

to all men, and beneficial to the community. (Applause.)

The MODERATOR, addressing the Commissioner, said—May it please your Grace, the General Assembly of our National Church is now met, and solemnly constituted in the name and by the authority of her Divine Head. But we esteem it a great honour and a valuable privilege to receive the countenance and protection of our earthly Sovereign. The renewed assurance which has been given to us by your Grace of her Majesty's determination to uphold the Church of Scotland as by law established, and to confirm to us the full possession of our ancient rights and privileges, affords us much satisfaction. It cannot fail to deepen in the hearts of her Scottish subjects those sentiments of reverence, and loyalty, and affection, with which it is known her Majesty is regarded in every part of the empire. The choice which her Majesty has made of a representative in this Assembly is hailed as a new token of her royal favour. Regarding your Grace as a nobleman whose unsullied character and Christian virtue do honour to the Peerage, and beholding in you the inheritor of the name and titles of an illustrious statesman who dignified the highest Court in the kingdom by his unrivalled eloquence, and by his judicial learning and integrity, we have not forgotten the laurels which, on a former occasion, your Grace's appointment to your present high office shed on our annual convocation. Nor can we ever cease to remember with gratitude what your Grace has done, by the endowment of an additional parish church, to extend and perpetuate, among the poorer classes of our countrymen, the blessings of Christianity. The announcement of her Majesty's annual grant to the Assembly demands our respectful acknowledgments. It is unnecessary, I am persuaded, to assure your Grace that the Royal gift shall be faithfully devoted to the purposes for which it has been designed. Her Majesty's attachment to the northern part of the island is well known. It has been shown in different ways. The manner in which so many brave Highlanders are now fighting in India for their Queen and country is a proof that this is appreciated as it ought to be. Our deliberations will be conducted, I may venture to hope, in such a way, and with the view to the promotion of such important interests, as will secure for us the continuance of the favour and approbation of our beloved Sovereign. Should more warmth than what may be deemed seemly appear in any of our debates, this, I trust, will be attributed to the characteristic fervour of the national temperament; or to any other cause than to our unchristian spirit, or to a want of proper respect, on the part of the members of Assembly, for one another, much less to any forgetfulness of what is due to the presence of the distinguished personage whom as her Majesty's Lord High Commissioner, I have now the honour of addressing.

On the suggestion of Principal LEE, a Committee was appointed to draw up a congratulatory address to her Majesty on the auspicious marriage of the Princess Royal. The same Committee was also instructed to prepare an answer to the Royal letter.

The Assembly, after appointing Committees, adjourned.

FRIDAY, MAY 21.

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

After devotional exercises conducted by Principal Lee and the Moderator, Dr. Lee gave a Report from the Committee on Overtures,

and Dr. Simpson a report from the Committee on Bills.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH FOREIGN CHURCHES

Dr. NISBET read the Report of the Committee on Correspondence with Foreign Churches. After giving details as to the state of the Geneva and other Continental Churches, the Report recommended that the Committee should be authorized to make diligent inquiry as to what places on the Continent ministers are most needed for, and in supplying the deficiency. It was also stated that the collection to this scheme for the year amounted to nearly £800, of which £400 had been remitted to the Protestant Central Society of France, and £250 to the Vaudois Church, of which £50 have been assigned to the Mission at Geneva.

The Rev. M. CHARBONNIER, a deputation from the Waldensian Church of Genoa, then addressed the Assembly in the French language, giving an account, which was, exceedingly encouraging, of his own and other Continental Churches.

Dr. ROBERTSON moved the adoption of the Report, and that thanks be given to the Committee, and also to M. Charbonnier; and, in doing so, referred to the circumstances of the Protestant Churches on the Continent as calling for the sympathy and aid of the Church.

Dr. HILL seconded the motion.

Dr. MUN suggested that the Assembly should recommend a collection for this Scheme, or at least to encourage those to contribute who may be disposed to do so by collection or otherwise.

Dr. ROBERTSON's motion, with the addition suggested by Dr. Muir, was then adopted, and thanks returned to the deputation.

Mr. CUMMING of Perth then engaged in devotional exercises.

CONVERSION OF THE JEWS.

Professor MITCHELL of St Andrews, the Convener of the Committee, read the Report for the Conversion of the Jews.

Mr. SUTTER, missionary from Karlsruhe, then addressed the House. He described his access to German Jews as free and unrestrained; and gave a detail of his labours among Israelites of both sexes. As a result of his observation, he stated that most cases of Jewish conversion have been those of men under twenty, or at most under thirty, and men not yet settled in family life—men who have been in some way loosened from their people.

Mr. ROBERTSON, minister-elect of the High Church, Glasgow, moved the adoption of the Report.

Mr. LOGIE, Frith and Stennis, seconded the motion.

After some remarks from Dr. PIRIE, the Report was adopted, and thanks conveyed by the Moderator to Professor Mitchell.

SERMONS ON SABBATH.

Mr. Milligan of Kilconquhar was appointed to lecture and preach before the Commissioner on Sabbath forenoon next; Mr. Davidson, Inverury, to preach in the afternoon. It was also stated that devotional services would take place in St. Andrew's Church on the evenings of both Sabbaths.

The Assembly then adjourned till this day (Saturday) at eleven.

SATURDAY, MAY 22.

SCOTTISH CHAPLAINCIES IN INDIA.

Dr. PIRIE read the Report of the Churches in India Committee. It stated that since the last Assembly no further communication had been received from

the Court of Directors of the East India Company on the projected increase in the number of Scottish churches in India. The Committee had been given to understand that the returns ordered by the Court of Directors in 1856 had been long ago received by the Supreme Court of India, and doubtless the calamitous events which had taken place there had interfered with the transmission of these returns to the Directors. Now that the country was being restored to order, the Committee was encouraged to look for the long-expected communication from the Court of Directors, which, they had reason to believe, would be favourable to the Church of Scotland.

Dr. PIRIE moved to the effect that the Assembly resolve to transmit a memorial on the subject to her Majesty's Government, and remit the draught memorial laid on the table to a Committee, to consider and report to a future diet of the Assembly.

Dr. MACFARLANE said, that while the Church of Scotland had been always admitted to rank as a national Church, there had for many years been a prejudice abroad that the Church of England was the Church of the empire. In the questions that arose in 1839 with regard to the clergy reserves in Canada, this opinion seemed to prevail, and the claims of the Church of Scotland were likely to be lost sight of, when it was proposed in the House of Lords to remit to the judicial functionaries of the House to consider the terms of the Articles of Union in reference to the Church of Scotland. The Report of these functionaries was unanimous in finding that the Church of Scotland stood in a position of parity with the Church of England, and he thought it would be well to keep that Report in view in approaching Government on this subject.

EMOLUMENTS OF PARISH SCHOOLMASTERS

Dr. COOK, St. Andrew's, read a Report by the Committee on Parochial Schoolmasters and Schools.

Dr. LILLIE (Wick) moved to the effect that the General Assembly approve of the Report, and tender the thanks of the House to the Committee, and its joint Conveners, Dr. Cook and Mr. Smith, and re-appoint the Committee: That the General Assembly deeply regret that no adequate measure has yet been passed for the parochial schools, and sympathizes with the schoolmasters in the uncertain and trying circumstances in which they have been placed; and instruct the Committee to watch for any opportunity that may seem to them favourable for bringing the subject under the special notice of her Majesty's Government, with the view to an act being passed for the further improvement of the schools, and for raising the status and emoluments of the teachers.