

The committee had during last year sent no fewer than twenty-two ordained ministers to the Colonial vineyard—some of them to fixed charges, where the want of religious ordinances was most pressing, and others to act as missionaries in preaching the gospel in extensive destitute districts.

The following are the names and destinations of the clergymen referred to—

Rev. A. Ferguson, Parish of St Luke's, Demerara; Rev. G. Harper, Parish of St Clements, Barbico; Rev. A. D. Murray, Charge of St Andrew's, Georgetown; Rev. G. McIrvine, Church of St Andrew's, Mauritius; Rev. W. M' Hutcheon, Presbytery of Montreal, Canada; Rev. W. Masson, Presbytery of Hamilton, Canada; Rev. A. Lochhead, Prince Edward's Island; Rev. J. Duncan, do.; Rev. W. M'Learn, do.; Rev. D. Macrae, Synod of Nova Scotia; Rev. J. Wilson, do.; Rev. T. Jardine, do.; Rev. G. Boyd, do.; Rev. J. Mair, do.; Rev. J. Duff, do.; Rev. J. Christie, do.; Rev. J. Talloch, do.; Rev. D. Stott, Synod of New Brunswick; Rev. W. Macrobie, do.; Rev. Thomas Johnstone, Presbytery of Matland, New South Wales; Rev. Duncan Ross, do.; Rev. William Ross, Adelaide.

By this large addition to the number of their clergymen, their Presbyteries and Synod, comprehending the provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, are not merely nominal bodies, but courts in vigorous operation, to whose decisions and counsel deference and weight are attached. Churches, which had long been closed, are re-opened, and families are again visited by messengers of salvation.

Two missionaries have been sent to Canada, and two to New Brunswick. One clergyman has been sent to a fixed charge in Mauritius, three to fixed charges in Australia, and two to fixed charges in British Guiana. To supply one of these fixed charges in British Guiana, the committee recommended to her Majesty's Government the Rev. G. Harper, who some time ago received the presentation, and is now discharging the duties of his parish.

The Rev. Dr Struthers, senior minister in Demerara, has resigned his charge, and accepted the retiring allowance granted by the local Legislature. The Rev. A. D. Murray, formerly his assistant, has been appointed his successor. Miss Geddes, who, as teacher of a school in St Luke's Parish, Demerara, has rendered great services to the Church, is now in this country, having suffered severely in her health. In the hope that she may yet be enabled to return to her former sphere of duty, the committee have allowed her the sum of L. 40 for one year.

The committee are fully confident that the three clergymen recently appointed to Australia may be depended upon, so that, whatever union may be proposed among the Presbyterian bodies in that country, they will sacrifice neither their own position nor the interests of the Church of Scotland.

The committee have given grants, amounting in all to upwards of L. 1000, to clergymen whose congregations have been hitherto unable to provide suitable salaries for them.

Grants, amounting in all to L. 280, have been made during last year to aid congregations in erecting suitable places of worship.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, CANADA.—The committee are happy to report that this college is in a very prosperous condition.

AUSTRALIA.—In obedience to the deliverance of last General Assembly, the committee proceeded without delay to obtain accurate information respecting negotiations which are pending in Australia, with a view to the union of

the different Presbyterian bodies in that country.

The committee remark it would be out of place in them to enter upon the desirableness of union among the different branches of the Christian Church. They take leave, however, to say, that no union can be permanently beneficial which is not based upon a cordial agreement on all the vital doctrines of the Gospel, as well as upon those subordinate points which in more recent times have given rise to the warmest controversy. Probably, as the subject is one of great moment, the General Assembly may pronounce a special deliverance upon it, irrespective of a deliverance upon the other parts of this report.

The committee now respectfully solicit the attention of the Assembly to two points which they considered as of material importance in prosecuting the duty assigned to them:—

I. The committee humbly suggest that application be made to her Majesty's Government to appoint one additional clergyman in Ceylon, and one in British Guiana, whose duty it would be to act as missionaries among our people in the more obscure parts of these countries, and also to supply the place of any fixed clergyman, who, upon good grounds, may be obliged temporarily to leave his charge.

II. The committee suggest that application be made to the proper quarter, to the effect that chaplains belonging to the Church of Scotland be appointed at those permanent military stations where Presbyterian soldiers almost constantly reside, and where our countrymen ought to enjoy the same religious privileges as those belonging to the sister Establishment. When troops are sent abroad, it frequently occurs that Church of England chaplains are sent along with them, for the benefit of those who are in communion with that Church. Now, in such cases, it seems desirable that Church of Scotland chaplains should also be sent, provided any considerable number of Presbyterians belong to the detachment.

In reference to their finances, the committee have drawn to the extent of upwards of L. 700 upon their Reserve Fund.

In conclusion, the committee earnestly invite the co-operation of their younger brethren to engage as missionaries in the colonies, holding out the prospect of appointments to permanent charges.

J. C. FOWLER, L.L.D., *Convener*.

Dr Leishman, Glasgow, went over the principal statements in the report, and expressed much gratification that so many missionaries had been sent out during the year. As to the question of union in Australia, he thought the committee had exercised a wise discretion in saying what they did regarding it, and in proposing that the subject should be made one of mature discussion at some future meeting of the Assembly. He moved that the General Assembly approve of the report of the Colonial Committee, and express their high satisfaction at the large number of ministers sent out during last year to supply the ordinances of the Gospel in the colonies, their deep sympathy with those still unprovided for, and their resolution to prosecute the design of securing to all their colonial brethren the inestimable blessings of a Gospel ministry. Reappoint the committee, and desire the Moderator to tender the thanks of the Assembly to the Convener and the Committee for the great fidelity and zeal with which they have discharged their duties. In reference to procuring chaplains for Presbyterian soldiers,

the Assembly instruct the committee to use all diligence in carrying out their suggestions on the subject, and further considering the importance of the communication embodied in the report regarding the negotiations for union in Australia, defer their deliverance on that part of the report till a future diet of Assembly.

The Moderator, in very eloquent and appropriate terms, returned the thanks of the Assembly to Dr Fowler and the committee. He expressed regret at the absence on this occasion of the venerable founder of this mission, a man of whose immense services to this Church they should ever retain a most grateful remembrance, and who was still spared, outliving his contemporaries, to see the fruits of his labours in many a tabernacle and temple in the wilderness. He felt perfectly satisfied that had he been present, notwithstanding the difference to which allusion had been made it would have made his heart warm to hear the very interesting details given in this report. (Applause.)

TUESDAY, May 26.

The Assembly resumed to-day at twelve o'clock, the Moderator in the chair.

Principal Lee, on behalf of the committee, read a draft reply to the Queen's letter, which was approved, and his Grace the Lord High Commissioner, by request, undertook to transmit the address.

A loyal address to her Majesty on the recent birth of a princess was also read and adopted. A similar address to his Royal Highness Prince Albert was also read and approved of. The Lord High Commissioner consented to transmit these several addresses.

#### HOME MISSION.

Dr Simpson, the Convener of the Committee on this scheme, read their report.

The committee state that there has been an increase in all the sources of income of the Home Mission Scheme during the past year, and that their operations, during the same period have, under the Divine blessing, been attended with marked success, and with the most beneficial results. This announcement is the more gratifying and encouraging, that, for some years recently, they were necessitated to make a less pleasing statement.

The entire receipts for the year ending 15th April last were, (1.) Collections and contributions from 954 churches and chapels, £3649, 17s. 4d.; from parochial, congregational, and missionary associations £167, 7s. 4d.; from individuals, £454, 2s. 2d.; (2.) legacies, £124, 10s. 8d.; (3.) contribution from Lay Association, L.331, 19s.; (4.) revenue from other sources, L.242, 10s. 4d.; the income for the year being L.4970, 12s. 10d.

The expenditure during the same period was as follows:—(1.) Towards the maintenance of ordinances in fifty-eight unendowed churches, L.2173, 16s. 6d.; (2.) towards the support of missionaries at fifty-two preaching stations, L.1752, 14s. 1d.; (3.) to young men studying for the ministry, L.15; (4.) special grants to Alexandria (L.20), and South Church, Paisley, (L.5)—L.25; (5.) towards the building of three new churches, L.713 15s.; the relative expenditure amounted to L.428, 7s. 2d.; the total outgoings for the year being L.5108, 12s. 9d.; and the excess of expenditure over the revenue, L.137, 19s. 11d.

For some years past, your committee have, in their annual report, enumerated a few cases in evidence of the increase which has taken place during the past year, in the numbers