

first resolution in the case of those congregations under £120 requiring assistance, it be enjoined by the Synod, that in addition to the ordinary sources of revenue in support of the Home Fund, an annual collection should be made on its behalf. 4. That the Synod appoint a committee, with power to carry out the above purposes, subject to the rules and regulations laid down in the forms of procedure relating to the Home Mission Fund.

The first two resolutions were discussed and agreed to.

After some further discussion, the third resolution was agreed to—the word “recommended” being substituted for “enjoined.”

In reference to the next and last resolution recommended by the report, a long discussion took place.

After further discussion, the following was agreed to unanimously, as the fourth resolution; “That the Synod appoint a committee to carry out the objects specified in the second and third resolutions, and instruct the Mission Board carrying out the first resolution, to correspond and co-operate with the said committee.”

At this stage of the proceedings the Rev. M. Monod of Paris entered the meeting. He was welcomed by the Moderator, and requested to sit as a corresponding member of the Synod.

Mr. RENTON of Kelso begged to submit the following motion:—“That the Synod appoint a committee to carry out the object in the second and third resolutions, and instruct the Mission Board, in carrying out the first resolution, to correspond and co-operate with said committee.” The motion having been agreed to, Mr. Renton proposed the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:—“That to secure efficient co-operation with the above committees, in carrying out the objects of the resolutions, presbyteries be enjoined not to grant moderations to congregations who offer an amount of stipend disproportioned to their ability, and that they also use diligence to ascertain that the stipend promised be regularly paid.”

The Rev. Mr. DAVIDSON, Edinburgh, read the report of the Committee on Theological Education, Hall, and Library. The reports of the several professors were read, presenting a most favourable view of the efficiency and prosperity of the institution, and indicating, both by the numbers attending the classes, and the thorough manner in which they were trained in all the branches of the course, what hopes might be entertained of the future ministry of the United Presbyterian Church.

The state of the Library was the next subject to which the report referred. Nearly 500 volumes had been added to the library in the course of the year, partly by donation, but chiefly by purchase.

The Rev. Dr. KING proceeded to read the Report on Scholarships. It proceeded, “The usual examinations took place in August and November of last year. Thirty-five theological students entered into the competition, showing an increase of six above the year preceding. Of these competitors, sixteen belonged to the first year, eight to the second, five to the third, four to the fourth, and two to the last or most advanced. Nineteen scholarships were awarded in all; and their collective pecuniary value was £225. About seventy students gave notice of application of our University scholarships, but a number retired from necessary causes, and eventually fifty-eight entered into the competition. Of these fifty-eight students, twenty-one competed in Edinburgh, fourteen in Glasgow, thirteen in Aberdeen, and ten in St. Andrews. The scholarships awarded were ten to Edinburgh students, seven to Glasgow students, six to Aberdeen students, and three to St. Andrews' students. The collective pecuniary value of these twenty-six scholarships was £280. Last year, the committee submitted to the Synod a proposal to raise £10,000, that the interest derived annually from this sum might facilitate the support of the scholarship measure, and place it on a more stable footing. The Synod recommended to the churches to carry this proposal into effect. The Synod is aware that two of the larger contributors to the £10,000 effort are members of the Free Church. Smaller contributions, not less honourable perhaps to the donors, have also been tendered by Christians of other denominations than our own, and, if some allowance be made for general promises of aid, along with definite subscriptions, the present amount may be fairly estimated at £4200. Having received such help of God, through his people, we faint not. Again we cast ourselves on the Synod and the Church, in subordination to sovereign and all-sufficient grace: and would conclude this report in the spirit of the prayer, ‘Establish the work of our hands upon us: the work of our hands establish thou it.’”

REMUNERATION OF PROFESSORS.

The Clerk read an overture from the Presbytery of Kelso, urging an increase in the salaries of professors.

Mr. JARVIE of Kelso supported the overture. It could not be expected, he said, that their progress towards augmenting ministerial support could go on with reasonable encouragement, while the most distinguished among them were found devoting themselves to the highest offices of the church with but a more nominal salary.

Dr. BEATTIE held that the present salaries were altogether inadequate. He moved that the salaries of the professors be henceforth £100 each.

SEPARATION OF CHRISTIAN SPOUSES.—An overture from the Session of Broughton Place Congregation, Edinburgh, was read, craving a deliverance of Synod on the Scriptural grounds of separation for life of Christian spouses.

Mr. MILLAN was heard in support of the overture, and briefly stated its purport. Cases were frequently occurring within the Church of intentional separation between man and wife with the view of its being for life, and where the parties had taken such measures as the law afforded

to render the separation permanent. He quoted texts of Scripture to prove that the relationship between man and wife was more intimate than that between parent and child, and that under no circumstances should it be set aside. Now, he wanted the Synod to say whether a session, when a case came before them, avowedly of separation for life, should permit such a breach of the law of Christ, and allow the parties to remain in the possession of Church privileges. He did not refer to remedial cases of separation, but avowed cases of separation for life.

Mr. R. ELLIS (elder of Broughton Place congregation) supported the overture, and said they brought it forward because it affected the practice of sessions in dealing with such cases, and it was a matter on which the Synod ought to express an opinion.

Dr. BEATTIE, of Glasgow, said, the mover of the overture had adduced a great many quotations from the Bible in reference to the marriage law, but were the Synod to sit down and say what interpretation every session should put upon the Bible regarding abstract cases? Every session was entitled to deal with them agreeably to what they considered the Bible view in reference to them, and he begged to move that no deliverance be pronounced, which was agreed to, after some discussion.

PROPOSED MISSION TO IRELAND.

There was next taken up an overture from the Presbytery of Glasgow, praying the Synod at its first meeting to take into consideration the claims of Ireland as a field of Christian exertion.

Mr. SOMERVILLE, Secretary to the Mission Board, said that, with their sense of obligation to the present Missionaries, the Board did not feel themselves justified in setting up a separate Mission. He had heard nothing to satisfy him that such was their duty. The Protestant Ministers in Ireland outnumbered the priests by 455, and if they deducted from the population all those under ten years of age, they would find that there was a Protestant minister to every 1300 of the people. No fewer than twenty-six voluntary and benevolent societies were engaged in spreading the truth in that land, whose annual expenditure exceeded £100,000. A great amount of good was produced by other agencies, such as the circulation of tracts, Scripture readers, Sabbath school teachers, &c.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH FOREIGN CHURCHES.

Dr. A. THOMSON, the Convener of the Committee on this subject, then submitted a report:—

With the three deputies from the Continent, one from France, another from Switzerland, and a third from Belgium, the committee deem it unnecessary to anticipate details which will be given by them, with all the fullness of ample information, and with all the effect of the living voice. It is known to many in this Synod that the works of Eberhard and Ralph Erskine were long familiar and favourite volumes among the people of Holland. For a good many years past, however, they had gone out of print, and were only to be found as rarities on a few of the Dutch book-stalls. The Rev. Mr. Schwartz, a distinguished evangelical minister in Amsterdam, conceiving that the republication of the works of the Erskines would greatly promote the cause of revived Christianity in Holland, corresponded with members of our committee on the subject, and, through the cordial co-operation of our library committee, was supplied with copies of the Erskines' work for translation. By the liberality of one of our number, pecuniary assistance was given to help on the work of translation, and at this moment some of the best sermons of both the Erskines, anew translated into Dutch, are passing through the Dutch press; and thus, it is hoped, that, like the body of the old prophet let down into the grave, these works will be the means of life to many in Holland. Your committee have sincere pleasure in reporting that the interest of our congregations in the cause of evangelical religion on the continent is steadily widening and deepening. Of this we have the most tangible and unequivocal proof in the fact that the collections for churches on the continent have this year reached a figure which they had never reached before—upwards of £930. The goodly sum has been thus allocated: to the Belgium Missionary Church, £150; to the Evangelical Society of Geneva for the Saionge Mission in Western France, £250; to the Union of Evangelical Churches in France represented by Mr. Monod, £500.

Rev. F. MONOD, of Paris (deputy from the Union of Evangelical Churches in France), was first heard, and was received with loud applause. He expressed gratitude at finding himself once more in the midst of them. He would merely state that their churches numbered now nearly 1500 members, and about 4000 hearers. These twenty-two churches were scattered over the whole of France like so many little foci of light illuminating the darkness around them. During the last year their Tract Society had published 25 new tracts and disseminated 1,146,000 of Christian almanacs, which involved an expenditure of £1700. Their Evangelical Society had supported 20 ministers, 8 evangelists, 48 schoolmasters and schoolmistresses, 30 students in its Normal School, and spent £6200. There had been circulated throughout the country during the last year 120,000 Bibles and Testaments—and during the last twenty years about 4,000,000 copies of the Scriptures had been disseminated in France. Their Foreign Missions counted thirteen stations, and had spent £4700 almost exclusively in France.

Professor LA HARPE (from the Evangelical Society in Geneva) next addressed the Court. He commenced by tendering, in the name of the Evangelical Society, his heartfelt thanks for the assistance which this Church had rendered to them, and by adverting to the encouragement and stimulus which their sympathy afforded them. He gave a short ac-