

negotiating Churches. Next, it referred to the happy circumstance that a majority of our own Presbyteries had declared that they saw to the contemplated union no objection in principle. Further, however, it is suggested that out of regard to the difficulties of brethren, the onward march should be now arrested, and the Committee directed to confine its efforts to promote co-operation with the negotiating Churches, and a spirit of union among ourselves. And lastly, to satisfy all doubters, it asked the Assembly to declare that it would conserve the radical principles of the Church, and also the Sustentation Fund. In short, everything was done that could be done or thought of to conciliate the opposition short of one impossible concession—that of admitting that all that has been done during these past eight years has been vain and futile, and that the hope of union on the present line must for ever be abandoned as a delusive dream. That Dr. Begg and his friends not only rejected such a motion, but protested against it, will, we are sure, open the eyes of some who have hitherto been blind to the true character of the party."

Dr. Candlish, in an able speech, reminding one of his earlier efforts, seconded the motion. Mr. Nixon, of Montrose, proposed a counter motion, to the effect that the Union movement should cease, and that the ministers and members of the Church should cultivate a spirit of love, and co-operate as opportunity offered with all christian brethren. Mr. Andrew Bonar supported the amendment. The other speakers during the two days of the debate were Dr. Charles Brown, Mr. Brodie, of Monimail, Mr. James Balfour, Professor Macgregor, Lord Dalhousie, Mr. Serymgeour, of Arbroath, Mr. William Mitchell, of Glasgow, Principal Lumsden, Mr. Hugh Martin, Dr. Rainy, Dr. Adam, Dr. Gibson and Dr. Begg. On the vote being taken, 435 went with Sir Henry Moncrieff, and 165 with Mr. Nixon. Last year the vote was 379 to 144. The Union Committee has been re-appointed with additions, but it is to be confined to promoting works of co-operation between the negotiating churches.

ESTABLISHED CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY.—The Assembly of this Church met on the 18th of May, the same day as that on which the Free Church Assembly met. Mr. Stevenson, of St. George's, the first untitled Moderator since the days of George Buchanan and Alexander Henderson, was elected to the chair. The case of Rev. Robert Thomson, the Queensferry presentee, occupied much of the attention of the Assembly. It was decided that Mr. Thomson was not a suitable man to occupy the pulpit of that parish. The Committee on Statistics, &c., reported 436,147 communicants and over a million adherents of the Church; 147,402 Sabbath School children under 13; 158 teachers, with 20,000 in adult classes. It appeared from the report of the Endowment Committee that 180 churches have been built since the Disruption. The Church had to complain of the lack of missionary zeal in the students of its theological institutions, not a single candidate having presented himself to the Foreign Missions Committee for the last three years. Much time was spent in discussing the proposed change in the law of patronage. The Church of Scotland is not yet freed from this galling yoke, although the Duke of Argyll expressed his conviction recently in the House of Lords that the time is not far distant when the subject will have to be dealt with by Parliament.

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL SYNOD.—The Synod met on the 15th of June. Rev. Dr. Edmond was elected to the Moderator's chair. Exceedingly satisfactory reports of the Church's work in the Home, and especially in the Foreign field, were read. With many of the details of these, the readers of the RECORD have been regularly made acquainted, under the head of Missionary Intelligence.

"Dr. Harper, in giving the report of the Union Committee, stated that all the thirty-one Presbyteries had answered the remit affirmatively, and in twenty-one the answer was unanimous. He also expressed, on the part of the Committee, a desire that the Synod would, for the sake of putting an end to all possible