

ederunt of this day, the report on foreign missions was presented and read by Dr. Gordon, of which we give the following brief summary:—

"The report commenced by congratulating the Assembly on the adoption of the Glasgow Missionary Society and its agents labouring in California. It proceeded to refer with satisfaction to the zeal of the Church at large with regard to missions, mentioning that the general collection for the Foreign Mission Scheme had been sufficient to meet the expenses for maintaining the European missionaries, and the current expenses of the institution at the different stations including native teachers, servants, and school apparatus, were defrayed by the very liberal contributions of friends at these stations. As an evidence of the readiness with which the friends of missions at home responded to calls upon their liberality, the report referred in terms of the highest satisfaction to the scheme devised and executed by Alexander Thomson, Esq., of Banchory, for replacing the library and apparatus of which Dr. Duff had been deprived at Calcutta. The sum of upwards of £1,000, the amount thought by Dr. Duff to be necessary, was realised in a few months by this scheme. The report also gratefully acknowledged the Christian liberality of the friends of the missions in London. A large portion of the long and interesting report was of course occupied in describing the condition of the various stations. The missionaries in Africa had given their cordial acquiescence in the arrangement at home for merging the Glasgow Society in the Assembly's Foreign Missions; and they suggested the establishment of a station at the Cape of Good Hope, a station which the Committee, from information they had lately received, considered to be most promising and important, and they, therefore, recommended its occupation by the Free Church without delay. In reviewing the state of the missions in India, the Committee commenced with the last established station at Nagpur. Letters have been received from Mr. Hislop, the missionary there, as well as from Mr. Mitchell of Bombay, who accompanied him to Nagpur, and which mention the kind reception they had experienced from Major Hynch, Captain Hill, Dr. Eyre, Dr. James Henderson, and other Europeans stationed at Nagpur, or in the neighbourhood. Mr. Mitchell writes—"In speaking of our reception by Europeans, we must not forget the warm greeting of the soldiers of the 21st or North British Fusiliers, a regiment which contains upwards of 400 of the sons of Caledonia, among whom are not a few, we believe, who are truly walking with God, and all of whom welcomed the Scottish ministers with the kindest feelings of the Scottish heart. One circumstance connected with these men came upon us with delightful surprise. We had asked to see the men who bear the character of pious men, and on their earnest pleading that Mr. Hislop should be their minister, we asked whether they knew of the late doings of the Church at home, and her separation from the State? "Know it," said they, "there has been very little done at home for the last three years which we do not know." "And" said we, somewhat doubtful of what would be the reply, "which side do most of you take on the Church question?" "We are Free Churchmen to a man!" was the reply. (Loud cheers.) "Every man of us that cares for any Church is Free Church." (Hear, hear.) We were almost startled and exceedingly rejoiced by this prompt avowal from the lips of these pious humble men in the heart of India. We thought that the Church at home would be cheered by this new voice from Hindostan, so unequivocally raised in vindication of the mighty verities for which she has been called to witness and contend." As a proof of the interest which Europeans take in the object of the mission, Mr. Hislop writes that the subscription in aid of its funds among the officers amounts to about £20 a-month, and that the warm-hearted soldiers will contribute a considerable sum more. The report gave most encouraging accounts of the stations at Poonah, Bombay, and Madras. From Calcutta the otherwise cheering intelligence was chequered by the most melancholy tidings of the death of two hopeful native catechists, viz., Koitias Chunder Mookerjee, and Mahendra, the loss of both of whom was deeply felt."

On the same evening the College Report was heard, and in accordance with its recommenda-

tions, Dr. Cunningham was appointed successor to Dr. Welsh in the chair of Ecclesiastical History, and Dr. James Buchanan, successor to Dr. Cunningham, as Professor of Divinity. A minute was also adopted expressive of the feelings of the Assembly in regard to the death of Dr. Welsh; and during the next diet, on the proposal of Mr. Fox Maule, and Dr. Candlish, the Assembly recorded their approval of the attention of certain friends of the Church to institute two bursaries in the new College, of the yearly value of £200 each, and to purchase the valuable library of the deceased professor for the College, with the view of thereby establishing a permanent monument to the memory of Dr. Welsh. On Saturday the Assembly, on the motion of Mr. Sheriff Monteith, adopted a series of resolutions on the subject of the University acts, of which we make room for the first two and the last:—

"That this Church has always maintained, that in a country where the Christian religion is known and professed, the entire system of education should be based upon, and thoroughly pervaded by, the principles and the influence of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, of which ample proof was given at the period of the Reformation, in the strenuous endeavours then made to institute parish schools, and a complete system of national education, and by the efforts that have been subsequently made, both at the second Reformation and at the Revolution.

"That in particular, at the period of the Revolution, when a national system of education was re-organised, certain tests were imposed, affecting the admission of professors and teachers to the Scottish Universities and schools, not for the purpose of giving to these institutions a sectarian character, but for the purpose of declaring and protecting the religious principles and faith of almost the entire kingdom.

"That a measure having been recently introduced into Parliament for the abolition of these tests, the Assembly, while strenuously maintaining the great principle that religious truth should ever be the regulating spirit of all education, and that every practicable effort should be made to secure that all instructors of youth be men holding in sincerity and soundness the truth as it is in Jesus—resolve to give to that measure their support, so far as it is calculated to remove sectarianism from the educational institutions of the kingdom, and to prepare the way for their being placed on a more satisfactory basis, rendering them in every respect truly national."

Dr. Gordon during this diet brought forward a scheme for widows' fund,—the nature of which may be compared with the draft of a similar Institution, published in a late number of the Record:

"The principles laid down by the committee, were the following:—1st, That the contributions to the Widows' Fund shall be compulsory, and at the rate of £5, payable the 25th day of May annually. 2nd, That the entry-money shall be £10, payable in two years; that is, every member shall pay double rates for the first two years. 3d, That there shall be a marriage tax of £5, payable at the 15th May, after marriage, for all ages below forty-five; and for all ages above forty-five such tax shall be £10, whereof £5 to be payable as above, and the remainder at the 25th May next following. 4th, That there shall be a separate contribution of £2 per annum, to form a distinct fund, to be called the "Orphans' Fund," for the benefit of the bereaved children of contributors, each child receiving an annuity till eighteen years of age. Of course, the fund is designed only for those ministers and professors who are not contributors to the old established Ministers' Widows' Fund. The result of Mr. Low's calculations is:—1st, In regard to the Widows' Fund, that it will afford an annuity to each widow of £27. and 2d, In regard to the Orphans' Fund, that as an equivalent to the £2 per annum to be paid by each member, it will be safe to hold out to each child an annuity of £10, to commence on the father's death, to be increased to £15 on the death of the last surviving parent, and to cease on the child attaining the age of eighteen.

The Report on Education was given in by Dr. Cunningham, and a separate report on Sabbath Schools by Mr. Manson. In the former we can only notice the following particulars:—The subscriptions for the MacDonald School Building

Scheme, amount to upwards of £60,000, and during the first of the five years of payment the sum of £14,350 G. has been realized. The Normal Seminary at Edinburgh, continues to prosper, 630 pupils having been enrolled since September last, and 420 being in attendance at the date of the Report. It has been resolved to erect a building for the Normal School in Edinburgh, as well as at Glasgow—the estimated cost being £5000. A new set of school books is also in preparation. From Mr. Manson's Report we make the following extract:—

"Returns have this year been received from four hundred and twenty of your ministers. From these it appears that in these four hundred and twenty congregations there are nine hundred and sixteen schools, fifty thousand four hundred and seventy-two scholars, and four thousand two hundred and forty-eight teachers.

"Your sub-committee, considering that the conversion of sinners to God is the great end of Sabbath school teaching (as of every department of Christian labour), and being satisfied that there are grounds on which it may be hopefully ascertained whether a work of grace is going on in the hearts, even of young children, ventured with all humility to ask your ministers 'if they had any reason to believe that the instructions of their schools have been blessed to the conversion of any of the scholars.'

"To this query they have received many, various, and, in some cases, delightful replies.

"All your ministers who answer the query speak with caution and humility. Many of them speak of the moral benefits evidently resulting from Sabbath schools; not a few speak decidedly of the spiritual benefits resulting; and some tell us of death-beds that have furnished conclusive evidence of the blessed effects that the great Head of the Church has made to flow from Sabbath schools.

"About three hundred schools have libraries—one hundred and twenty want them; but a plan is in preparation for supplying them at a moderate cost.

The Manse Building Scheme to which Mr. Guthrie has so energetically devoted his labours for a season, will probably meet with an occasional notice of its progress in our columns. A report on this subject was given in by Mr. Paul, banker during this diet. By recent accounts this appears to have met with a most cordial reception in Glasgow and Greenock: upwards of £10,000 was subscribed towards it in Glasgow, in the course of a day or two.

On Monday, the 2nd June, the report of the College Committee was taken up, from which we gather that the number of students attending the Theological classes at Edinburgh, was about 200 in all, 170 of whom were studying with a view to the Ministry in the Free Church. At Aberdeen 21 Theological Students were in regular attendance during the session; and at St. Andrews 30 students in various stages of progress professed to be looking forward to the ministry in the Free Church. £21,000 has been contributed for the erection of the College Buildings, by 19 individuals at £1000 each, and one at £2000. Plans of this edifice have been procured, and we see by last accounts, that some progress has been made in clearing the foundation. It is also very gratifying to learn that, under the management of Mr. Hog of Newliston, 50 bursaries have been provided for deserving students in the College, amounting to £730 for four years. This well considered benefaction, was undertaken by 51 individuals, at Mr. Hog's instance, the whole matter having been transacted between the 1st and the 24th of May.—A Report on Slavery, supplementary to that presented some months before to the Commission, was given in by Dr. Candlish, and was harmoniously and unanimously adopted; various other matters were brought up during the day, but we can only mention that 37 new charges were sanctioned, and that on the report of applications for admission into the Church, by ministers of other denominations, Dr. Candlish expressed himself in the following terms:—the report containing provisions of the nature indicated by him:—

"One thing is clear, that this Church should give no countenance or encouragement to ministers who may hold the principles and views of the Free Church continuing with a congregation belonging to another denomination, for the purpose, or even in circumstances that might create suspicion, that