

## CANADIAN CHURCHES.

Mr. DUNLOP moved that the Assembly should hear a statement from the Rev. Mr. Machar, who had just arrived from Canada, on the state of the Canadian churches.

Mr. MACHAR was then heard at considerable length.\*

Rev. Mr. CLARK moved that the Moderator do from the chair, express to the member of the Synod of Canada, who has now addressed the House, the thanks of the Assembly, and the deep interest which the Assembly takes in the spiritual condition of the churches in connection with the Synod of Canada, and their anxiety to do their utmost to promote the spiritual interests of the Scottish settlers in that interesting country.

Rev. Mr. ROBERTSON of Ellon seconded the motion, and begged to suggest, in addition, that Dr. Lee should be requested to address a pastoral letter to the members of the Synod of Canada.—Agreed.

Dr. DEWAR said that justice would not be done to the Synod of Canada until a deputation be sent to it under the sanction of the General Assembly and be instructed to bring back such information as they could collect regarding the state of religion in those provinces.

The MODERATOR.—Mr. Machar, it is quite unnecessary for me, after the expression of feeling which you have witnessed from every part of this House, to say that the General Assembly return their thanks to you for the communication you have now made, and that we feel a most deep and most brotherly interest towards the Synod of Canada, and for all of our countrymen who sojourn in that interesting country; that we will do all we can to promote their spiritual interests; and that our regret is that we can do so little. The interesting statement you have made will stimulate our desires; and I do hope that in a short time you will find the voice which you have brought across the Atlantic, calling on us to come over and help you, responded to in the manner you have yourself pointed out.

The assembly adjourned till to-morrow at eleven o'clock.

Sabbath, May 25.

After the minutes of the former seditant were read, the Moderator called the attention of the Assembly to a letter received this morning from her Majesty's Secretary of State, in reply to the answer of the Assembly to her Majesty's gracious letter to the Assembly. It intimated that the Assembly's letter had been delivered to her Majesty, and had been received in the most gracious manner.

## OVERTURE ANENT UNION WITH SECEDERS.

Mr. CANDLISH congratulated the Assembly on the prospect of a happy reunion with the Seceders, who had gone out from among them, but who were now ready to return to strengthen the hands of the church. He congratulated the Assembly on this the more, as it might be regarded as an encouragement to the church amid all her difficulties, that those who had stood aloof from her for so long a time, were now prepared to return into the bosom of the Mother Church. (Loud cries of Hear, hear.) That Church had ever stood faithful to the principle of a National Establishment, and they felt that they had now the way clearly opened for their return to the Mother Church. It must be satisfactory to all of them to know the deep interest which that body had felt in the critical position in which the church had lately been placed. They had solemnly held a meeting of their supreme judicatory to unite in earnest prayer for the blessing of the Head of the church on the National Establishment. And it must be also interesting to them to learn that that body had stood fast and firm in their attachment to our national church; and the result come to at the meeting of her Synod recently was, to express their fullest confidence in the church. He trusted that the way was now thoroughly and practically opened for the

\* His speech has already been published in the Guardian.

accomplishment of that happy union which had been in contemplation, and sought after for some years past. He congratulated the House on the happy termination of the negotiations which had been going on; and he could not but augur the best things for the Church, that, in the time of difficulties, which he trusted would soon be removed, they had the sympathies of this body along with them. He trusted this was but the beginning of that ingathering by which the Church of Scotland might yet be the church of all the people of the land. (Hear, hear.)

The Assembly then unanimously agreed to convert the overture into an interim act of the Assembly.

## OVERTURE ON PROFESSORSHIPS OF BIBLICAL CRITICISM.

Dr. COOK said that they were all deeply interested in raising the standard of the knowledge and qualifications of their students as high as possible, and he had no doubt but the Assembly most heartily concurred in their approval of this overture.

Mr. CANDLISH suggested that they should refer the matter to the committee on Theological Learning, to take such steps to accomplish the institution of the Professorship as seemed to them most desirable.

Mr. EARL MONTEITH stated that the Aberdeen University Commission, in their late report, unanimously recommended to her Majesty's Government to institute such a Professorship.

Mr. BISSET concurred heartily in the approval of the overture; but care should be had to increase as little as possible the expense of theological learning.

The overture was agreed to, and was remitted to a committee to consider how its recommendations should be carried into effect.

## REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Dr. DICKSON, in absence of Principal Baird read the report of the Assembly's committee on Education.

Dr. M'KELLAR of Pencaitland would not enter into the subject of education in general, or the duty of the church to see that proper education was provided for the young. In such an Assembly as the present it was taken for granted, as a first principle, that as children were connected with eternity as well as time, no system of education could be considered as sufficient which did not combine training them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, with their acquisition of secular knowledge. The knowledge they required was such as would be profitable for them, not in this life only, but in that which is to come. This principle in the education of children is as early as the light of the Reformation. Our fathers saw the closeness of the connection, and they made it a first principle that in the education of children there should be included a Scripture training; and it was this principle, carried into practice, which mainly contributed to raise Scotland to the high moral eminence which she occupied in the scale of nations.

He would conclude by proposing the thanks of the Assembly to the committee and to Principal Baird, with whom they most sincerely sympathise under his present indisposition; that the committee be re-appointed for the same purposes as before, and for the additional purpose of pursuing the plan of having schools established in all the *quoad sacra* parishes; that the thanks of the Assembly be given to the committee on Highland destitution for their liberal grant of £500—to the gentlemen of the counties of Inverness and Ross for their handsome subscription of £50 a-year; that the committee be instructed to apply to other counties to enable them to extend their scheme to the Lowlands as well as to the Highlands; approve of the committee's plan of publishing reports as to the state of the schools, and enjoin the Presbyteries to report regularly on the progress of the scheme within their bounds; approve of the conduct of the committee in reference to

the subject of new school-books; recommend their continued attention to this subject; and that the thanks of the Assembly be given to Mr. Wood for his attention to the Normal Schools.

Principal MACFARLAN, in seconding the motion, said he was sure they would all agree in the tribute which had been paid to the Reverend and Learned Principal at the head of the committee, who he hoped would be consoled in his present distress by the recollection of the great success which had attended his exertions in this matter, and how much these exertions were appreciated by the General Assembly and by the country at large.

The MODERATOR.—Dr. Dickson, it gives me great pleasure to be the organ of the Assembly in conveying their thanks to the Educational committee, and to yourself, Sir, as Sub-Convenor, in the absence of the venerable father (Principal Baird), whose case has been set before us, and has affected the feelings of the House, for the zealous and efficient labours of that committee in the important business intrusted to their care. The cause of education has always been a subject of high importance in the eyes of the church of Scotland, as laying the foundation for fostering that knowledge, which maketh wise unto salvation; and it is the glory of the system of instruction which we have adopted, that its object is to combine Divine and human learning, and to train immortal souls, not merely for the business of time, but for the blessedness of eternity. Sir, it is one proof, among many, of the wisdom of our forefathers, that, in planting the tree of knowledge, they found it necessary to plant it under the shadow and protection of the tree of life. You, Sir, and your committee, have proved yourselves to be animated with the highest spirit of the church, whose agents you have the honour to be; and the success which has attended your labours in the important sphere in which they are expended, in dispelling ignorance, and shedding light over the youthful mind, both for time and eternity, will, I am sure, meet with the approbation of this Assembly, and incite you to new exertions in so important and holy a cause.

## THE FOUR SCHEMES.

On the motion of Mr. Dunlop, it was agreed that separate collections should be made for the four schemes yearly, in the months of July, October, January, and April; and that the different schemes should once in four years have a collection made in each of these months; that is, that if this year the July collection should be for the education scheme, next year it should be in October; in 1841, in January; and in 1842, in April. After some conversation it was agreed to send this recommendation to all the ministers of the church.

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE JEWS.

Rev. Mr. CANDLISH—I regret that the Convener is not here, as he would have gone with his whole heart into this interesting question. I do not mean to read the report, as it will be in the hands of the members of the Assembly immediately; but shall content myself with giving an outline of what it contains to show you what the committee has been doing. I conclude with laying the report on the table.

Dr. GORDON—I beg to move that this report be received and approved of. I would also move that the thanks of the Assembly be conveyed to the committee, and especially to the venerable Convener Dr. M'Gill.

Mr. MURRAY of Aberdeen spoke briefly on the subject, but was not heard by the reporters. The motion was unanimously agreed to, and the thanks of the Assembly given to Dr. M'Gill and the committee.

## QUEEN'S PRINTERS' PATENT.

Principal MACFARLAN introduced the following overture:—

Whereas the patent of printer to her Majesty for Scotland, conveying the exclusive privilege of printing the Holy Bible, will expire in July next; and whereas it is of un-