

past seven in the evening, and that the next General Assembly would meet at the city of Hamilton, and within Knox Church there, on the first Tuesday of June, 1872.

MEETINGS OF ASSEMBLIES AND SYNODS.

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY.—The Assembly met on the 18th of May, as usual, in the Assembly Hall, Edinburgh. After sermon by the retiring Moderator, Dr. John Wilson, of Bombay, Dr. Robert Elder, of Rothesay, was elected Moderator. Various deputations were received, and the usual reports from the different committees which have the oversight of the Assembly's work in the Home and Foreign fields were read. These reports are full of interest, and to us in Canada, that of the Colonial Committee is especially so. The income of this committee, which embraces the continental field as well, amounted to \$36,000 last year; it sent out fourteen ministers to the colonies, of whom four came to Canada, three to Cape Breton, six to New Zealand, and one to Victoria. The Churches with which this committee corresponds, are the Canada Presbyterian Church, with three hundred ministers; the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces, with about 130; the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, with the same number; the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales, with between 60 and 70; those of Tasmania, with 12 ministers; South Australia, with 14; Queensland, with 14, there being but one missionary in Western Australia; and the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand, with 80 ministers. In addition to these Churches, we find in Africa the Presbytery of Natal, consisting of 4 ministers, and 2 missionaries in Port Elizabeth and King William's Town; 3 ministers in the West Indies in Port of Spain (Trinidad,) Nassau (Bahamas,) and Belize (Honduras;) 6 in the Asiatic possessions of the British Empire, at Calcutta, Simla, Bombay, Penang, Singapore and Batavia; and five on the continent of Europe at Odessa, Gibraltar, Madeira, and Malta. The revenue of the Free Church, or the sum collected for its various schemes during the past year, amounted to over \$2,000,000. The most important business before the Assembly was the question of Union. Dr. Buchanan, of Glasgow, read the report of the Union Committee, and in connection with it delivered one of the grandest orations ever heard on the floor of the Assembly. The *Presbyterian* quotes a part of this speech, and gives the motion of Sir Henry Moncreiff as follows.

"These being substantially the views of the great majority of this Church, and it being their firm conviction that it is their sacred duty at once to the Church's Head and to the people of Scotland, to use all competent and constitutional means to carry, sooner or later, these views into effect, may I hope the brethren who oppose us will pardon me for saying, in conclusion, what I would anticipate as the inevitable consequence of the success of their opposition. Let it be supposed that, vexed and wearied and worn out by a resistance, the justice and reasonableness of which we find ourselves utterly unable to perceive, we should be driven to withdraw from the struggle, and to abandon this noble enterprise altogether. What would follow? I believe it would be this—that a vast proportion of the best and most earnest minds in the Church would thenceforth lose their interest in an institution whose whole future they would regard as, in a great measure, betrayed and destroyed; that this feeling of hopelessness would gradually creep over and paralyse all our Church's movements; that its temporal resources would dry up; that its spiritual life would decline; and that feeling more and more out of sympathy with times it had utterly failed to understand, and with an age and state of society whose great and pressing emergencies it had utterly failed to meet, it would sink into mental insignificance. (Applause.)"

"The motion proposed by Sir Henry Moncreiff was an extraordinarily moderate one. It began by expressing satisfaction at the accounts which had reached the Assembly with regard to the accepting of the common principles by the other