

—against an amendment omitting the clerical obligation and having the sum specified in the motion. Five ministers dissented. The Committee in a General Assembly reported that no meeting had been held, and a new Committee was appointed to report on the advantages to be derived from a General Assembly of the Church in British North America, and the best manner of getting over present difficulties and the kind of constitution the most proper to be adopted. The Synod have now six schemes, and days were appointed for public collections for them during the year. A resolution of thanks to the Colonial Committee and Dr. Fowler, ex-convenor, for their exertions in behalf of the Church was passed unanimously. Motions, commending the efforts of the Lay Association and *Monthly Record* Committee's, and enjoining ministers to do all in their power in behalf of both objects, were passed. A committee was appointed for the Home Mission Fund, and the Synod agreed to revive their scheme for sending young men to Scottish Universities in room of the Bursary Scheme for aiding young men studying at Queen's College Kingston, Mr. Pollok was appointed correspondent to New Brunswick, and Mr. McGillivray to Canada. The rest of the business of which there was much, was routine. The meeting seems to have been a good one.

SYNOD OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

This Court met on the 14th July, in St. Andrews Church, St. Johns. Rev. W. McRobie, retiring Moderator, preached from 1 Cor. 3: 11. The Rev. John Ross of St. Andrews was chosen Moderator. Mr. Spense from Canada, and Mr. Pollok from Nova Scotia were present as corresponding members. Mr. Epstein, Jewish missionary was also cordially welcomed. The unavoidable absence of A. Morris, Esq., of Montreal, a commissioned correspondent from Canada, was much regretted. The annual report of Benevolent and Missionary operations showed an increase of exertion during the past year. The Rev. James Murray and the Rev. P. Keay, reported their attendance at Synods of Canada and Nova Scotia respectively. The Committee on Bursary Scheme reported, and was re-appointed, so also with the Committee on the Home Mission, a resolution being passed in commendation of the efforts of Sabbath schools in connection therewith. Satisfaction was expressed at the number of Sabbath Schools aiding the Indian orphanage Scheme and the Synod's recommendation of the scheme was renewed. A report on the Jewish Mission Scheme was read, and Ministers were enjoined to give their people an opportunity of contributing to this object. Mr. Epstein was heard on the claims of the mission. A committee was appointed to report to next meeting on the best plan for establishing a Widow's Fund. The Com-

mittee on the formation of a General Assembly reported no progress but expressed their conviction that the scheme is impracticable until the time and expense required be much reduced—the Committee was instructed to keep the matter in view. Days were appointed for collecting for the three public Schemes. Mr. McRobie was chosen correspondent to Nova Scotia, and the Hon. John Robertson, Ruling Elder to Canada. The recommendation of last year to ministers to bring the evils of intemperance to the notice of their people was renewed. A Committee on the preparation of a bill for securing to the Synod the possession of churches and clerical lands having reported, was re-appointed. Overtures was disposed of, by the deliverances on which, Kirk sessions were enjoined to pay particular attention to the regular election of Representative elders, and to the securing of their attendance in meetings of Church Courts, a Committee was appointed to procure statistics of vacancies and mission stations in the Province, a new Presbytery to be called the Presbytery of Restigouche was formed by dividing the Presbytery of Miramichi, and a Committee was charged with the duty of endeavouring to secure an increased circulation of the *Monthly Record*, and of obtaining intelligence for its pages, and also to report on the practicability of converting it into a weekly periodical. The Presbytery of Miramichi was instructed to receive the congregation of New Richmond into ecclesiastical connection agreeably to the request of the Synod of Canada. The forms of prayer issued by a Committee of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland were patronized by an order of 70 copies. The Clerk was instructed to supply the Editor of Wilson's Almanac with the information solicited as far as possible. After a good deal of routine business, the Synod adjourned to meet next year at Chatham. A devotional and missionary meeting under the auspices of the Synod was held on the 18th of July. It was largely attended and privileged to listen to good addresses.

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

WEDNESDAY, May 25.

The Assembly met to-day at 11—Dr. Cook, Moderator.

THE CONVENERSHIP OF THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE.

The Moderator said he regretted extremely to state that he had received the following letter from the Rev. Dr. Robertson, which he felt it his duty to read to the House:—

“Edinburgh, May 25, 1859.

Very Rev. and Dear Sir,—As in the minutes of Monday, which were heard yesterday morning, notice was not taken of the resignation of the office of Convener of the Endowment Committee, which I respectfully tendered to the General Assembly on Monday evening, I think

it necessary, to prevent the inconvenience which might otherwise arise on the giving in of the Committee's report, again most respectfully to tender through you my resignation of the said office. I would have adverted to the omission after the reading of the minutes yesterday, but was restrained by feelings which you will easily understand, from drawing, while in my place in the House, the attention of the Assembly upon so humble an individual as myself. I trust that you and all my much respected fathers and brethren will do me the justice to believe that I have not taken this step without mature deliberation. The step has long recommended itself to me by many weighty considerations upon which I need not more dwell. I may be permitted to observe, however, that I entertain a firm conviction that, by retiring from the office which I now hold, I shall best promote the interests of the scheme which the Church has done me the honour so long to entrust to me. For the confidence reposed in me, the kind indulgence shown to my many shortcomings, and the cordial co-operation which I have received from the ministers and elders of the Church in almost every part of the country, I very humbly solicit the venerable Assembly's acceptance of my warmest acknowledgements.—I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) JAMES ROBERTSON.

To be communicated.

Dr. Bisset said he felt deeply pained and grieved to hear of Dr. Robertson's resignation from that scheme which, through his marvellous and indefatigable exertions, had attained such a high degree of success.

Several members having addressed the Assembly.

Dr. NORMAN McLEOD said this was in his opinion a very serious matter. He knew no scheme of greater importance than the Endowment Scheme of the Church, and that Endowment Scheme was gone if Dr. Robertson did not continue as its convener. He knew of no man in the Church of Scotland able to succeed him or to do a tithe of the work which he had done. He was not accustomed to use flattering words, and he venerated him too much to presume to flatter Dr. Robertson, but he would say this, that the pages of the ecclesiastical history of Scotland did not contain a brighter name—a more unselfish, disinterested, indefatigable, true-hearted patriot than Dr. Robertson. There was but one other name in the modern Church history of Scotland that he would associate with his—a man whose patriotic spirit and love for the Church rose above all party consideration—and that was Dr. Chalmers. He did not believe the Church of Scotland was aware, none but his most intimate friends were aware, what Dr. Robertson had accomplished, and the unremitting labour which he had undergone, calmly, quietly, and without ostentation, in prosecuting the Endowment Scheme. He had sat up whole nights labouring to forward it; and at all the numerous meetings which he had held for that purpose what energy, calmness and wisdom had he manifested! It was solely through the force of that man's personal character that that Scheme had made the progress it had, and when Dr. Robertson resigned his connection with it, farewell to its further progress. It was all very well for the Assembly to appoint a committee to confer with Dr. Robertson, but he was not so sure that they would be successful in their object. He believed that Dr. Robertson was perfectly honest and single-minded in his desire to resign his office; but he would take the liberty of saying this for him, that there was but one thing which would induce him to accept it again, and that was that the General Assembly, and the clergy there present individually, who