

widely circulated, setting forth the numerical strength and the effective working force of the Church, from which we make the following brief extracts:—

"At the time of the Secession of 1843, the number of ministers in charges in the Church was 1203. Of these, 451 seceded. The number of parish ministers who seceded was 289; the remaining 162 being ministers of chapels of ease, or unendowed churches, who had been declared by the Court of Session to possess no right to seats in the Church Courts. The number of ministers who did not secede in 1843 was 752, of whom 635 were parish ministers, and 117 ministers of chapels of ease."

"By the Act of Parliament of 1874, abolishing Church Patronage, and giving to congregations the right to elect their ministers, the Church was brought back to the position it occupied at the Revolution Settlement in 1690, which had been infringed by the Act of Queen Anne. The Abolition of Patronage has in no way weakened the connection between the Church of Scotland and the State. It has done no injustice to Dissenters; it removed what was in their estimation a grievance, against which, so long as they continued members of the Church they protested."

"Since 1845 the members and friends of the Church, by their freewill offerings, have erected and endowed 312 new Parishes, each having an endowment of at least £120 per annum, besides in many cases a Manse. The value of these fabrics and endowments exceeds £2,000,000.

"The number of endowed Parishes is now 1276, of non-parochial Churches, 156, and of Preaching and Mission Stations, 120. The number of communicants in 1878 was found to be 515,000—an increase in five years of 55,000. Since 1845, 312 new Parishes have been created at an expense of \$10,000,000. The receipts for Home Missions in 1880 were, \$77,900; for Foreign Missions, \$98,145; for Jewish Missions, \$25,120; and the total for Congregational, Charitable, and Missionary Purposes, about \$1,599,235.

IRELAND.—The General Assembly held its annual meeting in Belfast in the beginning of June. Dr. W. F. Stevenson, the retiring moderator, preached an admirable sermon on the subject of Missions, of which he himself is now the foremost advocate in Britain. The Rev. T. Y. Killen, of Belfast, was elected moderator for the current year. The subject of instrumental music was again discussed at great length and with intense keenness. The Rev. H. B. Wilson, of Cookstown, spoke ably for two hours in support of the overtures, asking that liberty be accorded to congregations in this behalf. But the amendment, supported by Messrs. Petticrew and J. M. Rodgers, both of Derry, against the "innovation," carried the day. At the close of an exciting debate the vote stood: for the amendment, 360; contrary, 345. The majority, narrowed down to fifteen, after years of agitation, can scarcely be called a victory: it is rather a sign and presage that the tide is about to turn, and that the time is soon coming when the superabundance of oratory bestowed on this *vxata questio*

may be more profitably employed in other channels. It is not a little singular that the elders voted two to one for the amendment. Of the ministers, 247 voted for liberty, and 161 for the amendment. The report on Colonial missions, given in by Dr. Wilson, of Limerick, was of a very hopeful and satisfactory kind. "Owing to the necessities and the noble mission work of the Canadian Church, the Board increased by a small amount its grants to the Presbyterian Church in Canada." Besides giving \$500 to Manitoba College, they had divided \$2,250 betwixt the Home missions and the work of French evangelization in Canada. But far beyond the intrinsic value of their grants of money, were the hearty expressions of sympathy with our missionary work in the great North-West. The Home and Foreign mission work of the Irish Church was fully discussed, and abundant evidence given that both are being prosecuted vigorously. The moderator submitted the report on the Sustentation Fund in a speech of great weight and force. Rev. James Cargin, of Derry, made an admirable speech on Systematic Beneficence. A deputation from the Free Church, consisting of ex-Moderator Dr. Laughton, Revd. David Guthrie, and Bailie Dickson, were well received. The addresses of Messrs. Brown and Swanson, missionaries from India and China, respectively, added greatly to the interest of the meeting. Emigration is telling upon the membership of the Church. Since 1874, there has been a decrease of some seven or eight thousand members. But, on the other hand, there has been a considerable increase in the funds of the Church, and in the stipends of the ministers. The Commutation Fund, which grew out of the surrender of the *Regium Donum* at the time of the disestablishment, amounts now to nearly \$3,000,000. There are twenty ministers in this Church who have been over fifty years in the ministry. The oldest is the Revd. S. McCurdy, of Stewartstown, who was ordained in 1817. It is proposed to build a handsome Assembly Hall in Belfast, and Dr. Knox is sanguine that it will be completed in time to receive within its walls the next General Presbyterian Council, which is appointed to meet in Belfast in June 1884.

WE NOTICE some important changes in the personnel of the Committees of the Scotch Churches. Dr. Archibald Scott, of St. George's, Edinburgh, has been appointed Convener of the Foreign Mission Committee of the Established Church *vice* Dr. Herdman, resigned. Colonel A. G. Young succeeds the late Dr. Main in the Convenership of the similar Committee of the Free Church; and the Rev. J. C. Burns, of Kirkliston, takes the Convenership of the Colonial Committee of the Free Church in the room of Rev. Robert G. Balfour, resigned.