

be Evangelistic. What is true of the individual, is true of a collection of individuals. Therefore, when we meet to-day to form this Lay Association in connection with the Church of Scotland, and whose objects are to spread the Gospel of Truth to others in this island, we are only carrying out the views which, as individuals, we profess to entertain; and therefore it can scarcely be said that we are now met in any other way than preparing to take action according to these views. I need not say what singular satisfaction I entertained when I heard announced for the first time the plan of this Lay Association. My heart was gladdened, and my spirits relieved, when I felt that in answer, I trust, to the united prayers of the faithful, God put it into the hearts of some influential individuals of this congregation to devise this plan. Above all others there is one, who is a member of the eldership, to whom is indisputably due the honour of originating this idea. I have no hesitation as to our success. We contemplate no more sectarianism. Of course, we believe the principles of the Church of Scotland are the soundest and the best, and it is those principles we wish to spread. As I say, I have no dread, as to our success; in the first place, because of the cordiality of our intention; in the next place, because of the intellectual, and, I trust, sanctified energy of the active men I see around; and because, above all, I believe there are several godly people in this congregation, whose prayers are ascending to the throne of grace, to supplicate the power of the Spirit to descend and hallow our exertions. Such is our general object and design. There are some gentlemen to whom are entrusted certain Resolutions and who will inform you of the special channel in which your exertions are designed to run. Without, therefore, dwelling longer on the matter, allow me to call our friend the Hon. Alexander Barclay, Receiver-General, to propose the Resolution which, I see, is entrusted to his care.

The Hon. ALEXANDER BARCLAY.—After the observations of the Chairman, little more remains for me to do than propose the Resolution entrusted to my care. In doing so, however, you will permit me to observe that I feel no ordinary satisfaction in witnessing and taking part in the proceedings of this day. We propose to use our best exertions for the establishment of churches and schools through this land; and, from our position, we feel we can do much good. We look to the Church at Home to assist us; and, if this be entered on, as I hope it will be, with a spirit of dependence on God's blessing, I have no doubt it will succeed. We would therefore call on all in this congregation and town, and also on the different influential individuals scattered through the island, to unite with us in our endeavour, and thus to establish and spread the Church of our fathers. I move, therefore, Sir, the following Resolution:—

"That an Association be now formed for the purpose of promoting the interests of Religion in this island in connexion with the Established Church of Scotland; and to carry out, as far as possible, the objects contemplated in the Address lately issued by order of Session."

Mr. FINOZIES then addressed the meeting.—Mr. President and Christian friends, I have much pleasure in seconding the Resolution just read.—From the lucid manner in which our Reverend President introduced the subject of the present meeting, and the clear and comprehensive manner that our worthy brother of the Church proposed this Resolution, I have but little to add. However, in looking at the prospectus which has been printed and circulated amongst the members, I find it stated that the object is twofold;—*first*, the establishing of a correspondence with certain localities as to the possibility of extending the benefits of our Church; *secondly*, the representing to the Parent Church the claims of each locality. Now, consider that our objects are threefold; inasmuch as we ought to strengthen our position in Kingston, which ought to be the first consideration; for, if the root is firmly placed, the branches naturally will spread to the different

localities referred to. Individual energy will avail little by itself. Our worthy pastor is zealous and energetic in his duties, and very anxious to extend the cause of Christ's Kingdom under Presbyterianism, of which he is a worthy steward; and I consider it to be our duty to unite with him in carrying out so praiseworthy and important an object. We are all aware of the difficulties experienced by this Church, for some years past, from the sickness and removal by death of our ministers, and our present worthy incumbent may not be exempted from either; therefore I consider it to be an important object to strengthen our position here by getting another ordained minister as an assistant, and then the object in view may more readily be carried out. With these few remarks, I beg leave to second this Resolution; and my earnest wish and prayer is, that the beautiful passage read in this morning's lesson may be applicable to this Association:—

"And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places; thou shalt raise up the foundations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in."—Isaiah lviii. 12.

The Rev. JOHN MURRAY AULD then addressed the meeting to the following effect:—Mr. Chairman and Christian friends,—In being called to address you on the present important occasion, I trust, by the blessing of God, of importance to the best interests of the Church of Scotland in this island, it is fortunate for me that there are some subjects which require not the foreign aid of ornament, but are, when unadorned, adorned the most. As the Church of our fathers, the purest though the poorest establishment of the United Kingdom, from the soundness of her doctrines, the strictness of her discipline, must be classed among the category I have just now mentioned, as she speaks for herself, in her native purity, and by the blessing of God has made Scotland what she is,—Queen of Nations; therefore, as far as she is concerned, my task is easy, because her praise is in all the Churches—she commends herself by every good word and work.

The Resolution with which I have been honoured is in the following words:—

"That this Association be called the 'Jamaica Lay Association of the Church of Scotland.'"

What a beautiful text to every right-hearted Scotchman who has been reared in the bosom of the Mother Church at Home! The Resolution which I hold in my hand, and which I am honoured to press upon your attention, is most concise, yet most expressive; it is short indeed, but most comprehensive. None but a real and true-hearted son of Scotia, whose greatest blessing was to be born within the bosom of the Church, could have penned it; and, unworthy as I am to hold prominently the Resolution before you, I nevertheless will yield to none in the warmth of my love and in my devoted zeal to the Church, in whose excellent parochial schools I was early taught a sound education, and at whose Universities I received that knowledge which is above

"[All Greek, all Roman fame.]"

And now in those days of degeneracy, when those who are not of us would decry the Established Church of Scotland as a thing of naught, it is not only with pleasure, but also with becoming pride, I am permitted to speak of our Church at Home, *Nec tamen consumebarur*. Notwithstanding the late Secession, our Church is progressive and highly prosperous. I refer especially to the city of Glasgow, where, upon the authority of papers received by last packet, the Churches were never better let; that is, they were never better attended; the Sabbath schools are numerous attended, and efficiently conducted by a noble array of young Christian patriots; Lay Association after Lay Association is being formed; and having such a bright example, and success placed before us, I, gladly, notwithstanding the darkness which hangs over us, and the difficulties which surround us, turn to Jamaica and her Lay Association of the

Church of Scotland in Jamaica, the Isle of Springs, from which at present there appears to spring almost nothing physically, morally, or intellectually; yet still we must not despair. Let us begin, as I trust we are doing this day, at the beginning, and upon the strength of God form our Lay Association. Feeling that for the first time the Greek word *laos*, or its English representative, *laity*, has found a place legitimately in the records of our Church here, I am delighted above measure; and, as the word *laity* includes my Christian sisters, so goodly an array of whom, with smiling countenances, I now see before me, may I trust that, as so many young men have enlisted themselves in the cause of pure undefiled Religion this day, our fair friends, who are acting when the nobler sex are thinking, will provoke to love and to good works? There is something delightful in repeating the word Association, as it stands in the Resolution which I hold in my hands. A host of pleasing associations arise in the mind, when an Association connected with the Church of Scotland is about to be formed by young and ardent minds in this city. I am delighted beyond measure to behold so many young men taking an active part in the business of the day; and, whilst they shall have the benefit of the more experienced to guide them, they, and they principally,—I mean the young gentlemen of this congregation, may infuse a new spirit into our Church here; and, while some of their sires may think we are too late in the field, the young men will show it is never too late to do good. There is still ample space in our island for doing good; and I am sure that, as our young men's hearts are in the right place, they will show, by the interest they take in this Society, that, where there is a will, there is a way; and that, having their minds deeply imbued with that charity which first begins at home, but does not end there, they will endeavour to do good to all men, that others, seeing their good works, may glorify God. With these hurried remarks, I with much pleasure move the Resolution.

The President and other officers of the Association having been appointed, on the motion of Andrew Scott, Esq., the Rev. Mr. Radcliffe was requested to leave the chair and the Hon. A. Barclay, Receiver-General, requested to take the same, when, upon the motion of Mr. Scott, a vote of thanks was unanimously given to the Rev. Mr. Radcliffe for his conduct in the chair.

After prayer the meeting was dismissed with the benediction.

This was a most harmonious and agreeable meeting; it was numerous and most respectably attended by the adherents to the Church in Kingston.

The following is the circular referred to in the speeches in the foregoing Report of the proceedings of the Established Church of Scotland, and which is worthy of notice:—

Kingston, April, 1850.

"TO THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH OF SCOTLAND IN JAMAICA.

"At a Special Meeting of the Session of the Scotch Church, Kingston, held on the 6th day of February last, the following Resolutions were adopted:—

"1. That the Session recommends an Association to be formed in connection with the congregation, having for its object the extension and promotion of the usefulness of the Church of Scotland in this island.

"2. That the general object of this Association be the establishment of churches and schools, and that a statement of the contemplated plan be drawn up, printed, and circulated.

"In addressing you, in accordance with the spirit of the above Resolutions, suffer us, at the very outset, to remind you, that, as members of the Church General, we are bound to adorn the doctrines of God our Saviour, and by our influence say to others, 'Come with us, and we will do you good.'