

are naturally desirous of advancing their own and their families' welfare. By this continued emigration to Canada, the former deficiency of religious ordinances is increasing, and more impressively forcing itself upon our notice. It is true that the smaller flocks already formed, and those beginning to be formed, will soon be able to support divine ordinances irrespective of foreign aid; but, in the meantime, considering the wide-spread settlements which they inhabit, and the comparatively small numbers often grouped together, it is absolutely necessary that the Church take them under her fostering care, and—by sending missionaries to instruct them in the way of salvation, to keep alive in their minds the salutary impressions which they received in the sanctuaries of their fatherland, to administer consolation to the afflicted and dying, and to guide the young in the paths of pleasantness and peace—prove to them and to the world that the Church in which they were baptized is imbued with the spirit of her great Lord, is anxiously watching over them, and, at whatever sacrifice, will follow them with the word and the bread of life. Of the missionaries sent to this interesting province, the Presbytery of Montreal, from its prominent and central situation, has received the greatest number; and it is satisfactory to know that the senior minister of Montreal, well known to the Church for his unswerving attachment to her constitution and principles, as well as for his zeal in every work in which the welfare of his countrymen is involved, is, along with his brethren, welcoming our missionaries, encouraging them in their labours, and affording them that counsel which his long experience in the country renders so valuable. A glance at the list of appointments will shew the other portions of Canada that have been partially overtaken—*partially overtaken*, observe, because the deficiency is still great, and the claims to our Christian sympathy paramount. Under the authority, however, of your Venerable House, and humbly looking for the blessing of God upon their deliberations, the Committee will persevere in the work confided to them, and pray, that year after year, you may share in their joy that one town and remote settlement after another is blessed with the tidings of the Gospel, and that our brethren in other lands are prospering in all things, especially that their souls are prospering, and, under the benign influence of religious ordinances, are walking with God. While Canada for the past year has thus been the province selected as that to which the operations of the Committee have been principally directed, other provinces have not been overlooked. One clergyman has been sent to British Guiana, one to Ceylon, one to Grenada, one to New Brunswick, one to Nova Scotia, one is about to proceed to the island of St. Vincent, and one to Callao in South America. These gentlemen have all been highly

recommended to the Committee, and every confidence may be entertained that they will prove able and successful preachers of the truth, as well as patterns to the flocks over which they have been ordained.

An important branch of the Committee's operations, as is well known to the Assembly, is that of aiding, by grants of money, those congregations in the Colonies who, from their isolated situation or other unfavourable causes, are unable to provide adequate stipends for their pastors. During the past year grants for this purpose have been made, amounting in all to £754, of which a detailed account will be found in the financial statement appended to the Report. Upon this subject the Committee beg to remark, that the readiness and liberality with which they thus assist by grants in aid of stipend the poorer classes of our people, is not only a Christian duty in itself, but that it is rapidly exercising an otherwise beneficial influence. More preachers of talent, and with every prospect of being honourably employed at home, seeing that their connexion with the Church of Scotland is practically kept up, and that when they enter the colonial vineyard they are not altogether abandoned to the perils, and often helplessness, which absolute dependence upon voluntary contributions so frequently produces, are applying for colonial appointments, and gladly accept of them. May the Lord put it into the hearts of many such able and pious men to aid us in this work, alike honourable and good.

Grants have also been made to assist congregations in erecting suitable places of worship, amounting in all to £409. 14s. As one of these grants (Osnabruck) is somewhat large—£150—the Committee take leave to explain the reasons that influenced them in conceding this unusual sum. The congregation were desirous, in building their place of worship, to secure two objects: *first*, that it should be of respectable exterior appearance as well as of interior comfort, adapted to the rising prosperity of their town and neighbourhood; and *second*, that instead of employing the materials of their old place of worship in the erection of the new, the old materials should be preserved, carried a distance of six miles to a spot where a considerable number of our countrymen are located, and fitted up in the meantime as a preaching station. Of this spirit the Committee highly approved; and as the people had exerted themselves to the utmost by subscribing £900 in order to secure the two objects contemplated, the Committee, in the special circumstances of the case, voted £150. Thus two places of worship will be provided entirely free of debt, and the new church be iralienably attached by its title-deeds to the Church of Scotland. May they prove a blessing to the people, and long shed light and consolation into all the dwellings around them!

[TO BE CONCLUDED.]

General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland commenced its proceedings on Thursday, 20th May.

The Lord High Commissioner (the Earl of Mansfield) held a levee in the forenoon, in the Picture Gallery, Holyrood Palace, which was numerously attended. At twelve o'clock the Lord High Commissioner proceeded in state from Holyrood to the High Church, accompanied by the Lord Provost and Magistrates, the Solicitor-General &c. The route of the procession was by the Calton Hill and North Bridge, and was lined with detachments of the Staffordshire militia, 16th lancers and royal artillery. There was a large crowd of spectators along the various streets through which the cortege passed. The Rev. Dr. Robertson, the retiring Moderator, officiated in the High Church, preaching an able sermon from Matthew xi. 5, last clause. At the conclusion of the service the Lord High Commissioner proceeded to the Assembly Hall, where, after prayer by the retiring Moderator, the Assembly was constituted and the roll called.

Dr. Robertson, after thanking the members of Court for the honour they had last year conferred upon him in calling him to the Moderator's chair, begged to propose as his successor in office the Rev. Dr. Matthew Leishman of Govan, I am sure (he said) there will be but one opinion among all to whom that gentleman is known, of the eminent qualifications which he possesses for filling the chair of the General Assembly. Dr. Leishman is a gentleman of high Christian character; he has long discharged with exemplary fidelity the onerous and important duties of the office of the ministry in a crowded suburban parish; he is intimately acquainted with the constitution of the Church, and with the forms of procedure of her various courts; he has been privileged, on more than one occasion, to render her important public services; and of my own knowledge I can say that, in humble dependence on her great Head, he is still labouring to lengthen her cords and strengthen her stakes. (Applause.)

The motion having been agreed to by acclamation, the new Moderator was called in, and took his place in the chair.

His Grace's commission, as her Majesty's representative to the General Assembly, was read and recorded. Her Majesty's letter was then read, in which expression was given to the warm interest felt by her Majesty in the deliberations of the General Assembly, and of her determination to preserve to the Church of Scotland all her ancient rights and privileges.

His Grace the Commissioner then addressed the Assembly—all the members rising. He said—Right Reverend and Right Honourable,—Her Majesty the Queen has been most graciously pleased to appoint me to be her Lord High Commissioner to this august Assembly, and I have now, in her name, to assure you of the unvarying interest which she takes in the spiritual welfare of her people, and of her firm determination to support the rights and privileges of the Church of Scotland. (Applause.) The royal gift of £2000 her Majesty has ordered me to transmit to you to be applied for the purpose of extending the principles of the reformed religion in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, in such manner as you may think fit. I have every confidence that you will conduct the important deliberations on which you are about to enter with that temper and discretion which will render them acceptable