

General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

The Assembly was opened on Thursday the 20th May. In the forenoon the Earl of Mansfield, her Majesty's Commissioner to the Assembly, held a levee in Holyrood Palace, and afterwards went in state to St. Giles, where a sermon was preached by the retiring Moderator, Dr. Robertson, from the words, "The poor have the gospel preached to them." The Assembly having been constituted, the retiring Moderator proposed that Dr. Matthew Leishman, minister of Govan, be appointed Moderator of the General Assembly. The motion having been agreed to by acclamation, the new Moderator was called in, and took his place in the chair. His Grace's commission, as her Majesty's representative to the General Assembly, was read and sustained. Her Majesty's letter was read, in which expression was given to the warm interest felt by her Majesty in the deliberations of the General Assembly, and of her determination to preserve to the Church of Scotland all her ancient rights and privileges, and granting L.2000 for extending the Gospel in the Highlands and Islands. His Grace the Commissioner addressed the Assembly. The Moderator then addressed the Commissioner and the Assembly.

The Bible in our Schools.

New York, June 1.

TREMENDOUS EXCITEMENT.—The recent action of the school trustees in some of our wards, in banishing the Bible from our schools, is creating much excitement. The United Americans have taken the matter up, and a meeting was held last night of delegates from all the chapels, to determine on measures for opposing this alleged attempt of Roman Catholics to get control of our public schools. It is understood that a general committee of the Protestant American Association is organized for the same purpose.

Caird's Sermons.

A volume of sermons from the Rev. Mr. Caird is advertised as on the point of publication. It is said to contain seven discourses. While we have every reason to believe that they will be worthy of the author of "Religion in Common Life," it should also be borne in mind that the great secret of the success of Mr. Caird, as of every great orator, lies in the charm of voice and manner. It was this which made Chalmers so eminent as a preacher and Kean as an actor; and, so far from depreciating this splendid gift of genius, as some awkward and envious dolts do we ought to covet and admire it.

DR. CUMMING AT ALDERSHOT.—We see it mentioned that Dr. Cumming of London, lately administered the communion to the Presbyterian soldiers in the camp at Aldershot, and that the services possessed a peculiar and solemn interest for the English portion of the army. This fact, taken in connection with the return of the English Bishops in the Exeter Hall services to our primitive forms of worship, shows the effectiveness and expansiveness of our Presbyterian system.

BARONY PARISH HOME MISSIONARY OPERATIONS.—In the *News of the Churches* for the present month there is an interesting detailed account of home missionary operations in con-

nection with the congregation of the Rev. Dr. N. MacLeod. Five missionaries are at present employed by the congregation, each with a district assigned; and they are aided in their work by the elders and by the ladies of the congregation. The Sabbath evening special services for the working classes, conducted by the minister in the parish church, have been attended sometimes by as many as 500 persons. As one of the fruits of this movement, 69 persons last year, and 40 this year, were received as communicants into connection with the church. Three penny savings' banks have been opened in different localities, and with encouraging results. There are eight schools established, or in progress, under the auspices of the congregation; and the number of scholars at present on the books is 1270. There are 13 Sabbath schools, with 104 teachers, and an average attendance of 1050 scholars.

The Lord Advocate, Sir James Elphinstone, the Rev. Dr. Paul, and the Rev. Dr. Fowler, had an interview with General Peel at the War-office on Friday last.

Letters and Monies received, May, 1858.

James Millar, Chatham, N. B., with list and 20s.; William Gordon, Pictou, 7s. 6d.; Rev. Alex. Forbes, Dalhousie, N. B., £1 10s.; Allan A. Davidson, Newcastle, N. B., L 2 2s. 6d., with list; Dugald McPhee, South River, Antigonish, 10s.; subscribers at Bedford, per hands of Rev. J. Martin, 10s.; Wm Fraser, McLellan's Mountain, New Glasgow, L 1 7s. 6d.; William McDougall, Barney's River, money received, Donald McAuley, Fox Harbor, money received, Rev. A. W. Herdman, Pictou—request will be taken into consideration; John Paton, Kingston, C. W., with last annual report of the Orphanage Scheme and Juvenile Mission—report will be laid before the Synod of Nova Scotia, agreeable to request.

We have lately received a very brief notice of the proceedings of the General Assembly at Edinburgh by the steamer, which sailed from Liverpool only two days after the meeting of that Ecclesiastical Court. We shall be enabled to give, in our next number, our usual summary of the most important movements and decisions of the Assembly, and also the proceedings at the annual meeting of the Synod of Canada, with as large a portion of the minutes of our own Synod as our space will admit. We surely require to make no apology for the publication of such information in our pages, when it is known that ours is an Ecclesiastical Record, and that the greater part of such intelligence is new to our readers, and cannot be obtained through any other channel.

REV. NORMAN McLEOD.—His numerous friends in British North America will learn, we have no doubt, with unfeigned delight that the senate of the University of Glasgow have lately conferred the degree of Doctor of Divinity upon the Rev. Norman McLeod, Minister of the Barony Parish, Glasgow. All who know this eminent clergyman (and who does not know him?)

will admit that this is an honor most judiciously bestowed, as Mr. McLeod has been ever since his ordination one of the most eloquent preachers and most efficient pastors in Scotland; and in his present sphere of usefulness, as minister of the Barony, is exerting a greater influence upon the Church, and promoting the spiritual improvement of a greater number of persons, than, we believe, any other minister in the Church of Scotland.

CORRESPONDENT IN CANADA.—We shall be most happy to hear from our correspondent in Canada as often as he can find leisure to write to us. His communications are always welcome, and read with much satisfaction and interest by our subscribers.

Absence from town for several weeks on Missionary duty has delayed the appearance of the *Record* for the present month a few days beyond the usual time of publication. The meeting of our Synod at Charlottetown in the end of the month will also prevent the publication of the July number sooner than the middle of next month.

On the eve of the meeting of our Synod at Charlottetown, on the last Wednesday of this month, we have much pleasure in directing the attention of our readers to some excellent suggestions for the consideration of our Provincial Synods, which will be found in our extracts from the "Montreal Presbyterian."

The editor of the "Montreal Juvenile Presbyterian" requests that Jas Purdie, Esq., of Charlottetown, P. E. I.; Wm. Gordon, Esq., of Pictou; and the Rev. Dr. Brooke, of Fredericton, N. B., would kindly act as agents for that periodical in their respective Provinces.

(From the Home and Foreign Record.)

Donations to the Jewish Mission, 1858.

A Lady, a member of St. Matthew's Church, Halifax, N. S.—Mrs. D—F—, of D—	£12	0	0	etc.
per Rev. John Scott, Nova Scotia	1	0	0	"
	£13	0	0	"

Synod Fund.

1858. Balance on hand,	£1	0	6
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Home Mission Fund.

June 10. Balance on hand,	£178	0	0
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Bursary or Young Men's Fund.

June 10. Balance on hand,	£252	14	11
Donation of Rev. Mr. Duncan, P. E. Island,	£1	0	0
Collection St. Peter's Road, P. E. I.,	0	10	0
	1	10	0
One-sixth off,	0	5	0
Nova Scotia Currency,	1	5	0
	£253	19	11

Widows' Fund.

June 10. Balance on hand,	£22	16	0
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E. E. W. M. GORDON, Treasurer.