

praying for the removal of Mr. Lochhead, on the ground that "his usefulness was at an end." This petition had come before the Presbytery of Perth at a special meeting in Osgoode. The consideration of it was now taken up.

Petitions from other parties in the congregation, of an opposite nature, was also read.

The Presbytery engaged in prayer before entering on this painful case.

Parties were heard at great length, during two sessions of Presbytery; the reasoning occupied a third session. Finally, the following deliverance, moved by Mr. Fraser, and seconded by Mr. McMurray, was unanimously adopted:—

The Presbytery having seriously and prayerfully considered the petition for the removal of Mr. Lochhead, and also the counter petitions, agreed to resolve—

1. That there is nothing in the petition nor in the pleadings in support thereof, to justify the Presbytery in granting its prayer.

2. That there is on both sides the manifestation of an unkindly spirit, which the Presbytery deeply deplor, and which sited, if not checked and abandoned, to interfere with the edification of the people of both parties, and the comfort of Mr. Lochhead.

3. That the Presbytery strongly recommend to Mr. Lochhead and his friends, as well as to the dissentients, the duty of cultivating a more becoming spirit in their intercourse with each other, and the use of less intemperate language in speaking or writing to or of each other.

4. The Presbytery recommend, further, that both parties will endeavour to forget the past, and meet on an early day for mutual prayer, and return to the position which they previously occupied in reference to each other.

Immediately after the foregoing deliverance was intimated to parties, there was handed in a memorial from Osgoode, signed by parties said to represent 304 souls, praying that the Presbytery do dissolve the connection between them and Mr. Lochhead, and organize them into a separate charge.

A committee, consisting of Mr. McMurray, Mr. Smith and Sheriff Sherwood, was appointed to confer with parties. They reported that they could not effect a reconciliation. The further consideration was deferred till September.

Mr. Melville intimated his declination of the appointment of Colporteur.

In compliance with a request to that effect, Mr. Wardrop, of Ottawa, was appointed to dispense the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in Cumberland.

Mr. McMurray, Mr. Funcan, Sheriff Sherwood, and Mr. Nicol, were appointed a committee to visit West Port, ordain elders, and dispense the Sacrament of the Supper.

Mr. Melville was appointed to supply Edwardsburgh for three Sabbaths—Mr. P. Duncan, student, supplying Pembroke for two of these days.

Mr. McDonald was instructed to give one Sabbath to Bellamyville and Merrickville, and two to N. Gower.

The Presbytery took up an appeal by Mr. Melville, against the session of Pembroke. The following deliverance was sanctioned:—

The Presbytery sustain the appeal, and inasmuch as the pleadings at the bar have shown the existence of a most unpleasant misunderstanding between a majority of the session of Pembroke and the Moderator, by which a calm consideration of the case involved in the appeal is improbable, agree to appoint Mr. Gray, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Gourlay and Mr. Smith, assessors, to sit with the session at a meeting to be held on the 15th August; and further, vest these brethren with the power of a committee, if they should see fit to exercise those powers. Mr. Gray, Con- venter.

S. C. FRASER, Pres. Clerk.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PRESBY- TERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND.

This Court met in Mary's Abbey, Church, Dublin, on the 3d July, and was opened with a Sermon by the Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Hamilton, from Acts xi, 33. One hundred and twenty ministers were present at the opening of the Assembly. The Rev. Robert Allen, Superintendent of the Home Mission, in Connaught, was unanimously chosen Moderator. In consequence of not having received our own Newspapers for several weeks, owing to the absurd postal arrangements which have been lately adopted, we are indebted to the *Philadelphia Presbyterian*, for any information in regard to the Assembly. The Presbyterian says:—

We have at no previous time been so favourably impressed with the earnestness and energy of our Irish brethren in spreading the gospel both at home and abroad, as by the proceedings of this Assembly. The reports on the State of Religion, Sabbath Observance, Temperance, the Irish Home Mission, and the Foreign Missionary Scheme, were highly interesting, and indicative of a growing vitality and spirit of aggressiveness.

STATE OF RELIGION.

The speech of the Rev. Mr. Macnaughton on moving the adoption of the report on the State of Religion, was a powerful and stirring appeal, characterized by an eminently evangelical tone, and a profound conviction of the urgent claims upon the Church for greater self-sacrifice, and a more thorough devotedness to the work of saving souls. He insisted that a revival must commence in the hearts of God's ministers, that more care should be taken as to the piety of theological students, and that the ruling elders have a great work to do as spiritual labourers in Christ's vineyard.

DELEGATIONS FROM FOREIGN BODIES.

A large portion of the time of the Assembly was occupied in hearing the Delegations from Corresponding Bodies. There were present deputations from the Free Church of Scotland, from the Presbyterian Church in England, and from the Waldenses of Piedmont. The latter consisting of the Rev. Messrs Platte and Moillo, was heard with extraordinary interest. Mr. Meille spoke French, his colleague acting as interpreter. After various interesting details as to the progress of their operations, he mentioned the following as to the fidelity to the gospel of a little band in the valleys of the Apennines:

"In the Apennines, in the interior of the mountains, where for centuries the gospel has not been heard, a family of forty persons—a family of poor travelling musicians—have preserved the truth. In spite of persecution and vexation of every kind, they have remained firm and steadfast in their faith; they have built to themselves a chapel; they are about also to obtain a private cemetery, where they may bury those from amongst themselves who die in Christ. I visited those brethren a year ago, I have taken with them the Lord's Supper, and I have never in all my life partaken of the Lord's Table in more impressive circumstances. The poor people had been hard at work all day; night came: it was even late. The women had brought the cradles of their children, and laid them at the door, for the purpose of having them near, that they might be able to take care of their children. You enter the room, and find that it is the best of all the houses that has been devoted to the Lord. On the wall the first thing you see is an alphabet to teach the children to read. All around may be observed passages of Scripture, expressive of their faith and hope. The people, though they are not going out of their own house, have dress-

ed themselves as if they were going to church! A most touching particular arose in their having no Christian melodies—no airs adapted to the Christian poetry by which to express their gratitude to God: and they have adopted Christian and English words to the melodies of the old hymns that they used to sing in the Romish Church."

The reports of the deputation from the Assembly to the late Waldensian Synod were highly interesting, rendered the more so from the fact, that just two hundred years before a very different delegation from Ireland, went thither to aid in extirpating the Waldenses. Then the Duchess of Savoy and her son, at the solicitation of the Court of Rome, resolved to destroy the church in the wilderness, and to plant the valleys with Irishmen, who, in 1641, had been concerned in the massacre of the Protestants of Ulster. In the year 1655, twelve hundred of these military adventurers accordingly attacked the Presbyterians of Piedmont, and attempted to seize their possessions; but the mountaineers defended themselves with amazing bravery, and eventually succeeded in repelling their blood-thirsty assailants. How striking the contrast in the present visitation.

IRISH HOME MISSION.

The agent for the Irish Home Mission, after alluding to the fact that the attendance on their schools and congregations had in many cases fallen off, thus cautioned the Assembly against the conclusion that their cause was retrograding.

"These changed circumstances they regard as infallible indications of a strange and mighty reaction in the Roman Catholic mind, and a sad reverse in the field of our mission. This I hold to be a false impression and without any good foundation. I know I speak the mind of my brethren in the mission field, as well as my own deliberate conviction, when I assert that no such reaction has taken place, and no such reverse been suffered. The diminution in the attendance at our schools is most satisfactorily accounted for in the altered and improved circumstances of the people. Emigration alone has drawn off more than the one-half from some of our schools. The missionary is no longer the relieving officer for a whole district of country, to the starving inhabitants of which he could at the same time distribute meal and preach the gospel. The industrial schools are no longer the centre of attraction and influence they were at one time. The work of these schools is not so much needed, and where it is needed, it may be had independent of her schools. National schools have increased both in number and efficiency. Returning prosperity has made the people independent at once of relief associations and mission stations; and surely these are not changes over which we have cause to mourn. The smallness of our schools is the legitimate and natural result of this improved state of things, but certainly not an indication of any sad reverse in our mission work. On the contrary, while it is pleasant to have large schools and crowded congregations, it is pleasanter and more important still to have those attending, whether they be many or few, who come not for the loaves and fishes, but for the sake of the instruction communicated. This, I believe, was never so true of our mission schools as at the present time; and this being the case, I hold that our mission is in a healthier and safer state than it ever was, and that we have cause for congratulation and thankfulness rather than complaining and despondency. There is another interesting fact in the history of our mission that is important and encouraging to be known in the present circumstances of this mission—it is this, at no period in the history of the Connaught mission have so many cheering accounts been received, as during the past year, from those who have removed from our mission districts, and emigrated to other parts. There have been letters from America, from Gibraltar, from the Crimea, and from England, and Scotland, as well as from