

factorily performed, for they were called upon to discharge the duties which had hitherto devolved on the seventy-two Presbyteries of the Church. Then, what was the constitution of the Board who were to exercise a general control over the whole educational machinery. He objected to it as most unsatisfactory, and affording but slender security. If the object of the Lord Advocate's Bill had simply been, as it professed to be, to provide for a system of religious education, men would have scoffed and laughed at the miserable machinery provided for securing that object. But he asserted fearlessly that its promoters desired above all to make the bill acceptable to all the dissent of Scotland—to all that was most adverse and hostile to the Established Church. That was the true explanation of this beggarly and contemptible machinery (Hear, hear.) If they were to judge from the language of the advocates of this bill, it was to herald in a season of entire religious peace and unanimity. Why instead of that he believed the consequence would be, that in every election for the office of schoolmaster, they would have a sectarian clique here, and another denominational coterie there, each struggling and striving to carry their man, whether by acquiring influence over the heritor of a landward parish, or securing the preponderance of votes in the burgh school committee. (Hear, hear.) They would, he believed, have a flame of religious dissension kindled and spread from one end of Scotland to another, the results of which it was impossible to conceive. After adverting to the inconsistency of the State appointing a minister of one Church to teach the old, and the schoolmaster of another denomination to teach the young, and to the likelihood and the danger of these two men, so closely connected with the dearest interests of the people, being placed in open enmity, Dr. Cook concluded by saying that this was not merely a question bearing on the religious instruction of the young, important as that question was, but one vital to the existence of the Church of Scotland itself. The reverend doctor sat down by moving the following resolutions:—

“Find that the said bill is identical in principle with that formerly introduced by the Lord Advocate on the same subject, and rejected on the second reading by the House of Commons in 1854.

“That it violates the act for securing the Protestant religion and Presbyterian Church government by dissolving the connection between the teachers and the Established Church, and abolishing the superintendence hitherto exercised by the Church over the schools.

“That it thus withdraws all the existing securities from that which the Church must ever consider a most important element in education, the religious instruction of the young in the schools; and that the machinery which it purports to substitute is in the highest degree vague and unsatisfactory, there being no provision whatever for ascertaining

the religious character and faith of the teachers or the knowledge and true belief of the inspectors who are to examine the teachers and the schools, or of the members of the board which is to preside over the whole education of the country.

“The Commission, on these grounds, disapprove of the said bill in the strongest manner, and resolve to petition Parliament accordingly.”

Dr. BARR seconded the motion.

The discussion was continued by Dr Bryce, Sir J. H. Maxwell, Dr Robertson, Dr Muir, and Mr Smith, of Lauder.

A petition, founded on Dr Cook's resolution, was unanimously agreed to.

Having also resolved to petition Parliament in favour of Mr. Stirling's bill the Commission rose at a quarter past five o'clock.

Examination of the Normal Seminary of the Church of Scotland in Glasgow.

The annual examination of this excellent institution took place on Wednesday. A number of the committee on education and others, including Dr. Craik, Dr. Gillan, Dr. Runciman, Dr. Napier, Dr. Paton, Dr. Boyd, Rev. Allan McLean, Thomas Watson, Esq., &c., attended during the day, with a large concourse of ladies and gentlemen. The examination lasted from ten a.m. till three in the afternoon. The principal interest was concentrated in the senior departments, conducted by Messrs Douglas and Wilson. The male and female students underwent a minute examination in the higher branches, including geography, and English history, in which they showed a proficiency which elicited the admiration of all present. Mr. Wilson's class room was visited by a great number of parents and others during the day, and the systematic and orderly manner in which he got through the business was surprising. Mr. Wilson having introduced some new features into the mode of communicating instruction, a large portion of the time devoted to the examination of this division was spent in describing the scientific principles on which calligraphy was taught, which the pupils seemed to understand thoroughly: and also the manner in which arithmetic was brought down to the level of the lowest capacity, the other teachers, Mr. Macaulay, Mr. Culvert, Miss Walker, and Miss Reid were also eminently successful in their respective divisions. Much interest was taken in the infant department, under the tuition of Miss Reid, who, with considerable experience, unites great aptitude and tact in communicating to her infant pupils the first principles of education. Miss Walker exhibited some very superior specimens of embroidery and crotchet work, which were inspected during the day by a large number of ladies, who expressed themselves highly gratified with the work. The pupils at present attending the various classes in the institution number 650; and in all the departments we rejoice to repeat the most sa-

tisfactory progress must be recorded. At the close of the examination Dr. Craik, and several other clergymen, expressed the gratification they felt at the proceedings of the day, and enjoined on the scholars the different duties which devolved upon them in prosecuting their studies. Dr. Craik also pointed out to the parents who were present the many advantages to be gained at the institution. He was sure they were all convinced their children were under good tuition, and had every available means for acquiring a good and useful education. The whole proceedings were of a highly satisfactory and interesting nature.

Opening of the South-West Church, Glasgow.

This church was opened for public worship last sabbath, the Rev. Norman McLeod preaching in the forenoon from Numbers xiv. 21; the Rev. John Caird in the afternoon from John iii. 7 and 8; and Rev. Dr. McCulloch in the evening from Isaiah lxiv. 11, first clause—“our holy and beautiful house.” The subjects dwelt upon by each of the clergymen were most appropriate, and produced a profound impression upon the large audiences assembled on the occasion. The difficulties and triumphs, past and prospective, of Christianity formed the topics of the animated and powerful eloquence of the minister of the Barony. The strongholds of practical infidelity too common in all circles, and at all times were ably assailed by the minister of Errol, in an analogical reply to the three-fold objections of supernaturalism, sovereignty, and secrecy, as urged against the operation of the Holy Spirit in conversion; whilst the incumbent of the West Church, Greenock, enlarged upon the dangers of superstition and formalism in Divine Worship, setting forth at the same time the true use and beauty of a Christian temple. Although the building was crowded in every part during all the diets, and many were disappointed of admission, there was nothing but order and comfort in the congregation, owing to the excellent arrangements made beforehand by the committee of subscribers. The collections, forenoon and afternoon, amounted to upwards of £120. We may state, with reference to this church, that until a stated pastor has been appointed, the committee, who have hitherto acquitted themselves so admirably, will arrange for the supply of the pulpit by clergymen of approved ability and acceptance.—*Con. April 25th.*

Glasgow Mission to the Hospital at Scutari.

Letter from the Rev. Mr. Ferguson at the Hospital at Scutari.

“I beg you will excuse my not writing by the mail of Monday last, according to promise. I assure you nothing would have prevented me but the pressure of work. I had many letters to write for my people, which could not let stand. I find the correspon-