

both of the communicants and of the congregations connected with chapels on the committee's list. Following this example, a few similar instances may be here cited—

At Broughtyferrie, the congregation has increased from 500 to 750, and the communicants from 380 to 570. At Cartsdyke, Greenock, an increase from 260 to 360 has taken place in the number of the congregation, and from 134 to 203 in the number of communicants. At Elderslie in the Abbey parish of Paisley, the congregation has increased from 450 to 500, and the communicants from 251 to 285. At Greenhead, Glasgow, there has been an increase of 140 communicants, which now numbers 369, and the average congregation is about 600. In John Knox's Church, Aberdeen there has been an increase of 38 communicants now numbering 403, and there is a congregation of 620. In Milton Church, Glasgow, the communicants have increased from 287 to 345, and there is a congregation of about 500. In the South Church, Kirriemuir, there has been an increase of 33 in the number of communicants—now 348—and there is a congregation of about 600. In St Andrew's Church, Kilmarnock, the communicants have increased from 215 to 212, and there has been a corresponding increase in the number of the congregation. In St. Stephen's (Gaelic Church), Perth, which was recently re-opened the congregation has increased from 180 to 220, and the communicants from 125 to 270. And in Wallacetown Church, Dundee, which was also re-opened a few years ago, the communicants have increased from 129 to 209, and there is now a congregation of about 500.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27.

The Assembly met to-day at twelve o'clock—Dr Robertson, Moderator.

A BLIND APPLICANT FOR LICENSE.

An application was then taken up from the Presbytery of Aberdeen, asking leave from the General Assembly to take on probationary trials, with the view to license, Mr William Corbet, student of divinity, a blind young man of great attainments and certified by several Professors and by the Presbytery to be of warmly religious character, and zealously desiring to be allowed to preach the Gospel.

Dr Pirie stated the earnest wish of the young man to enter upon missionary work, for which he had many remarkable qualifications. Under the Scotch Benefices Act he would not be qualified for a parochial charge, if even one objector appeared, but that was not his view. He was a person of independent means, and was the son of Dr James Corbet of the East India Company's service, and all he desired was to make himself useful as an assistant, or missionary, or chaplain in some public institution. The Presbytery were exceedingly desirous to promote the young man's wishes, and take him on trial; but this they were prevented from doing by the laws of the Church, without the permission of the Assembly, which they now craved.

After a short discussion on the precedents bearing on the case, the application was unanimously agreed to.

The Assembly adjourned at a quarter to twelve, to meet to-day at eleven o'clock.

THURSDAY, MAY 28.

The Assembly resumed to-day at eleven o'clock.

THE EDUCATION SCHEME.

Dr Cook, Haddington, read the Report of

the Committee for Increasing the Means of Education in Scotland, particularly in the Highlands and Islands. The tabular abstract at the commencement of the report showed that there were 120 schools on the first scheme, of which 117 have 7733 scholars on the roll, besides 480 Sabbath scholars not at week-day school. 46 on the second scheme, of which 43 have 4072 scholars, besides 1172 scholars on Sabbath only, 13 female schools, of which 12 have 537 scholars, and 179 scholars on Sabbath only, besides the Edinburgh Normal School with 634, and the Glasgow Normal School with 727 pupils. Making allowance for the few schools from which returns had not been received, it was computed that there were on the roll of the Assembly schools at 1st April, 14,240 scholars, and that there had been enrolled during the year 17,795 scholars—making, with those at school on Sabbath only, about 20,000.

FRIDAY, May 20.

The Assembly met to-day at eleven o'clock—the Moderator presiding.

After the usual devotion and the dispatch of some routine business—

Dr Grant submitted the annual report on the Widows' Fund, which was held as read. He stated that the large sum of money constituting the capital of this fund was lent on heritable security at four per cent., the interest amounting to no less than £. 64,000. The number of annuants had also this year been increased by twelve.

LAY ASSOCIATION.

The Report of the Lay Association in support of the five Schemes of the Church, an abstract of which appeared in our impression of Wednesday, was laid before the Assembly.

Principal Tulloch, in moving the adoption of the Report, and that the thanks of the Assembly be given to Dr. Cook for the deep interest he had taken in promoting the objects of this Association, briefly adverted in detail to their objects, and said that the most distinctive feature of the report appeared to him to be the branch associations. In the colonies it was proposed to institute such associations; and he hoped that the Lay Association would assist the Church much more than it has hitherto done, and bring to the Church a great increase of Christian sympathy.

Dr. Crombie seconded the motion, which was adopted.

The Moderator then conveyed the thanks of the Assembly to Dr. Cook, and said that this Association seemed to him to be one of those small seeds which was to issue in a great and rapid growth, and would be productive of important results.

INDIA MISSION.

Dr. Craik, Convener, read the report by the committee for the propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts, especially in India.

MONDAY, JUNE 1.

The General Assembly resumed this morning at eleven o'clock—Dr Robertson, Moderator.

REPORT ON INDIAN CHURCHES.

Dr Hill read the report of the committee appointed to bring before the East India Company the claims of the Scottish residents in India for an increased number of chaplains in the Presidencies in connection with this Church. The committee had been appointed some years ago, for the purpose of drawing the attention

of the Indian Government to the fact, that while the chaplains of the Church of England had been largely increased from time to time, there had been no corresponding increase in the number of Scottish chaplains. The present report stated that immediately after last Assembly, the committee communicated with the Court of Directors on the subject, and had received a reply, stating that an inquiry had been instituted as to the number of members of the Church of Scotland who, according to the rules observed in regard to the members of the Church of England, might have a claim for the supply of their spiritual wants; and that when the Court should be informed of the results of that inquiry they should not fail to give the matter their most careful consideration.

The committee, with the view of being better able to report progress, had applied to be informed how far the Church of Scotland might now entertain the hope that the boon so long and urgently requested might be conceded, and they had learned that the expected despatch on this subject had not yet reached the India House. Communications, however, though not of an official character, had been received by the committee, which led them to believe that the result of the inquiry would soon reach the India House, and that, taking into view the rules acted upon with regard to the chaplains of the Church of England, the report would be found to authorise the appointment of a larger number of Scottish chaplains than the General Assembly had ventured to request.

On the motion of Dr Grant, a resolution was agreed to, expressing approval of the report, and the Assembly's satisfaction at being able to entertain the hope of an early and favourable result to their applications to the Indian Government.

GAELIC SCRIPTURES

The committee was re-appointed to endeavour to obtain from Government the same protection in the publication of the Gaelic Scriptures as was enjoyed by the English version.

ENDOWMENT SCHEME.

Dr Robertson, having left the chair, which was taken by Dr Crombie, ex-Moderator, read the report of the Endowment Committee.

Since last Assembly, district meetings have been held in various parts of the country, at which the following noblemen and gentlemen did them the honour to preside, viz.,—The Earl of Selkirk at Castle-Douglas; the Duke of Buccleuch at Dumfries; the Duke of Richmond at Elgin; W. P. Adam, Esq., of Blair-Adam, at Kinross; the Earl of Rosslyn at Cupar (Fife), the Earl of Haddington at Haddington; the Duke of Roxburghe at Kelso; Alex. Smollett, Esq., of Bonhill M. P., at Alexandria; Sir Michael R. Shaw Stewart of Greenock and Blackhall, Bart., M. P., at Greenock; Peter Blackburn, Esq., of Killearn, M. P., at Stirling; Sir John Maxwell of Pollok, Bart., Paisley; and John Inglis, Esq., Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, at Edinburgh. Reports of the proceedings of most of these meetings were widely circulated throughout the Church; and your committee assume with confidence that by every true member and friend of the Church the sentiments expressed by the noblemen and gentlemen who severally presided over them must have been read with unmingled delight.

We now give what we had to omit last month—some of the information supplied by Dr. Robertson's Report.