

revision of the Hymn-Book into consideration, with power to correspond with any other committees that may be appointed by other churches, with a view to obtain a common Hymn-Book for the Presbyterian Churches of Scotland, if they shall see cause.

The business of the Synod terminated on the evening of Tuesday, the 18th May. The proceedings throughout have been conducted most harmoniously; and these words of the Moderator in his closing address found an echo in the heart of all that heard them:—"We have had diversity of sentiment—a healthful diversity of sentiment—but nothing bearing the slightest resemblance to a quarrel. We have had a few debates, and a number of them pushed to a vote; but there was no appearance from beginning to end of any acerbity of feeling, and there was nothing calculated to produce even a moment's alienation.—Brethren holding and uttering opposite sentiments could shake hands as cordially at the close as at the beginning."

Free Church General Assembly.

This Assembly met on the 19th May. Sir Henry Moncrieff, the retiring Moderator, preached the opening sermon. Dr. Wilson of Bombay, a veteran missionary, was chosen Moderator. His opening address was very able and earnest. Dr. Wood's report on the state of religion deplores much deadness, superstition and vice in various parts of the country, and rejoices in many remarkable revivals. Mr. Moody Stuart reported that £4,478 had been expended in the Jewish Mission during the year. The Assembly determined to persevere in the work. A deputation was received from the Reformed Church of Spain. Mr. W. R. Smith was elected Hebrew Professor for the Aberdeen College. The Foreign Mission Funds for the year, including Jewish Mission and Manses for Missionaries, amounted to about £35,000. The Sustentation Fund amounted to £131,263. Every minister received an equal dividend of £150. The sum of £4,886 was raised for evangelization of the Highlands and Islands.

The Union debate was long and earnest, and very able. A Conference was first held with the hope that greater harmony might be secured, but nothing was effected. Dr. Buchanan submitted the Report of the Union Committee and argued in favour of Union. Dr. Candlish moved a resolution to the effect that the Report be sent down to Presbyteries with a view to their deliberating on the whole subject, and directing their special attention to the question whether there is any objection in principle to a

Union on the basis of the standards. Dr. Gibson tabled a protest signed by himself, Dr. Begg and a number of others, against further proceeding in the negotiations.—Moody Stuart moved a resolution against further progress, on the ground that the differences between the churches was too great on the question of the duty of nations to Christ. Several motions were made; but ultimately the question being taken between Dr. Candlish's and Mr. Stuart's, the former was carried, 379 to 144.

The debt of the new College is now extinguished. Seventy-nine Hymns have been selected by the Hymn Committee.—They are to be submitted to Presbyteries. There were 235 Students of Theology attending the three Colleges of the Free Church. Dr. Duff being absent in Palestine, the Foreign Mission Report was given in by Dr. Thomas Smith. Dr. Wilson gave a most encouraging sketch of mission progress in India.

The following is the Financial statement for the year:—

	£	s.	d.
I. Sustentation Fund.....	132,245	0	7
II. Local Building Fund....	53,336	6	6
III. Congregational Fund....	132,329	8	6
IV. Missions and Education..	79,301	6	5
V. Miscellaneous.....	30,409	16	10

Total.....£227,621 18 10

General Assembly of the Established Church of Scotland.

This Assembly met on the 19th with the usual formalities. The Colonial Committee report an income of £4,787. Ministers were enjoined to preach at least once a year on the evils of intemperance. Two lecturers on Pastoral Theology are to be appointed, their salaries to be raised by subscription. A Hymn Book has been prepared, and is approved by a vote of 195 to 65. The Endowment Fund is still lacking £100,000.

Patronage was condemned by the Assembly by a majority of three to one. This "yoke" is regarded as too heavy to be borne. It is a matter of life and death to the church to get rid of it. Application is to be made to the British Parliament to legalize the abolition of Patronage. With respect to Union, a resolution was adopted deploring the manifold evils arising from division, expressing a desire for Union, and enjoining ministers to cultivate the spirit of unity and the habit of co-operation with the members of all other Evangelical Churches.

About £15,000 were expended in Foreign Missions last year.