

probation of the Assembly, who seemed to regard the views of the rev. and learned professor as a virtual surrender of the jurisdiction of the Church of Scotland in the matter of Education, and this feeling was strongly evoked by the fate of his motion, which was rejected by a majority of 150 to 7. The House thus deprecated in the most marked manner any abandonment of the rights and claims of the Established Church, which is in fact the great instructors of the community, educating in her schools more of the people than all other denominations put together."

THURSDAY, M 27.

The Assembly met to-day at twelve o'clock, the Moderator presiding.

HOME MISSION.

Dr SIMPSON laid before the Assembly the Report of the Home Mission Committee, of which the following is a very brief abstract:—

The collections made by 890 congregations in the year ending 15th April, 1851, amounted to £2053 11d.; while those received from 883 parishes and chapel districts for the past year, amount to only £2768, 0s. 7d.—thus showing a diminution of only eight in the number of congregations, but a falling off to the extent of nearly £300 in the amount contributed. The decrease in the branches of the ordinary revenue is almost of equal amount; so that the whole deficiency is little short of £.600, while the excess of expenditure in the past over the former year is nearly £.1000; and the outgoings for the financial year ended 15th April last, exceed its income by upwards of £800. This financial position of matters demands the very serious attention of the Assembly; for, unless some, remedial measure be devised, and speedily applied, the most disastrous and deplorable results are inevitable.

CHURCH EXTENSION.

As mentioned in their Report to the last Assembly, two applications had not then been disposed of, the one toward the re-building of the chapel at Newbyth in the parish of King Edward, and the other towards erection of a new chapel at Mossgreen, parish of Dalgetty. The additional information and evidence required in these two cases having been furnished, it was agreed, after due consideration, to vote the sum of £.200 towards the cost of erection of each of the buildings. It is due to Mr. Mercer Henderson, of Fordell, proprietor of the lands, on part of which the chapel of Mossgreen is built, to state, that he not only gave gratuitously the ground on which the chapel is erected, and which is of sufficient extent to afford sites for a manse and a burying-ground, but also made large contributions of building materials.

Three additional applications have been made during the past year. The first was for assistance towards the cost of enlarging the chapel at New Pittligo in the parish of Tyrie. The whole circumstances were carefully considered, and, the Committee being deeply impressed with the generous offer made by Sir John Forbes, and the great importance of the object which he sought to secure, it was agreed to vote the sum of £.300 towards the cost of the necessary additions to and enlargement of the chapel. The necessary proceedings for the erection of the new parish are to be immediately instituted in the Court of Teinds.

The second application was made by the Rev. Mr. Stevenson of Dalry. The Committee being satisfied that the parties locally concerned had made the most strenuous and laudable exertions to meet the wants of the parishioners generally, and that the chapel recently acquired was essentially necessary for the suitable accommodation of the largely increased and growing population of the town of Dalry, it was agreed to vote the sum of £.150.

The third and last application was for assistance towards the erection of a new place of worship proposed to be built at Innellan in the west-

ern district of the Dunoon portion of the extensive united parishes of Dunoon and Kilmun. The application has been favourably received, and additional information and evidence have been called for in order to its being further considered and disposed of.

AIDING UNENDOWED CHURCHES; AND EMPLOYMENT OF PROBATIONERS AS MISSIONARIES.

During the year, ending 15th April last, grants have been voted in aid of 50 unendowed churches to the amount of £2240, and towards the support of 30 mission stations to the amount of £.2145—making together £4385—a sum exceeding by £1532, 10s. the amount voted during the immediately preceding year, and exceeding by a still larger amount the sums given for these purposes in previous years.

Besides the grants specified in the lists referred to, sums were previously voted, and are now in course of payment in aid of 9 unendowed churches, and towards the support of 20 missionary stations; so that 118 places of worship are now aided out of the funds of the Scheme.

The Committee heartily rejoice in the successful operations of the Endowment Scheme. Among other benefits secured by its operations, the funds of the Home Mission have been relieved of the assistance required for the support of the chapels of Houndwood in the parish of Colddingham, "Savoch in the parish of Deer," and St. Andrew's Church, Dunfermline, which have been erected into parishes *quoad sacra*.

The usual returns procured from all the places of worship in receipt of aid out of the funds of the Scheme exclusively establish the gradual and steady prosperity which continues to attend the whole. A few instances may be cited.

At Milton, in the Barony parish of Glasgow, the communicants have increased from 127 to 252; and the congregation from 250 to 500. In the South Church, Kirriemuir, the communicants have increased by 35, and now number 195; and the congregation has increased to 500. At Ladyloan Church, Arbroath, there are 88 additional communicants, the total number being now 328; and the congregation 560. At Pathhead, Dysart, the communicants have increased from 193 to 227; and the congregation now exceeds 600. In Chapelshade Church, Dundee, the communicants have increased from 310 to 401; and the congregation is now 700. At Fullerton, Dundonald, the communicants have increased from 112 to 153; and in the North Church, Dunfermline, there are 30 additional communicants; and in each case there has been a corresponding increase in the number of the congregation. The communicants in Holborn Street Church, Aberdeen, have increased from 190 to 220; and in John Knox's Church, from 372 to 395; and in the former there is a congregation of 460; and in the latter, of 700. In Gilcomston Church, Aberdeen, the communicants have increased from 655 to 730; and there is now a congregation of 1000. In St. Mark's Church, Glasgow, the communicants have increased from 143 to 214; and the congregation, from 256 to 360. In Lauriston Church, there has been an addition of 143 communicants, the total number being now 363; and the congregation 700. And in St. Peter's Church, the communicants have increased from 479 to 560; and the congregation numbers 860. At the missionary station of Lunastaning, in the parish of Nesting, which was opened about two years ago, there is a congregation of 400; and at the last dispensation of the Sacrament by the parish minister, 210 communicated. At the missionary station in the south parish of South Ronaldshay, the congregation numbers 370; and the Sacrament was lately dispensed to 246 communicants. In each of the chapels of Bannockburn in the parish of St. Ninians, and at Ulteneytown, in the parish of Wick, which were only lately re-opened, there is a congregation of about 200, which is steadily and progressively increasing.

And at the station at Mossgreen, in the parish of Dalgetty, which was only formed a few months ago, and to which reference is made un-

der the Church Extension branch of the Scheme, there is already a congregation of 240.

Principal LEE, in moving the adoption of the Report, regretted exceedingly that there had been so much slackness on the part of many parishes and congregations in contributing to this most useful Scheme. He trusted, however, that the funds of the Scheme would soon be placed in a satisfactory condition, for he was sure that there was no one who was well affected to the Church of Scotland that would hide his hand in his bosom when called upon to contribute, as liberally as his circumstances would permit, to the upbuilding of their Zion, and the diffusion of that knowledge which made wise unto salvation among the ignorant and neglected. (Applause.)

Mr. EDDINGTON had great pleasure in bearing the motion. The Report, he said, from its brevity with which it had necessarily been drawn up, could give only a very inadequate idea of the important benefits which this Scheme had conferred on the country. They were apt to look too much at the large collections in city churches as being sufficiently ample to relieve them from the necessity of making any great exertions; but he begged them to recollect that it was not mainly to the large collections from the city churches that they had to look for the ultimate success of the Scheme. Its validity depended chiefly upon the number of small collections which were sent up from the numerous country churches.

(To be concluded in our next.)

DEATH, INDUCTIONS, &c.

DEATH OF THE REV. MR CLARK, OF INVERNESS. — On Saturday morning week intelligence reached Inverness that the Rev. Mr Clark, of the West Church, was dead. The notable position he has held in this quarter for a long period, and the lively feelings entertained towards him by many members of the community belonging to all ranks and classes, rendered this announcement a cause of much concern. The event extinguished all severity of opinion even among those who have been accustomed to reprehend parts of his conduct; and the universal acknowledgement was, that a man had been removed, whose place, taking him all in all, it will be difficult indeed to fill. Mr Clark was a native of Inverness. He was born in 1797. Upon the appointment of the Rev. Thomas Fraser to the first ministerial charge here he was presented to the third charge which Mr Frazer had vacated, and in March 1822 was ordained one of the ministers of Inverness. It will thus be seen that he exercised the Sacred Calling here for the long period of thirty years. The district first assigned to him on the west side of the river he always retained. In general the life of a minister presents but few of those stirring scenes which animate the career of other men; and one of the most valuable of his gifts was a power of an unvarying routine of duty, or varied only by the changing circumstances of his parishioners. He was ever on the alert, and lived constantly in the midst of bustle and excitement. His health gave way last autumn. We believe that he never wholly recovered from an attack of indispotion which he had some time ago when last in London. Towards the close of last year, he went to the West coast in order to attend a communion, and, driving home in the chill of an autumnal evening, he caught cold. A general debility supervened. He continued to preach regularly, however, though obviously very ill. A month ago he went to Rothesay in quest of benefit and invigoration from a change of air. He preached three times on the Sabbath previous, and took an affectionate farewell of his hearers. During the first week he seemed to remit somewhat, and favourable expectations were entertained. But these were speedily dashed by a relapse. On Tuesday last Dr Huie from Edinburgh visited him, and communicated his impression that the