

to the Foreign Board, we commend a perusal of their Annual Report. It presents more gratifying results than the report of any previous year."

"The statistical tables appended to the Annual Report will show what each church has done during the year, through this agency, for the conversion of the world to Christ. We hold that even the feeblest of our churches should steadily contribute to the Foreign Board, and yet it will be seen that nearly one half of those embraced within our beloved Zion, have given it no aid whatever."

From an abstract of the Eighteenth Annual Report of the Board of Publication, giving an account of the operations of the Board in purchasing, circulating and defraying the expenses of new publications, we learn that "the whole aspect of the work committed to this Board is one of progress and encouragement, such as it rejoices to be able to spread before the General Assembly, and as encourages it to new and enlarged exertions for the time to come."

The General Assembly's Church Extension Committee state that the work of the year is as follows:—

"APPLICATIONS.

The number of new applications for aid in erecting churches, received from April 1st, 1855, to April 1st, 1856, (including thirteen applications acted upon by the late Church Extension Committee of the Board of Missions, previous to the transfer of their books, papers and funds to the present Committee of the General Assembly,) is ONE HUNDRED AND FIVE. These one hundred and five new applications come from churches in the bounds of twenty-six of our thirty Synods, and fifty-three of our one hundred and forty-eight Presbyteries. The amount of aid asked for, on these one hundred and five applications, is over \$27,000.

APPROPRIATIONS.

During the year ending April 1st, 1856, appropriations have been made to seventy-one churches, to the amount of \$12,785 99. These seventy-one churches are in the bounds of twenty-one Synods and thirty-six Presbyteries. Appropriations have been paid during the year to fifty-one churches, amounting to \$8,675 99.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

The receipts of this year are \$4,510 83, or more than eighty-five per cent. in advance of the receipts of last year, and \$1,123 83 in advance of the receipts of the year ending May 1st, 1850, the largest ever reported by the Church Extension Committee of the Board of Missions.

The expenditures of the year closing April 1st 1856, were \$11,083 51, including a temporary loan of \$700 to the Church Extension Committee of the City of St. Louis, out of the contributions of the Second Presbyterian Church of St. Louis, made in accordance with the desire of that church."

Letter from the Rev. George W. Sprott to the Editor.

GREENOCK, June 4th, 1856.

MY DEAR MR. MARTIN,—

I have not written you for some time, but have not forgotten you, and not yet, as you often predicted, have I forgotten the Colonial Church. I get the Halifax Record regularly,

and I read it with great interest. I think my absence has done good in one respect: it has stirred up the country clergymen to do more in the way of literary contributions to its pages than when you had me to help you in the Editorial department. By the time you get this letter you will have had the pleasure, I trust, of welcoming two additional labourers to the Colonial vineyard, and these I hope are the predecessors of a great many more. The Church is just commencing a new Missionary year, and if I am not much mistaken she enters upon it with a large measure of zeal, and under many favourable auspices.

The mail which carries this letter will also give you accounts of the proceedings of the General Assembly, which has just now closed; and I am sure you will have much satisfaction in perusing them. I went through to Edinburgh for a few days last week, and I was greatly delighted with what I saw and heard of the Assembly. There seemed to be much less of routine and much more of life and individual independence, and a determination to get at the best ideas on every subject, than years ago when I used to attend its sittings. There seemed to me to be a large portion of young clergymen, not a few of whom were my own old college companions, whom I had not seen since I left for Halifax. The eldership very finely represented the rank, intellect and piety of the laity of the Kingdom. The Moderator presided with great dignity and propriety, and his addresses were characterised by a most christian spirit—and by ardent zeal for the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom.

There were very many pleasing features in the proceedings of the Assembly. There was not a single case of discipline, and as the Ecclesiastical Courts have been exceedingly strict of late years, this is proof that the clergy of the church throughout the length and breadth of the land are maintaining a character worthy of their sacred profession. So far from any cases of deposition occurring—one who was deposed for drunkenness several years ago, but who has since by the grace of God triumphed over this sin and become a teetotalter, applied to be restored to the office of the ministry, and though some time may elapse before he is reinstated, if he prove steadfast there is no doubt that his prayer will be granted. Three Free Church ministers were also received back to the Church.

Though there have been many appointments during the year, there was but one disputed settlement, and this in so far as it was before the Assembly, was settled in favour of the people. The different reports given in by the Conveners of the different committees were almost all of a satisfactory character; and if I mistake not, without exception, there is an increase on the contribution to all the schemes. The Endowment Scheme especially is in a most flourishing condition, and this is the foundation of all the others.

Dr. Robertson the indefatigable Convener of that scheme, announced that the contributions to it during the past year amounted to £44,000 and upwards; and what is better he spoke of kingly spirits rising up all around him in the Church, who were devoting themselves heart and soul to this and other good works. I was present at the discussion on the Colonial report, in which you no doubt feel the deepest interest.

A clause in it relative to Australia gave rise to some conversation on the subject of Presbyterian union in the Colonies. Several members spoke strongly against the sin of

perpetuating the schisms of this country abroad, and declared that they would rejoice to see one united Scotch Church throughout the Colonial world. Others urged the propriety of speaking with caution on the subject, till the terms of the proposed union in Victoria should be fully known, as from the newspaper report they seemed to be dishonourable to the Church and unfaithful to the confession. It was referred to the committee to make full enquiries during the ensuing year and to report to next Assembly.

The Venerable Principal McFarlan who has been so long connected with this committee, on account of his age and infirmities, insisted upon withdrawing from it, and in very feeling terms bade the General Assembly a long and last farewell. He was thanked most kindly and feelingly for his long services, and as he insisted upon it, his resignation as Convener was accepted. As it is of the utmost consequence that a suitable successor should be appointed, I am sure you will be delighted to hear that Dr. Fowler, of Ratho, who paid you a visit as one of the second deputation and who knows the ground, has been selected. This augurs well for the Colonies, and as the Committee have plenty of money and men are waiting for appointments, I think I may venture to predict that this will be a year of unprecedented prosperity to the Colonial Church.

When in Edinburgh I found that one or two of the Students whom I got to agree to go out were licensed and up for appointments, and that the others would soon follow. Only let our good church people in the North American Colonies hold on for a little longer, and they will get an abundant supply of ministers of the church they love. I think it would not be a bad plan if the different Synods in B. N. America would send an Agent over to help the Convener: by beating up for a few months he would get twenty or thirty ministers and probationers without much difficulty. I hope your different Synods this summer will help on the idea of our General Assembly. I feel confident that if you were thus united—though you should form at first but a gigantic skeleton—it would lead to a great increase of interest in your affairs in this country and young ministers would be much more readily attracted. I almost was forgetting to tell you that your own laborious services in behalf of the Church were noticed in a most flattering manner, in the General Assembly, by Dr. Fowler, who moved the adoption of the report.

I wrote to him to-day on the subject of the Gaelic deputation, about which I have written several letters already. I hope the new committee will decide upon sending one, unless Gaelic preachers sufficient come forward. I have written in the strongest possible manner on the subject. If you do not get the deputation and if Gaelic preachers sufficient do not come forward, I think you ought to try and get McKenzie, (son of Mr. McKenzie, formerly of Wallace,) who, I am told, promises to be a remarkably good Gaelic preacher, early in the field. I think Mr. McKenzie's son who is licensed and whom I saw in Edinburgh, will go out in the boat after the next, but he does not speak Gaelic. A Mr. Lochhead has also been appointed but I have not met him. I have now my note book before me in which I have the names I got last winter at the Universities and I trust none of them will fail. If they are all forthcoming you will do very well for both English and Gaelic, and the hearts of our people throughout the Lower Provinces will be rejoiced.