

during the same period, of not fewer than two hundred and fifty thousand murders; and that, besides all this, a hundred thousand Africans fall yearly victims, in another quarter, to the Mahomedan slave trade, making, on the most moderate calculation, an annual loss to Africa of nearly half a million of human beings; and whereas this dreadful traffic, while it subjects Christian Europe to the foul opprobrium, and immeasurable criminality of not only permitting, but of being parties to such deeds of horror, presents a barrier to every thing that can soften, enlighten, or civilise the inhabitants of that vast continent—suppressing all other commerce—creating endless insecurity—kindling perpetual war—banishing knowledge and social improvement—and, above all, rendering that quarter of the globe, which contains a hundred millions of immortal souls, inaccessible to the blessings of Christianity:—It is humbly overtured by the Presbytery of Annan, to the Venerable General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, that they would be pleased to take this most painful and humiliating subject under their serious consideration, and to adopt, by application to the Legislature or otherwise, such measures as to their wisdom may seem best calculated, for promoting the total extinction of the African slave trade and for establishing, in its place, the blessings of a legitimate and humanising intercourse, along with the means of religious instruction; thus using their influence in wiping out one of the foulest stains that ever disgraced humanity, in freeing the Christian world from a load of incalculable guilt, and in opening to the injured African race, the ennobling truths, the substantial blessings, and the elevating hopes of the Gospel of peace."

Mr. CANDLISH said, it was with great pleasure he rose to support this overture, which he had been requested by the Moderator to do, as his being in the chair prevented his doing so himself. He not only most cordially agreed in the overture, but he was proud in having the opportunity of bringing it before the Assembly. At a very great expense to the country, they had at length succeeded in having the slave-trade and slavery annihilated in the British dominions; but he was sorry to say that both still existed, to a very great extent in other parts of the world, and that its horrors were not in any degree mitigated where it continued to be carried on. It still formed the great barrier to the civilisation and evangelising of the continent of Africa, as it most effectually shut the door against the entrance of liberty and Christianity to that dark portion of the globe. He was glad, however, that measures were at present in progress, and he trusted they would be carried into effect, for putting a stop to this inhuman traffic; and he thought he would not require to say anything to induce the Assembly to aid in this great work, by which they might, in some measure, make a return of good for the many wrongs done to the poor Africans. He would therefore move that a Committee be appointed to draw up a petition to Parliament, praying them to use all their influence with other countries to put an end to the horrors of the slave trade.

Dr. DEWAR seconded the motion.

Mr. BISSER supported the motion, which with Mr. Candlish's motion was agreed to.

Friday, May 24.

Mr. BRIDGES said he had a communication to make which he was sure would be gratifying to the members, as at the expense of a few minutes now they would be saved perhaps hours afterwards, which from the pressure of business was an important matter. Circumstances had led him on several occasions to press on the attention of the Assembly a very important question—the question of patronage. There were numerous petitions on this subject, on the table of the present Assembly, as well as a number of overtures showing how strong the mind of the country was directed to this subject, and to all of which he was sure the General Assembly would give every consideration. It was evident, how-

ever, from the position which that question occupied on the roll of business for this evening, that it would come on at such a late hour—that it would not be doing justice to the question itself, and would encroach too much upon the members in the exhausted state, in which they must then be to go on with it. It therefore appeared to the friends of the question to be the more proper way, to withdraw the question altogether on the present occasion. Their reasons for adopting this resolution were that the resolution which had been brought forward by an illustrious individual, had secured the appointment of a large and as it was intended an open Committee, before which this question would necessarily come; and they were therefore willing to leave the matter in the meantime in the hands of that Committee. There were a great many petitions from various parts of the country on the table and as they had been got up with considerable trouble and expense, it was proper that the names, at least of the places from which they came should be stated. Mr. BRIDGES then read the names of the places, among which were—Kirkcowan, Stewarton, Dalkeith, Dundee, Maybole, Greenock, Paisley, Kirkmichael, Girvan, Rothsay, Edinburgh, Perth, Aberdeen, Barra, Cupar Angus, Ellie, and other places.—He would therefore, leave the matter in the hands

COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY.

The MODERATOR suggested to the Assembly that Dr. LEE should be added to the Commission, which would be considerably benefited by his knowledge in conducting the business of the House. Dr. Lee was accordingly unanimously appointed a member of the Commission for this year.

Dr. COOK moved the appointment of a committee for the purpose of considering and removing certain doubts, more especially relating to the powers of the Commission. It appeared to some that there had been a deviation, from what had always been understood to be the law, namely, that the Commission could take up nothing but what the Assembly contemplated they should take up. Another point for the consideration of this Committee was, whether, in the event of this Commission being counted out, it was competent for them to meet again till the time appointed for their meeting by the Assembly. It was understood that the Commission should, however, proceed as they had heretofore done till the report of the Committee should be given in.

WIDOWS' FUND.

The Rev. Dr. GORDON gave in the report of the Committee on the Widow's Fund.

Dr. COOK said—In the fund in which my Rev. Friend is so closely connected, we all of us feel the greatest interest. It is connected with those that are dear to us, and whose situation is often peculiarly distressing. The trustees have been singularly fortunate from the commencement of the fund, in the selection of able and kindly collectors; and it gives me much pleasure to bear my humble testimony to the great merit, the great kindness, the unwearied attention, which my Rev. Friend, the collector, has ever shown to all who have made application to him. Under his management the fund is going on as well as it can be expected to do. No one, who has come in contact with my Rev. Friend in the discharge of his duties, but must be impressed with his uniform kindness and attention. I move that the thanks of the Assembly be therefore given to Dr. Gordon.

The MODERATOR—I have great pleasure in your thanks for the manner in which you have conducted the important affairs of this fund.—We are all of us interested in the way in which this is done; and I am sure that every member of this Assembly cordially responds to the pleasure of the Learned Doctor. It gives me pleasure in saying, that your kindness, your attention, your zeal and the ability with which you have conducted the affairs of the fund have given

the highest satisfaction to the Assembly in whose name I return you our thanks.

Rev. Mr. PAULL of Tullynessle read the Supplementary Orphan Fund. About the beginning of March last, the amount of the sum was £407 18s 6d. Since then, subscriptions to the amount of £63 17s. had been intimated to him of which £28 had been transmitted to him. He had received this day the sum of £9 9s. from one of their Presbyteries, and the handsome donation of £5 5s. from the daughter of a deceased clergyman. From India he had received a donation of £10 10s. from the son of a deceased clergyman. The whole amount of this fund was deposited in one of the banks of Aberdeen, and the Company had contrived to give them four per cent. for it. He begged to suggest to the Assembly, that a subscription of £1 upon every clergyman of the Church should be recommended in order to increase this fund, which was immeasurably below what it ought to be.


Rev. Mr. THOMSON, Dundee, begged to call the attention of the Assembly particularly to this fund; and he trusted that before another year, instead of the paltry sum of £500 this fund would amount to considerably more than £1,000.

Dr. BURNS, Paisley, thought that the fund should be recommended not merely to the attention of ministers but the honourable the elders of the church. He knew no claim that could effect a deeper lodgment in the heart than the claim which was before them; a more useful charity never was presented to any benevolent mind, and which must commend itself to every heart.

Dr. MUIR moved that the thanks of the Assembly should be given to the Convener for the faithfulness, labour, zeal, and kindness which he evinced in conducting this supplementary fund. The MODERATOR—I have much pleasure in returning to you the thanks of the Assembly, for the zeal, the efficient and tender manner in which you have conducted the business of this fund which has been intrusted to you. I do hope that your zeal and fidelity will call forth the sympathy of the Church, and that thus you will be enabled to lay before the next Assembly, a more favourable report of the success of this important scheme, in which it is the wish of the Assembly that all the Presbyteries of the Church should co-operate.

(To be Concluded.)

TO BE SOLD OR LET.

 THAT excellent FARM, on the Wind sor Road, about 15 miles from Town at present occupied by John Morris, containing 375 Acres, considerable of which is under plough, and fenced in. There is on the Property a Stone House, Barn, and Stabling—would answer well for a Tasion given immediately. Terms will be made easy for purchasing, as the principal part of the Money, if required, can remain by Security on the Property.

ALSO—TO LET.
A HOUSE, with Stable and Garden attached, in Mait land Street, near the North Barracks, at present occupied by Mr. Charles Beamish. Possession to be given on 1st May.

For further particulars concerning both, enquire of the Subscriber.
Halifax, March 20th, 1839. A. KEITH.

HALIFAX DISTILLERY.

BELOW FRESHWATER BRIDGE.
THE SUBSCRIBER respectfully informs the Nobility, Gentry, and Public in general, of Halifax, that he Distils

WHISKEY—OF THE VERY BEST QUALITY,
Made purely from Malt, in taste and flavour very fine highly approved of by the best judges, and which has met the approbation of all who have given it a trial.

The Subscriber trusts that it being a HOME MANUFACTURED ARTICLE, and the produce of this country he will meet with that encouragement which will remunerate him for his enterprising exertions. Orders at the Distillery will be thankfully received, and the strictest personal attention paid to the execution thereof, and sent free of expense to any part of the town.

Country Orders, and Orders from the neighbouring Province will be punctually attended to.
The Subscriber also informs Medical Gentlemen and Rectifiers, that he Distils HIGH WINES of the very best quality.
July 25, 1838.

JOHN OAL.