

of the report, which was second by Mr Campbell Swinton (elder.)

Dr Bissett rose to make a few remarks in reference to the report, but they were very impatiently listened to, and at one point interrupted. Ultimately, after some remarks by Admiral Sir William Hope Johnston, the report was unanimously approved of.

EXTRACTS FROM MODERATOR'S CLOSING ADDRESS.

It gives me unfeigned delight to remind you of the full, satisfactory, and encouraging reports which we have received from the conveners of the several committees which conduct and carry on the great missionary and educational schemes of our Church. And although formal votes of thanks from the chair have ceased to be communicated, and, as I venture to think, judiciously so, as the practice tended to lengthen out unduly our seditious, which the urgent necessities of indispensable business render sufficiently fatiguing; yet I may assure these committees and their conveners that, although the form is dropped the Assembly, and the Church at large, do not less gratefully appreciate the importance and value of their services. (Applause.)—The demands made upon the time of the conveners and their acting committees, the attendance required, the mass of correspondence to be conducted, the zeal, tempered with discretion and prudence, necessary to be exercised for the successful conduct of our schemes, are sometimes not sufficiently recognized. An infallible wisdom does not belong to these committees: but it is neither wise nor generous to subject them to a jealous suspicion, or severely to reprimand casual errors of management. On the contrary, they merit the cordial and steadfast encouragement and support of all the office-bearers and friends of the Church. (Applause.)

It must necessarily be a characteristic feature in every true Church of Christ, that she earnestly sets herself to the high duty of extending the influence of Christ's Gospel.—The duty, no doubt, may exhibit its claims for immediate adoption more urgently in one direction than in another. The British Churches may seem to have been slow of recognizing their duty in reference to the perishing heathen; but to have a Christian interest awakened into active exertion in behalf of idolatrous nations, knowledge and information regarding their condition are required. This is necessary to create sympathy and to bestir to action. How little was generally known of our great Indian empire some sixty years ago; the means scarcely then existed of originating and cherishing in the minds of the Christians of these lands the inspiring conviction that duty to their Divine Lord summoned them to navigate the sea—to erect in the distant East the Saviour's Cross, and to pour the light of His gospel in upon the subtle Eastern mind, which lay degraded and

bewildered under the incumbrances of cruel idolatries and many-coloured superstitions, and thus to raise it to the knowledge and worship of the one true and living God, and of Him whom the great Father of all sent to redeem the nations. The same train of remark might be extended and used in reference to our colonial possessions. Sixty years ago, these were few, their population small, their commercial importance insignificant, our knowledge of their religious wants imperfect, and accordingly little active Christian sympathy was felt, or perhaps could justly be expected to be felt in their favour. When our fathers who preceded us, are accused of callous indifference—of an utter deadness and insensibility to the momentous behest to preach the Gospel to all nations, laid on His servants by the Saviour on the eve of His ascension, I cannot help thinking the charge somewhat unfair. It seems to me to proceed on a misapprehension of the historical position which our forefathers occupied, on a forgetfulness or misrepresentation of the circumstances in which they were placed, and of the immediate influences to which they were subjected. It is easy to say that no circumstances should paralyze and deaden our high sense of duty to spread abroad the Gospel of Jesus, and that this never can be, without involving in guilt the parties so influenced, and laying them open to a charge of disloyalty to their great Lord. (Applause.) This is most true. But before deadness is argued from as a premise, it might be just to ascertain that spiritual life had become absolutely extinct, or whether only it was manifesting itself in a direction which we have not perceived. Each age in Christ's Church may have a call to some especial duty, as individual Christians may have a precise field indicated for their peculiar cultivation. Andrew first found his own brother, and brought him to the Lord. The Eleven were to preach the Gospel to every creature, but they were to begin at Jerusalem. And when the Jews turned a deaf ear to the invitation, the Apostle proclaimed his resolve to enter on another field, "Lo, we turn to the Gentiles." Who can doubt that Paul was tutored and trained into meekness for his high function as Apostle of the Gentiles, by his travels in heathen lands, and by personal observation of heathen superstition? In a vision of the night, he saw a man of Macedonia, and his appeal was "Come over and help us." The Lord thus seeming to indicate that his servant required the stimulating aid of personal observation. Who shall question that the overflowing idolatry of Athens—the very eye of Greece—and over which the glory of an exquisite literature yet shed departing rays of light, but light enough only to enable her wisest sons to inscribe the altar to the unknown God, who shall question that the scoffing sneers of the inquisitive sarans of Mars Hill, and the childish credulity of the simple islanders of Melita, alike contri-