

on which the Presbyterian is conducted, and that remembering the encouragement which was felt when the Lay Association of Halifax became subscribers to the Presbyterian, and desiring to reciprocate the attention, the Secretary be instructed to subscribe for 12 copies of the Monthly Record, to be distributed among the office-bearers of the Association, and further that this Resolution be communicated to the Lay Association of Halifax."

You will oblige by laying the above resolution before your Association, and by ordering 12 copies to be addressed to T. A. Gibson, Montreal, for the Lay Association.

Our Synod is about closing its session, one of its measures has been the adoption of an overture naming corresponding members to the Synod in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and wishing them to do likewise, should no outward event occur to prevent. I hope that our Synod will be represented and that the practical effect may be the drawing more closely the bonds of fraternal feeling between our Synods.

The foregoing resolution would have been communicated earlier but for the illness of Mr. Gibson.

Yours, respectfully,
ALEX. MORRIS.

The General Assembly.

By late papers from Scotland we have received full accounts of the proceedings of the General Assembly, and we have devoted a considerable portion of our space to a brief summary of the business transacted. We have only been able to overtake part in this number, but we intend continuing it in the next, and as our space admits to give extracts from the reports and speeches, some of which were most admirable. To the annual meeting of our highest church court we always look with the deepest interest. It is the only great national gathering which now takes place in Scotland. The only occasion on which we can find a large combination of the intelligence, piety, rank, and influence of the nation. In the Assembly Hall, one of the most chaste and beautiful buildings in Edinburgh, all classes are represented. The Lord High Commissioner, fills the place of the sovereign, while on the benches of the house are to be seen learned Professors from the Universities, eminent and valuable city clergymen, who, had they been members of an episcopal communion would have been bishops and high dignitaries, quiet country pastors from the Orkneys and Hebrides, elders of all ranks and classes, the peer of ancient name, the merchant prince, the country gentleman, the tenant farmer, with occasionally a few men of foreign garb and aspect, deputations from the sister churches on the Continent. A roll call of the General Assembly as the clerk, Dr. Simpson, of Kirkcubright, well known in these Colonies,

sounds forth the long list of weighty and honourable names, never fails to inspire confidence in those who hear it, and to give them good hopes for the stability and extension of the church.

But it is not to the Assembly as a gathering of much that is of most note in Scotland, that we look with so much interest—the place where the annual proceedings of our church are detailed, and where prayers are offered and measures devised for her prosperity in the future. In both these respects the recent assembly has upon the whole afforded us much satisfaction. It has been characterised beyond many of its predecessors by a spirit of harmony and brotherly love. The unhappy jangling and contentious, the strivings for victory, the logical gladiatorship which for so many years distracted its deliberations, and which those who chiefly forwarded are yet to some extent familiar with, are now unknown to our Assembly. They have gone with their abettors to another place, and have been superseded by a spirit in every respect more worthy of the followers of Christ. Another characteristic of the recent assembly is its thorough devotion to business. There were many matters before it which in a free and deliberative assembly necessarily give rise to discussion, but the amount of discussion seems to have been happily proportioned to the importance of the business, and thus a needless expenditure of time avoided. Very able reports were given in by the Conveners of the different Committees on the schemes of the Church. The Endowment Scheme which aims at the dividing of large parishes and the endowment of chapels until the territorial machinery is adequate to the necessities of the whole population seems to be progressing most favourably. Nearly £200,000 have been voluntarily collected for this object by Churchmen in Scotland within the last few years, and many new parishes have been erected where the population had outgrown the means of grace. The report on Education is also satisfactory. In connection with this subject the discussion on the Lord Advocate's Bill called forth some speeches which must conduce powerfully to the rejection of that obnoxious measure. We have also read with much pleasure the report of the Indian Mission. During the past year the number of ordained missionaries has been increased, and preparations are being made for a still further increase. A number of converts have recently been baptized and the schools continue to be largely attended and to be productive of much good. The mission of our church in the East seems to be greatly indebted to the voluntary efforts and unwearied interest of the Scotch clergymen at the different Presidencies, who are chaplains to the E. I. Company. In connection with the Jewish Mission, a proposal was made to appoint a Scotch clergyman to Jerusalem, which we are happy to say met the approval of the Assembly and is likely soon to be carried out. Hitherto, no Presbyterian missionary

has been stationed in the Holy city. It was also stated that Dr. Cumming of London had suggested a mission to Turkey, and that he had collected a considerable sum for that object, should that important field be taken up.

In the report of the Colonial Committee we naturally take a deep interest, and, though, this year it is in some respects satisfactory, yet we deeply regret that so few missionaries have been sent to supply the urgent necessities of the Colonies. Seeing that there is no lack of either money or men, we are decidedly of opinion that there ought to be some increased agency at home with the view of inducing young men to go abroad, and meeting every application as it comes up. A permanent advertisement in the Record has failed, and something more cogent and forcible should be tried. Why should not some of the Committee go to the University seats, and hold intercourse with those who are on the eve of license with the view of persuading them to go abroad, or why should not a convener be appointed who would be able to give his whole time and influence to the Colonies. We are confident that such an arrangement would prove like life from the dead. We do not speak thus from any want of confidence in the present convener, who we believe does all that is in his power, but from the conviction that no man who has a parish to attend to can give that time to this work, which the growing extent and wants of the Colonies demand.

During the past year we regret to observe that the contributions to several of the Missionary Schemes have fallen off, but this is accounted for in the reports not from any decrease of interest on the part of the people, for as the Moderator remarked in his closing address, there is a growing anxiety among the adherents of the Church of Scotland to the salvation of others, but from the large sums that have been contributed towards the patriotic fund, and the general depressing influence of the war.

It is a pleasing feature to find that there was no case of ministerial discipline before the recent assembly, in which respect it contrasts most favourably with these of recent years. This shows us what all other circumstances conspire to prove that for soundness in the faith and for christian character the clergy of the Church of Scotland never stood higher than now. It is also a most gratifying circumstance that although so many new appointments have taken place during the past year, there was but one case of a disputed settlement. This shows us that Lord Aberdeen's bill is working admirably, and that the real end in view of the late ecclesiastical contests has been gained. In the case alluded to the Assembly sustained the objections of the people and rejected the presentee. In connection with this subject we have to notice also another gratifying circumstance, the application of two Free Church Ministers for re-admission to the Church. These are the Rev. W. Strachan late of Gibraltar, and the Rev.