

sembly, and to the Lord High Commissioner, who in turn addressed the House, conveying her Majesty's assurance of her determination to maintain the Presbyterian faith and form of worship in Scotland, and the renewal of her annual gift of £2000 for the promotion of religious instruction in the Highlands and Islands.

On the following day the business of the Assembly opened with a lengthened discussion in reference to the terms of Mr. Baird's princely gift of £500,000 "for the purpose of promoting the mitigation of spiritual destitution among the population of Scotland."

Among the applicants for admission from other churches was included that of

Mr. KNIGHT, OF DUNDEE,

which gave rise to a long and interesting discussion. Ultimately it was moved by Dr. MILLIGAN, seconded by Sir Robt. Anstruther that Mr. Knight and his congregation be received into the Church of Scotland. The motion carried by 152 to 63, and the announcement was received with enthusiastic applause.

THE COLONIAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT

was read by the Convener, Rev. R. H. MUIR, of Dalmeny. To the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec the Committee had sent during the past year three ordained ministers, and five student evangelists, who, having spent the winter at Queen's College, Kingston, were now employed for the summer months in missionary work. Assistance had been given to four Canadian congregations to enable them to complete their places of worship, and three Presbyteries had received grants in aid of their missionary operations—Perth, Ottawa, and London.

The Synod of the Maritime Provinces had received three ordained missionaries. Under their fostering care the church at Victoria, Vancouver's Island, continued to prosper. Donations had been voted to New Zealand and Queensland in aid of evangelistic work. A minister had been sent to New South Wales, and one had been sent and another was to follow to Victoria. The funds were in a satisfactory state. They began the year with a balance of £6,625: now they had a surplus, after an expenditure of £3,711 of £29,428, and this large accumulation did not arise from a niggardly administration, on the contrary the amount of work done had seldom been exceeded in the history of the Committee. The report deplored the want of a sufficient number of missionaries suitable for the Colonies.

The Rev. W. M. BLACK, of St. Mark's Church, Montreal, had the honour of addressing the Assembly in this connection as the accredited representative of the Canadian Synod, and the hearty applause with which his presence was greeted and his statements received leave no room to doubt that he discharged the duty of the hour ably and effectively.

Referring to the progress of negotiations for UNION in Canada, the committee declined the responsibility of offering any opinion or advice to those concerned, reminding the Assembly that so far back as 1870 the committee

asked by the Synod of the maritime Provinces for advice in this matter. They replied then "that however willing to approve that in the 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." The Assembly at that time approved of the policy of non-intervention recommended by the committee, and that is the only deliverance on the subject of these negotiations which the General Assembly has ever given.

Dr. CUMING, of Sandyford Church, Glasgow, moved the adoption of the report, seconded by Mr. LANG, Elder, and supported by Dr. MASSON, which was accordingly adopted as highly interesting and satisfactory.

CONTINENTAL CHURCHES.

Rev. Dr. JOHN MARSHALL LANG, the Convener of this Committee, stated that during the year they had given grants to the amount of £540. Of that £200 had gone to the Central Protestant Society of France. There the French Synod had been re-suscitated and the good hope indulged in that ere long the old Presbyterian Synodical Church would be firmly re-established.

They had given £200 also to the venerable Church of the Waldenses, in Italy, and £30 to the Spanish Evangelization Society. The Committee occupied five stations on the continent, three of them permanently—Paris, Dresden and Rome. Professor CHARTERIS moved the adoption of the report, seconded by Mr. MENZIES, the Church Agent, who referred to the meeting of the Evangelical Alliance in New York at which he was the only representative of the Church of Scotland.

THE ENDOWMENT SCHEME.

Dr. SMITH, of North Leith, the Convener, on whose shoulders the mantle of the late Dr. Robertson seems to have fallen, gave, in the report which stated that during the last year sixteen new parishes had been added to the Church, and that since the commencement of the scheme 197 new parishes had been erected. The committee had undertaken fourteen fresh grants, involving a sum of upwards of £20,000, the amount expended last year being £38,849. Dr. STEVENS referred to the wonderful success which had attended this work compared with what had been expected at the time it was commenced. He congratulated the committee in its operations, secured so wide-spread an interest in its operations. Dr. GILLAN said it was impossible to hear this report read, even stuffed with statistics as it was, without feeling an animation of the heart. (Laughter and applause.) The bed of the National Church was too short for a man to stretch himself in it, and the cover of it was too narrow for a man to wrap himself in withal but the