

On Friday the committee of the schools at Kingswood and Woodhouse grove, where the ministers' sons are educated, heard the reports of the two local committees. Both schools were stated to be in a flourishing condition, and the income to the general fund was improved.

At the meeting of the committee of the fund for contingent expenses in the connexion, and for extending the ministry of the Gospel, it appeared that the subscription made by the societies in March was larger than last year, and that the religious state of the circuits generally was very prosperous.

The committee of the auxiliary fund for the relief of supernumerary preachers, widows and orphan children of preachers, had, as usual, brought before it a number of touching cases of distress; and we sincerely hope that the proposed new plan of meeting these cases, by a regular and competent allowance, will be adopted by the body of Christians to whose service the worn-out and deceased ministers devoted their lives.

On Tuesday morning a number of gentlemen belonging to the Wesleyan Society, and connected with nautical affairs, met to arrange the business connected with the Polynesian Wesleyan missionary ship, which is intended to proceed to the South Seas in the course of a few weeks, by which opportunity a considerable addition is to be made to the number of missionaries now employed in those regions, which the vessel will visit on her voyage out.

In the forenoon the missionary committee assembled. The business was to review the proceedings, acts, and expenditure of the general committee in London, for the year, and to receive a statement of the prospects and intended proceedings of the society for the ensuing year. It appeared, from the details laid before the committee that the society had incurred a debt of nearly ten thousand pounds during the year 1839. The liquidation of this debt can only be effected by raising the income of the society beyond the amount necessary for its annual expenditure.

The most ardent expressions of attachment to the cause of missions, and the promise of augmented liberality, were given by some of the gentlemen present, and it is hoped that the feelings thus expressed will become general throughout the country, to the advancement of the cause of humanity and religion in the distant regions of the earth. It will encourage the friends of missions to learn that the members of society, or communicants, under the care of three hundred and forty-one missionaries in foreign stations, are 72,777, being an increase of 5919. A proportionate increase has taken place in the schools of the society. It is proposed, we understand, that thirty-six missionaries, or more, be sent out to strengthen the missions already formed, or to commence new stations, as soon as they can be prepared for their respective appointments. It is supposed that about twenty-two of these will sail in the missionary ship.

In the afternoon of Tuesday the committee of the theological institution made a most interesting report, which showed that important establishment to be realizing the most sanguine hopes of its friends in the improvement of the rising ministry of the connexion.—Some resolutions were passed recommending measures to the conference which will still farther increase its efficacy.

The subscriptions to the centenary fund amount to £215,000, of which sum above £86,800 have been received by the treasurer.—*Liverpool paper.*

THE EDUCATION QUESTION.

(Continued from page 246.)

LORD ASHLEY, in a most luminous and conclusive speech, distinguished equally by sound reasoning and

Christian sentiment, and breathing the finest spirit of truly English as well as truly religious feeling, the speech which was heard with respectful attention by the house,—alluding to the documents which had recently issued from the United Wesleyan Committee, inquired.—

“What said the resolutions of the Wesleyan Methodists? (Hear, hear.) Were not those resolutions as strong as any of the language which he himself used in addressing the house that evening? Would the noble lord set aside the feelings, and regard the remonstrances, of those most excellent and exemplary men, who, though differing little in faith from the Established Church, in ordinary times kept aloof from her, but who had now, in the present momentous state of affairs—forgetting all minor differences—come forward, most manfully and magnanimously, in defence of their common principles? (Cheers.) The Wesleyan body had, heretofore, been excluded from any participation in the educational grants, because they had not, directly, any connexion with either of the two societies to which allusion had been made; but by the regulations which had been recently proposed, they would now be entitled to a share of the grants. They had, however, generously abandoned all considerations of private interest, they had sacrificed individual and personal advantage, because they saw that if they did not protest against the admission of the principle contained in the minute of council, they would open a door for the establishment of erroneous creeds and doctrines, from which they most conscientiously and decidedly dissent. This ought to be known to the praise and credit of that exemplary body of men, because it proved that they are not actuated by any political considerations, or any worldly motives, but by the most exalted and conscientious motives that can adorn and dignify human nature. (Loud cheer.) He therefore now gave notice, that if it should be deemed advisable by her Majesty's ministers, to revert to their first principles, he should move an address to the crown, praying that the Wesleyan Methodists should be admitted within the terms of the grant as a third society.”

The Methodist Societies are deeply indebted to the noble lord for his kind intentions towards them in the last sentence here quoted, grounded on his candid and generous estimate of their disinterestedness in coming forward in this hour of danger, not to the Church of England only, but to the interests of our common Christianity.

It is worthy of remark, how exactly the views expressed by Lord Ashley agree with those entertained by Sir Robert Peel; and in how true and just a light the position of Wesleyan Methodism is placed in connection with the Education Question, by the forcible and liberal remarks of the Right Honourable Baronet. He asks Lord John Russell,

“Why, when the scheme had met their universal disapprobation, had they not the manliness to come forward and allow that it had failed? Why should it have been opposed by the Wesleyan Methodists, if they had not sincerely believed that it was fraught with the most injurious consequences to religion? They could have no pecuniary interest in rejecting this scheme, for towards them it was more favourable than the schemes of former years. Under the principle which was acted upon last year the Wesleyans were excluded. They could receive grants either from the British and Foreign School Society or from the National School Society. But they had now proposed a plan which would have admitted the Wesleyans to a participation of the parliamentary grants, and yet they had come forward to record their opposition to the scheme by which, in a pecuniary point of view, they would have profited. Was the Wesleyans exerted themselves for the abolition of

slave
for the
forw
cation
could
the s
men,
them
The
good
and
above
insti
relig
and
W
admi
tiona
His
of the
educ
mull
“I
of a
lieve
ly to
mitte
and
fess,
even
cons
this
can
tion.
A
by the
their
in ec
peop
T
and
the S
pel,
bette
“I
sitati
tuem
in re
I thin
churc
other
their
gious
whic
may
plaus
cating
ask h
your
the s
(Hea
their
educ
those
we co
own.
Ro
the P
Cath
they
Arch
the J
they h
and t
the m
sides