

rialists that a change in the law for regulating the settlement of ministers is required, in order to prevent the evil of unacceptable settlements; and that the most constitutional remedy is to obtain from the Legislature a supplementary measure giving effect to the call as the ancient and constitutional rule of the Church, requiring that the call to a presentation be signed by an adequate number of communicants before any settlement can be made by the Presbytery.—JAS. HANNAN, Chairman.

Mr. HANNAN then rose and said—Moderator—We appear here as a deputation appointed by a meeting of elders and lay members, to present a memorial in relation to the present state of the Church. In the unavoidable absence of Sir James Campbell, it devolves on me to lay the memorial before you. I much regret the want of his presence, for his calm and clear judgment, his hearty concurrence, and his influential position as a friend of the Church, would have added weight to the memorial, even in addition to the great importance of its object. I do not consider it requisite that I should detail the reasons or circumstances which have impressed us with the propriety of the steps we are taking, for these must be well known to you all; and, indeed, in our conferences with several of your number, as well as with clergymen of other Presbyteries, we have experienced they are alive to the importance of the subject, and that their deepest sympathies are with us. Neither do I consider it necessary to state all our proceedings before determining on the present memorial. Yet I may say that it was with sincere love to the Church of Scotland, with anxious desire for the furtherance of the Gospel of peace, and for the promotion of harmony in the Church in general, that we have conducted all our proceedings, and in the same spirit we appear before you now. The memorial is from some of the warmest friends of the Church,—it was adopted, and the present deputation appointed, by a respectable and influential meeting, and without a dissentient voice; it is thus the expression of gentlemen of various views and feelings, but, in this, of united mind. I need not advert to the memorial in its individual declarations, yet permit me to say that we consider the Church Courts have much in their power, and might, to a great extent, prevent the evil which we feel to be so serious. We trust the Church will so act, and, as far as in her lies, prevent such proceedings by maintaining the dignity of her Courts, the purity of her membership, and deal with tenderness to the consciences of her witnesses and of all her people, permitting no infusion into her proceedings which would infringe upon her position, or their rights and privileges as members of the body of Christ—that she should clearly and unequivocally carry out the principle that no minister should be intruded on any congregation. But while we believe the Church can thus do much—and we pray she may do it—we feel there is an amendment required in the Legislature's act which would clearly establish that desirable position. And we feel that such an amended enactment would be beneficial to the Church, the patron, and the country; it would promote harmony betwixt all,—it would prevent distressing heart-burnings and disagreeable proceedings, and even more dangerous apathy. The amendment we consider as most certain to effect these benefits is that the call be made a *reality*, reviving that which is at present a formality in the Church, and making it a valid, essential, vital part of the proceedings of an appointment. We do not say what proportion of communicants should constitute a valid call,—we leave that to be evolved by you and the

other Church Courts in your discussions,—we only ask that no minister should go up without the support “of a band of men whose hearts the Lord has touched.” We feel this Court will give every due consideration to the memorial, and we pray you may be guided so that all may conduce to “God’s glory—to peace on earth, and good-will to men.” Permit me merely to add further, we are very confident we have general sympathy with our proceedings—even in high quarters—and that as the Church may determine, she will find willing hearts and hands to confirm and legalize her desires and proceedings.—(Applause.)

Dr. GILLAN proposed that the memorial be received. He felt deeply indebted to the gentlemen who had given so much attention to that important subject—a subject, indeed, of vital importance to the well-being of the Church. Recent events had shown it to be a subject calling for their immediate attention; and whether they looked to the importance of the subject, or the high character of the memorialists, the memorial was, indeed, worthy of the most careful and respectful consideration. He had to move that, in order that every member of the Court might have an opportunity of thinking over the matter, the memorial be, in the meantime, received most thankfully and respectfully, and lie upon the table until next ordinary meeting.

Dr. HILL said that no man living in Glasgow or knowing the high position of the gentlemen presenting the memorial, could have the slightest hesitation in saying that it was worthy of their best consideration. He therefore seconded Dr. Gillan’s motion.

The motion was then agreed to, and the deputation withdrew.

### Synod of Aberdeen.

This Synod met at Aberdeen on Wednesday. The Rev. Dr. Robertson, Convener of the Endowment Scheme Committee being present, was requested to address the Synod on that subject. The rev. doctor, in responding to the invitation, stated that the result of the appeal to the subscribers in the Edinburgh group of counties had been so well met, that he hoped at next Assembly the Committee would be able to report that ten new chapels would be in Court from that group.

Thursday, 11th November, was appointed as a day of thanksgiving for the late abundant harvest.

The Committee on Theological Prizes reported that the sum of £170 has been contributed. The Committee recommend that one prize of £12 should be given at the end of session 1859-60, to be continued every two years. The report was adopted, and the scheme cordially recommended.

### Synod of Fife.

This reverend Court met at Cupar on Tuesday. The first Sabbath in November was appointed to be observed as a day of thanksgiving for the late abundant harvest. An overture was proposed by Mr. Fisher, calling the attention of the Synod to appoint a day for pressing upon their respective congregations within the bounds the duty of family worship. The overture was agreed to, and it was agreed to call the attention of congregations to the matter on the same day as the thanksgiving. Dr. Cook then stated, with reference to the Education matter referred to at last Synod meeting at Kirkcaldy, they expected that by this time

their proceedings would have been further advanced, but he made a few remarks now to show the matter had not been dropped. He stated that they had a meeting at Cupar some time ago, at which Mr. R. B. Dalgleish presided, and that Lord Leven had consented to be the President of the Association; and it was hoped that ere long there would be a large body of subscribers throughout the country, with the view of giving aid to the non-parochial schools in the country; and he hoped the various clergymen in the country would lend their aid to the object of the Association. Mr. Cochrane highly approve of their scheme, and suggested that the ministers in the different districts should supply statistics which may be required for the advancement of the object. Dr. Cook approved of the suggestion; and after some other remarks on this subject, the Synod adjourned.

### Opening of Alloway Church, Ayr.

This church was opened for public worship on Sabbath by the Rev. William Shaw, minister of the first charge, Ayr. The rev. gentleman delivered an eloquent and appropriate discourse from 1 Peter iv. 9: “Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people, that ye should show forth the praises of Him who had called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.” The Rev. Dr. Gillan, of St. John’s, Glasgow, preached in the afternoon, from Rev. xxii. 17: “And the Spirit and the Bride say, Come; and let him that heareth say, Come; and whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” At both diets the church was exceedingly well filled, chiefly by the inhabitants of the districts. Among others present was the venerable Mrs. Begg, the sister of the poet Robert Burns. The church is very neat in appearance, and has a large stained window fronting the road, the gift of James Baird, Esq. of Cambusdoon: “In memory of his beloved wife, Charlotte Lockhart, who laid the foundation-stone of this church; born 28th Oct. 1822; died 29th Dec. 1857—much and justly lamented.” The church is seated to hold about 400.

### Death of Dr. Paull, of Tullynessle.

We have this day to announce—and we do so with sincere regret—the death of the venerable Dr. James Paull, minister of Tullynessle, who departed this life in his own manse on Thursday last, 21st. October, after a somewhat protracted illness, or rather a gradual decay of his physical constitution—the result of advancing age. During the whole of this time, however, his mental powers were happily preserved to him in their full vigor, and only a few days ago a letter from him, written with all his wonted earnestness of purpose and clearness of conception, was read in the Synod of Aberdeen, exhorting his brethren to persevere consistently in their opposition to the fusion of the Art Classes in the Aberdeen Colleges, to which he had been from the beginning of the controversy decidedly opposed, and which was listened to in the Synod with all the respect due to the opinions of one who had so long and so ably guided its deliberations. It is pleasing and interesting to think that he had thus died as he had lived, devoted even in his last hour to the promotion of what he believed to be for the welfare of his country and the interests of the Church of Christ.

Dr. Paull was ordained in the year 1805.