

expense of administering justice in this country, a very eminent lawyer, now on the Bench, in giving evidence on this subject, strenuously and successfully contended that, to maintain a judge in the position in which he ought to occupy, £2500 a-year could not be considered too much for the ordinary judges, and £4000 for one and £3000 for another. Now he (Dr. Lee) did not pretend that a minister was as important a man as a judge, or that he ought to be remunerated so highly, but he did think, with submission, that perhaps ten ministers were of as much value to the community as one judge, and he did not think that the Court of Teinds would hold that the salary of one of their number would be thrown away upon, or would be an extravagant provision for a whole Presbytery of ten or twelve men. (Laughter.)

ABBAY CHURCH (PAISLEY) CASE.

The particulars of this case have appeared in our pages. The Assembly, after hearing parties, dismissed the complaint and appeal, affirmed the overture of the Presbytery, sustained the call to the Rev. Mr. Wilson, of Falkland, and instructed the Presbytery to take all necessary steps for his induction with all convenient speed.

FRIDAY, MAY 28.

The House assembled at 12 noon, the Moderator in the Chair.

THEOLOGICAL DISCUSSIONS BY COUNSEL.

Sir JOHN HERON MAXWELL, Bart., of Sprinkell, suggested that some arrangements really should be made regarding the discussion of Theological Subjects at the bar of the House. Three years ago he had suggested that these subjects could be more conveniently remitted to a committee, and discussed there; and he begged to recal the attention of the House to the subject now in order that something might be done.

LATE HOURS.

Sir JOHN HERON MAXWELL also referred to the late hours at which matters involving the important interests of individuals were usually brought on at the evening soderunts of the House.

Dr. PRIE also complained that men should be brought forward to try cases that involved points of the utmost difficulty; that ministers should be deposed, and degraded, and their families and interests subjected to the most severe injuries in the middle of the night when few members were present.

Principal LEE characterised it as obstinacy in the Assembly that they persisted in postponing to the evening diet these important cases. By the ancient rules of the Church every question affecting the personal character of a minister of the Church was required to be taken-up first. There was not only a great convenience in this, but there was great propriety. He had often urged its observance, but in vain. These matters were invariably left to be debated when few members could be got to attend the House; and, he might also remark, when it was crowded with a great number of persons who had no right to be present. He moved that a Committee be appointed with a view to take into consideration the regulation of business at the evening sederunt.

Dr. PRIE seconded the motion.

The House agreed to the appointment of a small committee to consider those matters.

PAISLEY CASE.

The Assembly appointed the Presbytery of Cupar to meet on Friday next to take steps towards the translation of the Rev. Mr. Wilson to the first charge of Paisley Abbey parish.

MINISTERS' WIDOWS' FUND.

Dr. GRANT brought forward the Report on the state of that Fund as at 2d November last; and claimed a portion of the kind attention of the

House for the benefit of a Scheme connected with those that were nearest and dearest to its members, and which, ever since it had been founded, the Assembly had regarded as of importance. He was happy to state that the Fund was now in such a position that its management had become very much a matter of routine. The Capital Stock and Supplementary Fund now amounted to £230,000; the annual income to £16,000, the greater part of it being the interest of capital, and the produce of vacant stipends, and of a tax upon the incomes of Clergy, &c. The whole charge amounted to £13,000, including donations to children, a matter which varied very much. It appeared that during the year in question an addition had been made to the Capital Stock of £2000, and they had dealt with this under existing circumstances as a surplus. The Capital Stock, being invested in heritable security, leads to no considerable fluctuation, and is consistent with that degree of security which they find essential. On the subject of the obligations upon contributors, and the benefits accruing to children, he found misconceptions to prevail: and the Trustees would draw-up a short statement, which would be printed in a form convenient for circulation. In conclusion the Rev. Dr. expressed the interest he and the other Trustees continued to take in the Fund, and the effectual zeal with which they hope to be able to continue its management. For himself, however inferior he might be to the venerable fathers by whom he had been preceded, he yielded to none in the sense he entertained of the responsibility and delicacy of the position which he occupied. The interest of the Fund must not be sacrificed; but he endeavoured to exercise forbearance in all cases in which forbearance seemed specially called for, as it did, in the circumstances of many. Yet he assured the House, that any measure of forbearance, in which he indulged, should be consistent with his duty, although it might be found that in the austerity of Collector he had not forgotten the interests of the parent.

The Venerable the MODERATOR conveyed the thanks of the General Assembly, as he had been instructed to do on their part, to the Rev. gentleman for the prudence and zeal with which he had managed the Fund, everything pertaining to which they must regard as a matter relating to the bounties of God's providence. Any suspicion regarding it would be most poisonous to their domestic feelings; but nothing like suspicion could attach to it whilst in the Rev. Doctor's hands.

ORPHANS' FUND.

Dr. PAULL, of Tullynessle, read the Report of the Committee on the Supplementary Orphans' Fund, which, he was not without hope, the House would receive with favour. £1500 had been the sum appointed to be realised by the Assembly in accordance with their own resolution, before the Orphans' Fund could come into immediate operation. As far as this was concerned, he had been disappointed. The number of subscribers last year had been only 23; but the Convener had received information to justify the belief that a considerable addition would be made in a short time. £10 had been given by John M'Fie, Esq., in his capacity of an elder; and he (Dr. Paull) tendered his thanks for the warm interest he had uniformly taken in the Scheme. He also mentioned the Synods of Glasgow and Ayr, of Angus and Mearns, Fife, Moray, Aberdeen, and Kinross, as examples to other Synods, for the readiness with which their members had come forward with assistance. The following was the state of the Fund:—

1. Capital Sum,.....	£1307 17 0
2. Donations and Subscriptions,	33 0 0
3. Expenses,	31 0 0
4. Interest,.....	27 0 0
	£1398 17 0

It could be seen that their Capital reached to nearly within £100 of what they had been

required by the General Assembly to secure as an adequate capital for carrying the Scheme into operation. And, whilst he deeply sympathised with every feeling which the Assembly might express in favour of wide and extended schemes of benevolence, he was entitled to claim from the members a small share of feeling in support of a scheme referring to the orphan families of Clergymen, and which presented such true grounds for benevolence. The object of the Fund was to furnish aid, not as a matter of charity, but as a matter of right, secured by a single contribution of £1 ls. to the children of each minister of the Church of Scotland. A second munificent donation by an elder was regarded as no gross deviation from the principles adopted at the foundation of the Scheme, although it was not an eleemosynary and would not, in his opinion, be considered so even if they were to receive the assistance of the eldership.

The MODERATOR formally conveyed the thanks of the Assembly to Dr. Paull.

CASE OF KINTYRE.

Dr. SIMPSON read the libel against Mr. Maclean, Minister of Campbeltown, which charged him with repeated acts of intoxication, as also with falsehood, fraud, and wilful imposition, and with celebrating Divine worship while in a state of intoxication.

Mr. CAMPBELL, of Kilbride, intimated that Mr. Maclean had fallen from the appeal taken by him to the General Assembly.

Dr. HILL rose and said it was a melancholy fact that in the instance before the Assembly the acts of intemperance, of which this unhappy individual had been guilty, had been very numerous, showing that he had been in a manner lost to all sense of propriety of conduct, and all religious and moral principles. In these circumstances there was but one course for the Assembly to pursue. He had only, therefore, with a deep feeling of the solemnity of the proceeding, and with an earnest desire that both himself and his brethren in the Ministry might profit by the new example now before them, to move as the finding of the Assembly—"That Mr. Maclean cannot continue a minister of this Church, but must be deposed from the office of the Holy Ministry.

Dr. PRIE seconded the motion.

The Rev. Dr. MUIR, of Glasgow, engaged in prayer, and the Moderator in a very impressive manner formally deposed Mr. Maclean from the office of the Ministry.

THE ENDOWMENT SCHEME.

The Rev. Dr. ROBERTSON submitted the Report of the Endowment Committee, of which the following are the principal passages:—

During the past year a considerable increase has been made to our usual amount of revenue. Many district meetings have been got-up at the instance of your Committee during the last few years, some of which have been productive of the happiest results, while others, for aught we know to the contrary, continue, down to the present hour, wholly destitute of benefit. Where success has attended our efforts, we claim not the merit of that success either for ourselves, or even for the able coadjutors by whom, on many occasions at least, we had the high privilege to be assisted, but solely and exclusively for the cause of which they and we were the humble advocates. But this remark we wish to make with emphasis, and we respectfully crave for it the attentive consideration of the Venerable Assembly, that, while it is undoubtedly true that some of our meetings have failed of their object, we are not aware of so much as a single instance in which such failure has taken place, where a meeting, held by us, was followed up by well organised and energetic local exertions for its improvement. We state the fact, simply for its own importance; and we think it will not be easy to exaggerate that importance. If it be, as we firmly believe it to be, a fact founded in truth, there is obvious-