

by the Committee during the year £3711 2s. 10d. Part of the above expenditure was allocated as follows. To Synod of Canada, £387 10s.; Maritime Provinces Synod £178 6s. 9d.; West Indies £81 5s.; Ceylon, £252; British Columbia £200; Australia, £76 12s. 6d.; New Zealand, £130.

It is pleasing to see the most friendly co-operation between the Colonial Committee and Churches formed by uniting the different Presbyterian Churches in the Colonies in which such has been consummated. To the "Presbyterian Church of Victoria," a united Church, all the money solicited has readily been granted; one missionary was sent, and another is to follow him immediately. "The Presbyterian Church of Queensland" is another dealt with in a similar manner, so far as possible. "The Presbyterian Church in New South Wales" fared like the rest. Showing that the one desire of the Colonial Committee, as of the whole Church of Scotland, is to do good whenever and wherever it is possible.

It may be mentioned that the Report takes notice of our present Union negotiations. The declared policy of the Committee, which policy has been sustained by the Assembly, has always been one of "*non-intervention*." We quote the following from the Report:—

"So far back as the autumn of 1870, the Colonial Committee was asked by the Synod of the Maritime Provinces for an opinion and for 'advice' in regard to the projected negotiations for Presbyterian Union in Canada. To that request the Committee replied, that, however willing to approve that in Colonies, where home divisions need never have been known, brethren should unite as soon as they have found a basis for Union on which it can be honestly accomplished, it could scarcely be expected that the General Assembly could, through their Colonial Committee, offer any 'opinion' or 'advice' in regard to negotiations, the elements of which are necessarily so far beyond the sphere of the Assembly's knowledge or control. It seemed to the Committee to be a suggestion, the prudence of which will be readily recognised, that the Assembly, unfettered by any such opinion or advice as was asked of their Committee, should

be left to deal with the result of the impending negotiations as they may deem right, and that meanwhile these negotiations should be protected from any pressure from without which parties concerned in the issue might feel to be an interference with the freedom in which they ought to be allowed to form and maintain their views of duty. Such was the reply of the Committee in 1870. In the Assembly of 1871 that reply was laid before the Supreme Court. In their deliverance on the Report, the matter is noticed in the following sentence: 'The Assembly approve and adopt the terms of the reply of the Colonial Committee to the request of the Synod of the Maritime Provinces for an opinion and advice in regard to the contemplated Union of the Presbyterian Churches in Canada.'

And that is the only deliverance on the subject of these negotiations which the General Assembly has ever given. The basis of the Union and the proposed action of the Churches of the Dominion were, indeed, explained by Principal Snodgrass to last General Assembly; but, true to what the Committee venture to think is the wise policy of non-intervention in these negotiations, the Supreme Court in their deliverance referred to the statements of Principal Snodgrass and Mr. Pollok only in the following terms: 'The Assembly hail with cordiality the presence among them of respected brethren whose praise is in all the Churches of the Canadian Dominion. They have heard with deep interest their statements in regard to the progress of the work of their respective Synods; and they unite in commending them and all their brethren in Canada to the gracious superintendence and enriching blessing of the Divine Head of the Church.'

The Report on the Endowment of new Churches was given in by Dr. Smith of North Leith. During the year 16 new parishes have been endowed, thus providing for all years to come permanent means of grace, irrespective of the chances and changes of trade, and the thousand things which cripple the means of accomplishing the Church's work. The spiritual instruction thus afforded will reach and meet the wants of 38,000 people. Dr. Robertson, as is well known, was the father of this grand scheme,