

on entering into the consideration of a question of such vital importance to the Church, prayer should be offered up for Divine aid in their deliberations, which was unanimously agreed to. The Rev. Mr. Burns of Kilsyth was called upon by the Moderator, and offered up a prayer accordingly.

DR. CHALMERS'S MOTION.

The General Assembly having heard the report of the Procurator on the Auchterarder case, and considered the judgment of the House of Lords, affirming the decision of the Court of Session, and being satisfied that by the said judgment all questions of civil right, so far as the Presbytery of Auchterarder is concerned, are substantially decided, do now, in accordance with the uniform practice of this Church, and with the resolution of last General Assembly ever to give and inculcate implicit obedience to the decisions of civil courts in regard to the civil rights and emoluments secured by law to the Church, instruct the said Presbytery to offer no farther resistance to the claims of Mr. Young, or of the patron to the emoluments of the benefice of Auchterarder, and to refrain from claiming the *ius devolutum*, or any other civil right or privilege connected with the said benefice.

And whereas the principle of non-intrusion is one coeval with the Reformed Kirk of Scotland, and forms an integral part of its constitution, embodied in its standards, and declared in various Acts of Assembly, the General Assembly resolve that this principle cannot be abandoned, and that no presentee shall be forced upon any parish contrary to the will of the congregation.

And whereas, by the decision above referred to, it appears that when this principle is carried into effect, in any parish, the legal provision for the sustantiation of the ministry in that parish may be therefore suspended, the General Assembly being deeply impressed with the unhappy consequences, which must arise from any collision between the civil and ecclesiastical authorities, and holding it to be their duty to use every means in their power, not involving any dereliction of the principles and fundamental laws of their constitution, to prevent such unfortunate results, do therefore appoint a committee for the purpose of considering, in what way the privileges of the National Establishment, and the harmony between Church and State, may remain unimpaired, with instructions to confer with the Government of the country if they see cause.

Mr. BRUCE of Kennet seconded the motion, and offered some remarks in support of it, but which were rendered utterly inaudible to the reporters by the noise occasioned by members leaving the House.

This motion was carried by a large majority. The Assembly adjourned at two o'clock on Thursday morning till eleven in the forenoon.

Thursday, May 23.

In consequence of the protracted sitting of yesterday, the Assembly did not meet to-day till noon.

Mr. DUNLOP reported from the Committee for procuring accommodation for the Books of the Church, and at his suggestion an unanimous vote of thanks was passed to the Society of Writers to the Signet for their kindness in affording temporary accommodation. Thanks were also voted to Mr. Laing the librarian.

Dr. LEE called the attention of the House to certain books, copies of which had been sent to the Assembly—the Books of the Universal Kirk—and the Records of the Kirk, both of which are in the course of publication, and without having examined them minutely, he felt justified in stating that great pains appeared to have been taken in their compilation. Another work had also been presented to them from the Bannatyne Club, of which he was himself a member.

INDIAN MISSIONS.

Dr. BRUNTON then gave in and read the Report of the Committee on the Propagation of the Gospel in India.

Mr. CANDLISH, in rising to move the approval of the report, and thanks to the Convener, congratulated the House on their having arrived at a subject on which no difference of opinion could arise. The Rev. Gentleman spoke at considerable length on the importance of this great scheme, and the aid it was likely to receive, as well as the other great objects of the Church, from the periodical details given in a work now in course of publication—*The Missionary Record*. Mr. Candlish concluded by moving that the report be approved, and that the thanks of the Assembly be given to the Committee, and to Dr. Brunton the Convener.

Sir CHARLES FERGUSSON seconded the motion, and strongly impressed on the House the propriety of congregations uniting and sending out missionaries, and of those who are friendly to the great object contributing permanently to its funds by annual subscriptions.

The MODERATOR.—Dr. Brunton the honour of once more receiving the thanks of this venerable Court, for the manner in which you as Convener of the India Committee, have promoted the welfare of that important mission has been well earned, by the judicious zeal you have evinced and the unwearied attention you have paid in conducting its affairs. But highly as I doubt not you appreciate this distinction, a far nobler reward belongs to you and those with whom you are associated. No more gratifying spectacle can be exhibited to the world, than that of a Christian Church, directing its energies to the extension of the Saviour's kingdom, and carrying the light of the Gospel, with its humanising influences and glorious hopes, into the dark places of the earth, and no more exalted office can be conferred on any individual, than that of being a fellow-labourer with the great Head of the Church in so high an enterprise. This honour is yours. The wisdom and Christian spirit which the Committee have displayed, and the ability, the enlightened zeal, and the devotedness of the missionaries employed, have been evinced by the success with which this pious measure has already been attended, and the foundation which has been laid for the extensive and permanent establishment of the Gospel, in the vast and interesting regions which are the subject of its operations. May the Divine Master whom we serve, without whose blessing all human efforts are vain, afford you the unspeakable satisfaction of seeing your labours of love crowned with yet more abundant success! May He employ you still more extensively as an honoured instrument, for dispelling the delusions of heathenism, and for bringing the many millions of idolators under British sway, into the light and liberty of our most holy faith! and may the spiritual benefits you are the means of bestowing, be reflected back upon your own soul!

Dr. DUFF then addressed the Assembly. On the motion of Mr. DUNLOP,

Mr. CLARK of Inverness then invoked the Divine blessing on the Rev. Dr. Duff and the cause in which he was about once more to engage.

Colonel DUNDAS proposed that a collection should be made in aid of the Indian Mission, to be placed at the disposal of the Rev. Dr. Duff, in affectionate remembrance of his exertions in the cause, and also in acknowledgment of the impression he has made upon the members of the Assembly. He recommended that the contributions be paid as far as possible, anonymously.

After an adjournment of an hour, the House resumed at six o'clock,

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES IN THE COLONIES.

Principal MACFARLAN gave in the report on Colonial Churches, which generally presented a favourable view of their progress, but the particulars could not be obtained. The report was understood to state that the differences in the Scottish Church in New South Wales were healed; and it noticed with much satisfaction that Government had conceded an annual grant, to the clergymen of the Church of Scotland in Lower Cayenna. Principal Macfarlan while he personally expressed the delight he had always felt, in holding the situation of Convener intimated that it

was his wish to be relieved of its duties, which from the variety of his more immediate avocations, commensurate as they were with the hours of every day, and his residence in Glasgow, frequently rendered a double communication necessary, and being productive of inconvenience to those, with whom he had to transact the business of the Committee had been too inadequately discharged; and he expressed his fear that he was rather standing as an incubus, on the interests of the Committee, than promoting its cause as he could wish to do.

The adoption of the Report was moved by Mr. Thomson of Dundee, and seconded by Dr. Laird of Portmoak, both of whom entreated the Very Rev. Principal to continue in the discharge of the important duties of the Convener. Sir Charles Fergusson also spoke to the same effect, and suggested that some arrangement might be made by the Committee to lighten the labours of the Convener. The House cordially responded to the desire of the speakers, that Principal Macfarlan should withdraw his resignation.

The MODERATOR conveyed the thanks of the Assembly to the Very Rev. Principal for his able, zealous, and effective discharge of the duties of the Convener, and their desire that he should continue in the office.

Principal MACFARLAN acknowledged the kindness of the Assembly. Certainly if it was the wish of the Assembly to appoint him again to the office of Convener, he would not allow motives of personal convenience to interfere with public duty—(hear, hear)—but he trusted that the House would indulge him with some such assistance as several members had had the goodness to suggest. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. DUNLOP proposed that the Assembly should record their cordial sense, of the kindness the Committee had received from the Government, in the recent grants they had made, and in their frank recognition of the co-ordinate claims of the Church of Scotland, with those of the Church of England in the Colonies. (Hear, hear.)

The Committee was re-appointed.

SYNOD OF ULSTER'S HOME MISSION.

The MODERATOR intimated that the Rev. Mr. Morgan, of the Synod of Ulster, had a very important communication to make to the House.

The Rev. J. W. MORGAN, then addressed the Assembly at great length.

Mr. CLARK of Inverness moved that the General Assembly express, through the Moderator the interest which they take in the progress and support of true religion in the Synod of Ulster, and their great satisfaction at the increasing number of that body; and that the General Assembly cordially recommend the Home Mission of that Synod, to the countenance and support of the members of the Church of Scotland.

Mr. ROBERTSON of Ellon seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

The MODERATOR, in communicating the motion and the thanks of the Assembly to Mr. Morgan for his gratifying statement, assured him of the deep interest taken by the Church of Scotland in the increasing prosperity of the Synod of Ulster, and hoped they would continue to co-operate with the General Assembly; and he was confident, that when they sent deputations to this country, in furtherance of their views, they would meet with the most cordial support throughout the length and breadth of the land. (Hear, hear.)

THE SLAVE TRADE.

The following overture from the Presbytery of Annan was read:

"Whereas, notwithstanding the strenuous efforts which have been made by this country, for the suppression of the slave trade, and the abolition of slavery, it appears, from unquestionable evidence, that the nefarious traffic in human beings, between Africa and America, carried on under the flag of nations calling themselves Christian, has of late years greatly increased, and now subjects at least one hundred and twenty thousand souls annually to the horrors of slavery; while it is also the occasion,