

cient laws of Scotland on the subject of the Sabbath. The case required yet to be well tried, for he was convinced the case in the Court of Judiciary was not well pleaded. While on this subject, he considered it his duty to state that there were mills about the city of Edinburgh which were kept going on the Lord's day; and he could, name the mills if it were necessary.

Mr. Carment of Rosskeen seconded the proposal of Dr. Dewar. He considered it would be proper and desirable to do something to get masters to pay their men on Monday, instead of Saturday. He would tell his Glasgow friends, that when he was a poor chapel minister in that town, he had himself put a stop in a great measure to Sabbath profanation, by getting the Magistrates to send out the police officers to take up the offenders and fine them.

A special committee was then appointed to petition Parliament for a declaratory act; for a change in the penalties imposed by the Scots acts; and against the proposed new law. The Assembly then adjourned till 11 o'clock on Tuesday.

ASSEMBLY'S RESOLUTIONS ON CHURCH EXTENSION.

MAY 22.

1. That in the year 1834 and 1835, the General Assembly called the attention of his late Majesty's Government to the lamentable deficiency of the means of religious instruction and pastoral superintendence prevailing in many of the towns and parishes of Scotland.

2. That in the month of July, 1835, a Royal Commission was issued to inquire into the facts of the case, and that from the issuing of that Commission, from the language employed by the members of Government, by whom its appointment was moved for, from the terms in which it was expressed, instructing Commission to report, from time to time, "in order that such remedies may be applied to any existing evil as Parliament may think fit," the General Assembly was warranted to conclude that wherever a deficiency of the means of religious instruction and pastoral superintendence was proved to exist, the aid which the Assembly had solicited would undoubtedly be supplied.

3. That the spiritual destitution alleged by the Church to exist, has been fully and unanswerably proved by the inquiries, so far as their results have yet appeared, of the Royal Commission, and especially in the two great cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, in regard to which, taken together, the melancholy fact has been established by the Commission, that there are at least 100,000 of their inhabitants of an age to attend public worship, and these almost exclusively of the poorest classes of society, who are living in total and habitual estrangement from the ordinances of the Gospel.

4. That relying with confidence on the pledge implied in the professions and proceedings of Government relative to this momentous subject, the General Assembly, aided and supported by the generous contributions of the people of Scotland, has been going forward erecting additional churches in destitute localities, of which churches 187 are already built, or are now in progress, at an expense of upwards of £200,000, and which churches, as well as the 63 previously existing chapels of ease, while they sufficiently demonstrate the necessity out of which they have arisen, can never become efficient parochial institutions for the religious instruction of all classes of the people without an endowment.

5. That on the authority of a deputation from the Church Extension Committee, appointed to confer with Government on this subject, in the month of March

last, the General Assembly has heard, with equal surprise and sorrow, that it is the intention of Her Majesty's Ministers to propose to Parliament a measure in regard to religious instruction in Scotland, of which the Right Hon. Lord Melbourne, First Lord of the Treasury, has acknowledged the following to be an accurate outline:—

"1. That the bishops' teinds shall be applied in providing for the religious destitution in certain Highland, and other rural parishes, having no unexhausted teinds.

"2. That an alteration shall be made of the Act 1707, respecting the division of parishes in Scotland, so as to afford increased facilities for the application of the unexhausted teinds in the hands of private proprietors, to relieve the destitution of such rural parishes as have unexhausted teinds belonging to them.

"3. That nothing shall be done for the towns; that no grant shall be made from any source to provide additional means of religious instruction for them."

6. That while the Assembly pronounces no opinion as to the particular funds from which additional means of religious instruction ought to be supplied, and while they accept with thankfulness a proposal to provide for the destitution of the rural districts, they are bound to deprecate in the strongest possible terms a measure which assumes that no grant from any source is to be made to relieve the enormous amount of religious destitution prevailing in the towns, and that in all the circumstances of the case, the Assembly could not but regard the proposing of such a measure as involving not only the dereliction of a public duty, but a departure from the pledge held out by the previous proceedings of Government, and in so far as the great towns are concerned, to the Church and people of Scotland.

7. That in the circumstances narrated in the preceding resolutions, the General Assembly resolve humbly to petition both Houses of Parliament, embodying in the petitions the preceding resolutions, and entreating them, by a regard to the temporal welfare of society at large, and to the eternal interests of 100,000 immortal beings, whose spiritual destitution the Religious Instruction Commission has so incontestably proved; that care be taken to include in any measure for providing additional means of religious instruction in Scotland, an adequate grant to meet the spiritual necessities of the town as well as of the rural population.

8. That while the very announcing of such an intention on the part of Government as the foregoing resolutions describe, is fitted to operate most injuriously on the Church Extension cause, the General Assembly confidently trust that the friends of this great christian enterprise will not suffer themselves to be discouraged; that with a resolution, and energy, and perseverance, proportioned at once to the difficulties to be encountered, and to the inestimable importance of the high end they have in view, they will continue to prosecute their labours, and that by the grace of God they will never relax their efforts till, crowned by his Divine blessing, they have secured the triumph of their cause.

OVERTURES ON THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE CHURCH.

The Assembly proceeded to take up the numerous Overtures to the Venerable Court, to adopt measures for asserting its spiritual independence.

Mr. Buchanan of Glasgow opened the debate by supporting the principle of the Overtures. He commenced by meeting the objection, that the very nature of an Established Church implies a surrender of her independence to the State. A Report had lately issued from the press, and was circulating under the sanction of the supreme Civil Court of Scotland, and in which