

quately recompensing, meritorious diligence. And, in the second place, the grand idea of the scheme is to reach, if possible, every case deserving of encouragement. Fewer scholarships were assigned to students of the first year than of the other years, in proportion to the number of competitors. One reason was, that so many of the first year competed. Another reason was, that scholarships beginning with the first year, and extending through all the years where students continue to do well, press heavily upon the funds, and must, on that account, be awarded more sparingly.—The students, however, of the first year, acquitted themselves excellently—and the examiners were very sorry that more of them could not be honored where honor was due. The committee did not pledge themselves in their advertisement to vote to any of the competitors the Charles Wilkie scholarship, value thirty guineas. They were glad, however, to find that they could conscientiously and cheerfully adjudge it to a student of the fifth year, who appeared to great advantage even amid able and trying rivalry. This account of the Hall examination develops the nature and working of the scheme, and the like details need not be given about the University competition, which took place last November. The number of competitors connected with all the Universities was sixty-eight. The scholarships awarded to students of the first, second, and third years respectively, amounted in value to £100, £165, £150—in all, £415. In the course of the year the committee, however, voted for scholarships nearly £700, independently of expenses otherwise and inevitably incurred.

**GAELIC STUDENTS.**—A petition was presented from the presbytery of Inverness, praying that the Synod would take into consideration the subject of the scarcity of Gaelic preachers in the Highlands. Remitted to the Mission Board, with powers.

**SUPPORT OF THE MINISTRY.**—A report was then read on the more liberal support of the ministry, from a committee appointed at last Synod. The committee suggested several resolutions, expressing the opinion, that the minimum stipend of ministers ought not, in ordinary circumstances, to be less than £150, exclusive of manse and sacramental and other expenses; and that, to secure the systematic development of the resources of congregations for the support of gospel ordinances, and more especially of the gospel ministry, it was necessary that congregations should have an average annual rate of contribution over the members, bearing a proportion to the amount of their expenditure, and that the members as a whole should make up this average rate among them in proportion to their means.

Mr. Paterson, elder, Aberdeen, moved the adoption of the report. He referred to the disparity between the incomes of commercial men and even of the ministers of the Established Church, and of the Voluntary clergymen. In the case of our national church, it had been established by law that it was impossible for a minister to live with any degree of comfort on less than £150 annually, besides manse and glebe. The ministers of the United Presbyterian Church were of equal standing, talents, and education; their wants were as numerous, but the disparity of their incomes was painfully great. In regard to the second proposal of the committee, that the congregations should provide by an annual rate for the support of the ministry, considerable diversity of opinion had been expressed, both as to the amount of the rate and the principle on which it was proposed to work out the obtaining of the minimum proposed. He strongly objected to the principle of the Free Church Sustentation scheme. The number of members in each congregation should be the basis of any calculation on the subject; and he thought that the ability of the church at large, in this respect, was universally admitted. It might be objected, why propose such a rate to scare away the members of the church? He was satisfied the result would be the very reverse; for he believed the present state of matters was occasioned not so much by want of means as of plan and will. It was not to be supposed that because ministers had the patience and fortitude to endure privations and exercise self-denial, the people were to be allowed to remain in the belief, that because things were so they should remain so. They would be ashamed to offer a medical man a salary of from £70 to £80; and certainly the duty of a pastor was equally important and not less responsible. He was persuaded that, if there were a thorough and vigorous agitation, it would lead greatly to the good of both pastors and people.

Dr. Beattie said he would like to see every minister with a stipend of not less than £150; but how were they to get it? He thought they should begin with a lower sum as the minimum; and, as they obtained clearer views on the subject, they might have the means of carrying out their views. They must appeal to the hearts and consciences of the people, and place the matter not on the ground of fractional calculations, but on the broad apostolic principle.

Mr. Robson, Lander, urged the necessity of teaching congregations their scriptural duty in this matter. The delicacy felt by ministers on the subject was a feeling unwarranted by the word of God.

Mr. Gray, elder, held there was no need to delay the matter for a year by sending it down to presbyteries to report, whether ministers have a fair stipend. The case was plain at present; and the Synod should find now that no minister should have less than £150 a year.

Mr. M'Innes proposed that, in the first instance, the minimum aimed at should be £120, and that a higher amount should not be sought till that was first obtained.

Mr. Taylor, elder, Kilmarnock, was for the Synod urging the duty of raising stipends, but not specifying any sum.

Dr. King observed, there was another view of the case which was of importance, viz., getting young men to come forward with a view to the ministry. It required, generally speaking, great self-denial for a young

man, in the middle classes of society, to devote himself to the ministry in their church. If he looked forward to the ministry, he had to attend for years at the University. The young man knew the state of the United Presbyterian Church; and he was aware that, at the end of eight or nine years, he might very likely have an income in it of £80 or £90 a year.—He knew what was the state of business in Glasgow; and that, if he omitted all this education, and all the toil connected with it, he would very likely, if he turned his thoughts to business, within a very few years or months, obtain an income as large as he would in the other case, after all his devotedness to literary and theological studies; and then the young man had the prospect before him of becoming still more prosperous by engaging in commercial pursuits. It might be said that a young man should be disinterested if he was to enter the ministry at all. But see how he was situated. His friends would perhaps endeavour to break him off from the idea of becoming a minister; and if he should say that he should be actuated by principle, they would very naturally ask if the principle was to be all on his own side, and if a sacrifice was only to be made by the minister.

Mr. Robertson, Stow, stated that the committee never imagined that, when the Synod adopted the resolution, which declared that there should be a minimum stipend fixed at £150, the congregations were immediately to come up to that. It was only an expression of the judgment of this court that that was the minimum stipend which should be arrived at, and that a minister could not well live under that sum; it must not be left to be inferred that the members of the court were in doubt as to whether the minimum stipend aimed at should be £120 or £150.

Mr. A. G. Ellis, W. S., elder, expressed his sense of the importance of this subject, and said that he did not see any good ground for entertaining a feeling of delicacy in declaring what the minimum stipend should be.—In doing so, they did not necessarily condemn any congregation which was not able to reach to that amount. He thought £150 was a very moderate allowance indeed to be fixed upon. He was afraid that the small amount of stipend which was in many instances given, arose very often from a very different cause than from inability; and that the want of knowledge on the part of their people as to their duty upon the point, often arose from the delicacy of the minister. He gave the minister credit for this feeling; and he thought that it was to the elders of the church they should look to relieve their pastor as much as possible of this delicate duty.

Dr. Robson thought that the best mode of raising the pecuniary support of the ministry, was to indoctrinate the people thoroughly with the principles of the Bible on the point. He thought the Synod ought to send down this subject to presbyteries and sessions. The elders would engage in conversation about it, and the people's minds would thereby be directed to the subject, and useful suggestions might be made. A committee shall be appointed upon the matter, and a synodical address sent down to be read from pulpits.

Dr. Robson, Dr. Beattie, and Mr. Robertson of Stow, who had each proposed somewhat similar resolutions on the subject, were requested by the Synod to withdraw, and unite in framing one resolution in their stead. On their return into court, the following was proposed and agreed to:—“That in the opinion of the Synod, it was greatly desirable that the standard for the support of the gospel ministry should be raised; and without giving a definite decision as to the matter, the sum of £150 might be indicated as that which should be ultimately attained. That a committee should be appointed to issue a synodical address and occasional papers on the subject, and to adopt such other measures as might be calculated to stimulate parties to accomplish the object in view; and meantime the deliberance of the Synod should be sent down to presbyteries, and especially sessions, instructing them with all diligence to consider the subject, and to report to said committee.”

**SUPPORT OF AGED MINISTERS.**—An overture was taken up, transmitted from the presbytery of Edinburgh, as to the desirableness of instituting a fund for the support of ministers incapacitated by age or other causes from fulfilling their duties.

Mr. Duncan, Bread Street, and Mr. Robertson, Portsburgh, from the Presbytery of Edinburgh, spoke in favor of the overture; stating that they wished the matter to be taken up deliberately, and for this purpose they asked the appointment by the Synod of a committee, to confer with the presbyteries, for the purpose of ascertaining if such a scheme could be effectually carried out.

After a short conversation, in the course of which several members warmly supported the scheme, the following motion, proposed by Mr. Sinclair, of Greenock, was unanimously agreed to:—“That the Synod approve of the object contemplated, and remit the whole matter to a committee to make enquiries as to the best scheme which can be devised for the support of aged and superannuated ministers of the church.”

**ANNUAL MISSIONARY MEETING.**—The annual missionary meeting was held, as usual, on Wednesday evening, in the Music Hall, which was filled by a very large audience. The moderator occupied the chair, and the meeting was opened with prayer by Dr. Beattie.

The Rev. Mr. Somerville (mission secretary) read the report of the operations at the various fields of missionary enterprise, in connection with the church during the past year. In regard to the home missions, eighty-nine congregations had, during the year, received aid in supplement of stipend, and grants had been given to about twenty congregations and stations. Eighty-five of the supplemented congregations, with a membership of 9105, had raised, in all, £7153. As to foreign missions, numerous details were given of the operations in progress in Canada—where