

amount. £1,180 had been given in aid, and a number of congregations had raised an increased amount for themselves. The Committee was re-appointed, and a collection be ordered to be made in March next.—The Synod took up an overture from the Presbytery of Lancashire respecting missionary operations and Church extension in England, stating that they had instituted a Board for these purposes in connection with the Presbytery, and praying the Synod to transfer to their care the weak congregations and stations in the district at present under the charge of the Home Mission Committee. The Rev. R. Selkirk Scott, of Manchester (formerly assistant to Sir W. Hamilton), said there were, in Manchester and the adjacent townships, about 200,000 persons, many of them Scotchmen, who went to no place of worship; that there was room for additional Churches; that the Free Church had five churches in Manchester, and four in Liverpool, while the U. P. Church had only two in the former, and one in the latter; that the sum annually raised in the Presbytery for the Synod's Home Missions had been about £130; that the newly instituted Board had raised £500 in two months, and pledged itself to raise £2000 in two years; and that he had no doubt that should the Synod sanction their procedure, they would rear a number of new congregations, and send as much money as formerly for the schemes of the Church. Mr. S. Stitt, elder, Birkenhead, said that "they proposed to purchase an iron church capable of containing 400 people. The cost of this iron church would be £420, and it would be an exceedingly comfortable place of worship. They proposed to plant it in some locality where they had the prospect of success, and to use it for the purpose of getting parties gathered into it, who, they hoped, would in the end erect a permanent place of worship. They would then transfer the iron church to some other place; and an expense of £20 was all that was required for taking it down, and transporting it to some other place. This was a perfectly practicable plan, and they were decided upon its adoption. The Synod would lose nothing in a pecuniary sense, by agreeing to the request contained in the overture from the Presbytery of Lancashire. The promoters of it were satisfied that if Presbyterianism were properly worked, and adapted, without any abandonment of its chief features and principles, to the mind of England, it would progress extensively in that country; and for all the reasons that had been stated, he fervently trusted that the prayer of the overture would be granted." The Synod cordially approved of the overture, and fully sanctioned the Lancashire Board.—The Rev. Dr. John Brown introduced the subject of the General Union for Prayer, and said:—"The members of this Court were already aware that a number of ministers and members of the various evangelical churches in England, Scotland, and Ireland had already entered into an engagement among themselves, and had presented a proposal for united prayer amongst Christian brethren. This proposal, which he believed was in the hands of a number of the members of the Court, was in the course of pretty general circulation. It had been brought under the notice of many of the principal religious May meetings in London, and had met with very general and warm acceptance from good ministers and good men of all denominations. The proposal originated in this, that the peculiar circumstances of the world and of this country, viewed in the light of Scripture, seemed to be giving forth a very loud call for Christians to apply to Him who alone could bring order out of confusion, and good out of evil, and it was proposed that there should be an understanding or agreement for special prayer on specific subjects over a considerable period—say 12 months. The duty of confession of their individual sins, their sins as families, their sins as Churches, their sins as a nation enjoying peculiar privileges and chargeable with corresponding guilt was enforced; and the need there was for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in these circumstances urged. After quoting from the circular on the subject, the Rev. Doctor said that the committee which had been appointed to superintend the circulation of information in connection with this matter were particularly desirous of the favourable notice of the Synod, being fully persuaded that a recommendation, however general, from a body so influential, would be greatly useful, both within its own pale and without it, in inducing Christians to take part in what they considered a very important work, bearing directly upon the highest of all objects—the glory of God and the best interests of mankind. He thought this was one of the very best kinds of Christian alliance. It was good men operating as one body—separated by place, but still coming together as one body,