colonial states, the report stated that in the course of the year no opportunity of increasing the number of army chaplains occurred. But an extensive correspondence affecting Presbyterian soldiers, and sailors as well, and having respect to their wants in point of religious superintendence, was carried on by the Recommending Committee, in concert always with the Colonial Committee. The Colonial Committee cannot close this section of the report without venturing to submit to the General Assembly the question—a grave one—whether the time has not arrived when it is for the interest of the Church and of the public service, to appoint a separate committee for the purpose of watching over, and as far as possible providing for the religious wants of Presbyterian soldiers and sailors. With regard to the funds, the report stated that the expenditure for the year has been £1600, the income for the period only £3500; showing an excess of expenditure over income to the extent of £1100. The last is the fourth year in succession during which the expenditure has materially exceeded the annual income; and hence the reserve, which in 1856 had risen to £8246, has now been, in consequence of extended operations, reduced to £4000. It may be fairly assumed that, before this rapid reduction began, the amount on hand was in excess of what could be reasonably deemed necessary, though the accumulation is easily accounted for during a period when it was difficult, or even impossible, to procure laborers for our colonial vineyard. In conclusion, the committee take leave very earnestly to press the claims of the Colonial Scheme on the attention of the Assembly and the Church, respectfully begging that the former would so interpose its authoritative recommendation as to encourage and draw forth a greatly increased liberality throughout all our parishes. The committee feel that they are entitled to the confidence of the church, knowing that they have grudged every penny of expenditure, and resisted it, when it did not go clearly to the benefit of the scheme under their administration.

Mr. McCulloch, Montrose, said that with one or two exceptions the report was of a very gratifying kind. There was one important point that was rather unsatisfactory—namely, that the expenditure was greatly in excess of the income. There were two ways by which they could remedy this evil. They could limit their operations, but that would be a most undesirable result. As Napoleon the First said, "If he did not advance to new conquests he was lost," so it might be said of the Church in the great work which God had given her to do—that if she did not advance to new conquests her prestige would be lost and her influence destroyed. The other remedy was greater liberality on the part of the Church. There was an increase in the income this year of £200, but there were many churches which had made no collection for an object which ought to ensure a collection from every parish in the land. He did not think the income of the scheme was commensurate with the means of the Church in Scotland. When he looked over other churches, he was sorry to find the Church ranking so low in regard to missionary contributions. The contributions of this Church for foreign missions was only about £11,000, while that of the U. P. Church was £21,000, and that of the Free Church £31,000. Now, this Church ought to be pre-eminently a missionary Church. This Church was sustained and supported in a way in which other churches were not, and therefore it ought to take the lead as a missionary Church. Some years ago, the Church of England missionary subscriptions were much inferior to those of the London Missionary Society, but after a few years of active exertion, the Church of England Society had now gone far in advance of the other, and had now £60,000 more than the handsome income of the London Missionary Society. The Church of England had therefore taken her proper place as an established church, and had taken the foremost place in the heathen field, an example which he trusted this Church would follow, and place itself at the head of the missionary churches of the country. Nor had the Church of England neglected the home field for within a year or two a thousand new churches were reported as being built by the Church of England; and in London, in particular, great efforts had been made for the raising of new churches to meet the wants of the population. He trusted the Church of Scotland would be stimulated by this example to greatly increased exertion both in the home and foreign field. Mr. McCulloch then entered into an argument to the effect that the great advance of Great Britain in the scale of nations was not that her people sprang from the Anglo Saxon race, to which historians and philosophers ascribed her greatness, but because she possessed the truth, the truth was the great source of a nation's strength as error was its weakness. He