

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE.

ECCLESIASTICAL AND MISSIONARY.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.—The Sixteenth Annual Meeting of this Assembly met at Edinburgh on the 20th May last, and was, we are assured, one of the most delightful meetings that have been held since 1843. There was a cheerful lively spirit among its members. Unity of sentiment to a great extent prevailed, discussions were conducted with vigour, frankness, and kindness. The venerable Dr. Beith of Stirling, was elected Moderator, and in his inaugural address took a rapid review of the past history of the Free Church, and noted the Evangelical work to which it was called. For this purpose a ministry he said was requisite that should be *spiritual*, having a just apprehension and appreciation of its object, namely, to please God, and finally be endowed with true love. These positions he illustrated and enforced with much ability and tenderness. The subjects which engaged the Assembly's attention were chiefly the great Mission Schemes of this Church. In regard to the Jewish Mission, there was a long and interesting report, embracing the several stations at Pesth, Constantinople, Amsterdam, Galatz, Breslau and Frankfort, from all of which there were accounts more or less encouraging of progress in the work of Evangelization and conversion. The revivals in America attracted much interest and occupied the Assembly for some time. The Home Mission and Church Extension Reports were of peculiar interest. They showed that several Mission Churches in the poorer parts of large cities are established and flourishing, and that deputations have visited several destitute localities of the country, and preached the Gospel to the people in the open air. This is a good and great work in which the Free Church is zealously engaged, and upon which God is showering His blessing. Dr. Buchanan, Convener of the Sustentation Scheme, submitted a most encouraging report. This Fund for the year 1858 amounts to the sum of £108,920 stg., being an increase of £282 over the previous year, which affords a dividend of £138 to each minister, leaving a small balance to be carried to next year's account. The following general abstract, shews the whole sums raised for the various objects of the Free Church of Scotland, for the year from 31st March, 1857, to 31st March, 1858:—

Sustentation Fund,	£108,920	7	10
Building Fund,	46,896	18	8½
Congregational Fund,	92,556	12	2½
Missions and Education,	56,776	6	9
Miscellaneous,	25,386	18	8
Total,	£330,537	4	2

INVESTMENTS, viz:—

For behoof of Foreign Missions,	£7,574	15	2
“ Education Fund,	9,000	0	0
“ Home Mission,	1,250	0	0
“ Highland Mission,	750	0	0
“ Colonial Scheme,	200	0	0
“ Jewish Mission,	200	0	0
“ Building Fund,	300	0	0
“ General Trustees,	9,000	0	0
“ College Endowment,	13,610	0	0
“ Bursary Fund for general purposes,	6,861	11	3
“ “ for special purposes,	9,000	0	0
“ Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund,	34,980	0	0
“ Chalmers' Endowments,	5,300	0	0
“ Sustentation,	3,200	0	0
“ Supplementary Sustentation Fund,	16,000	9	0
“ Widows' Fund,	66,787	2	8½

The Colonial Committee's Report was of an encouraging nature. It embraced not only the Colonies but the Continent of Europe, showing how wide are the interests of the Free Church in the world and how deep a hold she has taken of its Christian sympathies. Canada and Australia are evidently the most important parts of this field; but these Colonies are now rising into such a position of wealth and vigour that they may, for the most part, be left to take care of themselves, if they may not also be expected to make substantial returns for past favours. In the department of Foreign Missions