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The Presbyterian.

A MISSIONARY AND RELIGIOUS RECORD
OF THE



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

CONDUCTED BY A COMMITTEE OF THE LAY ASSOCIATION.

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No. 8, August, 1855.

VOLUME VIII.

Price 2s. 6d. per annum.

The Presbyterian.

TO SUBSCRIBERS IN ARREAR.

We shall avail ourselves of the permission, accorded by the new postal regulations, and enclose with our September issue accounts to all such subscribers as are in arrear. We trust they will receive prompt attention.

DESECRATION OF THE SABBATH BY RAILWAY EXCURSIONS.—We noticed with feelings of pain and regret, in our City papers an advertisement in prominent type from the Grand Trunk Railway Company, inviting our citizens to participate in a desecration of the Sabbath. "In order that those, whose occupations prevent them from leaving their employment during the week, may have an opportunity of recruiting their health and enjoying a trip into the country," is the language of this rationalistic intimation of the running of "a special train," to accommodate those who, allured by the invitation of this great Company, shall choose to forget "the assembling of themselves together" for the worship of their Maker, Preserver and Judge. We deeply regret that such an example should be set by the officials of a Company with whose interests those of our Province are so inti-

mately associated. We fear it is but the forerunner of a systematic neglect of the Sabbath, and we therefore record our decided protest against such improper conduct. It must be borne in mind that the Province has a large stake in the Company, that its means are largely engaged in it, and that at its Board of Directors the Executive of Canada is represented. The matter then becomes much more important, it assumes a national aspect, and the country becomes responsible for the act of the Company. We trust that the exponents of public opinion will record their dissatisfaction with such breaches of the Sabbath, while we are confident that the mass of our people will, if need be, unite in urgent remonstrances to the Executive Government against the continuance of such breaches of the command "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy."

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

With the present number we commence the insertion of a somewhat full Report of the proceedings of this venerable Body, which we have carefully condensed from the *Edinburgh Post*. We conceive that the space thus allotted will not be grudged by our readers, for we believe it to be important that they should be furnished with the means of familiarizing themselves with

the working of the Parent Church. In these proceedings there is abundant evidence of active progress and energetic action on the part of the Parent Church. We pray that the blessing of the Great Head of the Church may continue to abide with her, and that she may long continue to prove an honoured instrument for the spread of the "Truth as it is in Jesus" to the nations of the World.

CHURCH IN CANADA.

MINISTERS' WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

CONGREGATIONAL COLLECTIONS.

Markham, per Rev. J. Gordon,.....	£3	8	9
Scarboro', per Rev. J. Bain,.....	4	13	0
Wawanosh, per Rev. J. Stuart,.....	1	10	0
Smith's Falls, per Rev. Sol. Mylne, ..	1	10	0
Montreal, 30th July, 1855.			
JOHN GREENSHIELDS, <i>Treasurer</i>			

SYNOD OF CANADA JEWISH MISSION OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

Amount formerly noticed,.....	£38	12	6
Perth, St. Andrew's Church, per Rev. Mr. Bain,.....	16	2	11
North Dorchester, per Rev. Mr. McEwan,.....	1	0	0
Kingston, June, 1855.			
JOHN MOWAT, <i>Treasurer</i>			

LONDON CHURCH CASE.

The Rev. Dr. Skinner begs to refer the Clerks of Presbyteries and the Ministers of Churches to the recommendation of the Synod on the above case, to remind them that the compromise may fall to the ground if no collections are forwarded to him from churches and friends before the 25th Augt., and to solicit that those who have resolved to aid the Church, will transmit their contributions as early as is consistent with their convenience.

London, C. W., 3rd August, 1855.

THE FRENCH MISSION.

We trust that the Report of the progress made in the working of their Mission during the past year, (an abstract of which was contained in our last month's Supplement) received the attentive consideration of our readers. The Protestants of Canada have a deep interest in this matter. Even if they were not so closely associated with the French Canadian people, in consequence of the union of the Provinces their path of duty would be plain. But, as it is, for their own sake they may not say, "Am I my brother's keeper?" We fully believe this enterprise of our Church to be a vitally important one, and trust that it will receive such a large and cordial measure of support as may enable the Committee to extend its operations. Especially we hope that they may see their way also to assuming the responsibility of securing the services of a minister from Europe of standing, ability, and, above all, earnest piety. We are firmly persuaded that, if they take this step, they will be warmly sustained. We would suggest that, in making their inquiries for the man best suited for so important a position, it would be well for them to have in view, besides the French and Genevan Churches, the Waldensian Synod. It may be that out of that long tried, struggling Church, but which is now happily extending its borders, the Committee might obtain a suitable minister. But, wherever the application be made, we are convinced that the suggestion of the Committee is a deeply important one, and we hope that it may be carried into effect. The period fixed by the Synod for taking up this collection is past, but we trust that ministers will select a suitable day for urging its claims upon the Christian sympathies of their flocks.

MINISTERIAL FITNESS AND SUCCESS FROM GOD ALONE.

A Discourse preached by Rev. Professor Williamson, L. L. D., Moderator, at the opening of the Synod on the 30th May, 1855, in St. Andrew's Church, Montreal.

1 CORINTH. III. 7. "So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth, but God that giveth the increase."

An unhopeful spirit, and the undue depreciation and disparagement of the means

and prospects of the nation, or of the Church, or of their own fitness, for the performance of particular duties, by individuals who really have been endowed with those qualifications which they disclaim, are doubtless wrong in themselves, and unfavourable to the pursuit and attainment of any important end. But these are errors which are less frequently to be met with; and against these, therefore, it is less necessary to guard. The prevailing tendency is rather to indulge in an altogether opposite temper. Scarcely any disposition is more ominous of disastrous results to those by whom it is displayed than a spirit of self-exaltation and boasting, whether in nations, or in Churches, or in individuals; and yet scarcely any is more common. The panegyric of the nation is pronounced in strains of glowing eloquence,—the wide extent of its dominions, the excellencies of its constitution, the greatness of its resources, the might of its army and navy, and the skill of their commanders, are celebrated; but God is seldom acknowledged as the only source of its glory, and shield of its renown. The Scriptural nature of the government and standards of the Church, its past trials and labours, and its outward securities and advantages, are dwelt upon with admiring eulogium; its ministers and people are disposed to place much dependence on their own abilities and efforts; but God is too seldom duly recognized as the only fountain of the prosperity both of the Church as a body, and of its members.

That men should look to the power of their own communities or organizations, or to themselves and their own efforts mainly for success in any undertaking, and not to the all-guiding providence and grace of God, is one of the most striking proofs of that ungodliness to which the heart of the natural man is prone. Boasting and self-confidence are evils of the most fatal kind in states, in Churches, and in individuals. But they are peculiarly so in ministers, whose work is so unspeakably momentous, and who in their various duties, both as regards themselves and their flocks, have so many difficulties to encounter, so altogether beyond any mere human might or wisdom to overcome. In this work the ability and success are wholly from God. This is the great lesson taught by the Apostle in our text, a lesson addressed alike to ministers and to their hearers, whom also he sought to turn away from glorying in man. This it was which was impressed on his own heart when he says in the 6th verse, "I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase," and which he here seeks to impress on the minds of all in the words before us, "So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth, but God that giveth the increase."

Though these words were primarily addressed to all those to whom the Apostle wrote, it is evident that the declaration

which they contain more immediately relates to the ministers of the Church, and in this view mainly we now propose to consider them. The conclusion which they state is, in other words, this,—that God is the great and only author of all ministerial qualification and success. It is implied, in the first place, when it is said, "Neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth," that the qualifications of ministers for their work are only from God and, in the second place, in the words, "but God that giveth the increase," that their success is from Him alone.

1. Suffer me then, my Brethren, to remind you, in the first place, that *the qualifications of ministers for their work are only from God*. Consider on the one hand your high and holy calling, and on the other what is required for its right discharge, that you may better see from the vantage-ground of such contemplations that your sufficiency must be from Him alone.

The office of the ministry may well be termed the highest and most important which man can occupy. As ministers of the Gospel, you are in a peculiar sense the servants of God, to whom has been committed His message of peace and reconciliation, which, ordinarily speaking, can be made known and received only through the special means of the preaching of the Word, for "how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard, and how shall they hear without a preacher?" and you are the ambassadors of Christ, who sends you forth to proclaim in His name to men the Gospel of His salvation, and to beseech them in Christ's stead not to receive it in vain. Your office is, in an especial manner, no less than that of fellow-workers with the Father and with the Son. Your work was a part of the work of the Saviour Himself upon the Earth, and was thus for ever consecrated and honoured, and has, whether under a former dispensation, or under the brighter and fuller manifestation of the Gospel, been the work of Prophets and Apostles, and men of God in every age. Your office is not only thus in the highest degree honourable from the Divine commission by which it has been constituted, and those by whom it has been exercised. It is also, of all others, the most important in its own nature. While other employments regard mainly the body and the temporal welfare of man, yours has for its object the soul, the nobler part of his being, and his only real happiness both here and hereafter. Your work is to instruct the ignorant, to awaken the careless, to bring the sinner to repentance, to speak peace to the weary and heavy-laden spirit, to direct and console the afflicted, to watch over the lambs of the flock with peculiar care, to build-up the people of God in holiness and in comfort through faith unto salvation, and with affectionate and unwearied care to train them up and lead them on to Heaven.

While, however, yours is the highest and most momentous office which can be entrusted to men in the ordinary ranks of life, it is obviously at the same time the most difficult and responsible. It requires your best efforts for its right discharge. It requires of you, first and above all, to have the faith and godliness of the Gospel in your own hearts; what you preach to others to preach also to yourselves, and to practise for yourselves; and, while you call upon others to follow Christ, first to follow Him for yourselves. It requires of you to study and be deeply imbued with the spirit of the Word of God, in which your instructions for the mission on which you have been sent are contained,—of that Gospel which it is yours to endeavour to carry home to the hearts and consciences of your hearers. It requires of you to teach, according to Apostolic example, both publicly and from house to house, and to be concerned that every sermon which you deliver bear throughout upon the edification of your people. It requires of you to cultivate in yourselves all the graces, the uprightness, the kindness, the holiness, the truthfulness, and the order of the Divine life, that others also, beholding the light of your Christian example, may be led to glorify your Father who is in Heaven. And it requires that your intercourse with the people among whom you have been appointed to minister be marked by an unassuming deportment, by mingled firmness and gentleness, and patient and unremitting effort, so far as in you lies, for the welfare of each and of all.

In the view of such considerations well may we exclaim, "Who is sufficient for these things?" These are duties which no mere man will of himself perform. They who do not feel their own insufficiency can have no real sense of the high honour and responsibility and momentous objects and duties of the ministerial office, and no saving knowledge of themselves or of the Gospel. The saving knowledge of the Gospel would have taught them not only that all their faculties both of soul and of body, but their own experience of its repentance, peace, consolation, watchfulness and steadfastness in works of faith and labours of love are all from God alone. And the knowledge of themselves would have taught them their own ungodliness and vileness, the folly of their own wisdom, and the nothingness of their own strength. Were you indeed required to look for your sufficiency for your work to yourselves, you would have every reason to be dismayed and overwhelmed by the difficulties of the undertaking in which you are engaged; but your sufficiency is and can be only of God. And the very feeling of the depth of your own utter need will lead you, in the exercise of faith in the power and willingness of Him with whom nothing is impossible, to earnest and persevering supplication; and whatsoever necessary grace you thus ask you shall re-

ceive. You will be thus directed in every service of your Master to which you may be called, you will be strengthened and upheld by the God of your salvation, He will illuminate your understandings in the knowledge of Divine Truth, and touch your spirits with the living fire from His holy altar, and thus you will be enabled with heads full of light, and hearts full of love, to discharge the various duties incumbent on you to the benefit of your own souls and the profit of your people, and at last receive the gracious approval and reward of good and faithful servants of the Lord.

2. The words of our text teach us, in the second place, that *the success of ministers is from God alone*. The necessity of the blessing of heaven on the labours of the husbandman, causing them to yield their joyous return, is more palpable to the natural sense; and dependence upon it, therefore, is in such a case more generally felt and acknowledged. In the successful cultivation of the spiritual soil the Divine agency is less seen, and, therefore, its necessity is less generally and habitually recognized. But it is, if possible, more necessary in this case than in any other. The husbandman requires to employ means of various kinds for the tillage of his fields, and among others, in more parched and southern climes, not only the planting of the seed but the watering of the soil; but God alone makes the seed to grow, and renders it fruitful, and crowns the year with plenty. And so the diligent labour of the minister in the fulfilment of his duties is indispensable, and cannot in any measure be neglected without loss. *One may be more useful in converting the sinner, and another in the edification of the Christian, but all their usefulness is from God.* However laborious their endeavours may be, the blessing comes only from Him, and He alone makes them effectual. We have read and heard of ministers whom we should be disposed to deem among the most faithful in the service of Christ, and whose names are still cherished by the Church as such, whose efforts yet seem to have been attended with comparatively little effect among those for whose spiritual welfare they toiled. Doubtless much good, unperceived by man, may have nevertheless been done by them, the seeds of which were only lying dormant for a season, yet more decided and abundant fruits of their labours might have been expected. Doubtless also their want of success may have been in a greater or less degree a punishment of the sins of their people, and not so much attributable to any failure in pastoral prayerfulness and diligence. It may, however, at the same time have been in some measure owing to that tendency to self-dependence, and that fainting in prayer to God to bless their exertions, to which even good men are sometimes apt to give way. And, if this may be the case in some degree even with faithful ministers, how certainly will failure follow

the efforts of those who, practically at least, rely mainly on themselves in the work of winning souls to Christ, on their own talents, learning and industry, on their own powers of eloquence and persuasion, by the words which man's wisdom teacheth, and their exactness in the performance of the routine of duty, and not in the effectual working of God's grace. Men may be versed in all the literature and knowledge of their profession, valuable as instruments though these things be, and may speak with the tongues of men and of angels; but, so long as in the pride of their heart they cast not down every high thought and every lofty imagination, and seek not unto God for the blessing, they will be neither faithful nor successful ministers. They virtually forget that the Word which they preach is made effectual only by the demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that the Spirit of God is the great agent in the work of the repentance, faith and holiness of their people, and that without His blessing on their studies and their efforts, and His saving operations on the hearts of their hearers, all else will be of little or no avail, and they can look only for the most bitter disappointment. This, it is to be feared, is a not uncommon though a most fatal error, withering every energy, and blasting every hope. Is it not to be apprehended that much of the barrenness and ill success which attend the exertions of ministers arises from a presumptuous self-confidence, and a want of implicit dependence on that Mighty Power by which alone they can be saved themselves and made useful in the salvation of others?

Did success depend on yourselves, my Brethren, the conversion even of a single soul might well be regarded as altogether hopeless and impossible. You have no reason, however, to faint or be discouraged. The cause which you plead is the cause of God; and, going forth in reliance on His promised Spirit, you will have His blessing on your endeavours. You will have the blessing of your Heavenly Master, who while upon the earth called by His grace sinners unto Himself, whose parting promise to those, whom He sends forth to make known among all nations the glad tidings of the way of salvation from sin and woe, is, that He will be with them in the fulfilment of this charge "always, even unto the end of the world," and who will give efficiency to your faithful and prayerful efforts in His service.

What then, my Brethren, are the conclusions with reference to the duties of both ministers and people, which we ought to draw from the consideration of the passage before us?

Plainly, in the first place, as all ministerial qualifications and success are only from God, and His grace is to be obtained only in the exercise of fervent and believing supplication, that you ought to be men of prayer. This is absolutely necessary for your own sakes. It is no less neces-

sary for your fitness for your work, and the salvation of the souls of your people. For thus not only will you be enabled for yourselves to walk in righteousness and peace before Him in whose favour is life, but you will be earnest in your petitions at the Throne of Him who is the Author of every spiritual blessing, whose Spirit alone can renew and sanctify those to whom you minister, and whose all-directing and overruling providence waits to be gracious to His Church and people.

The consideration of our text further teaches us that ministers ought to trust in God only, and live near to Him in habitual dependence and prayer for all those heavenly gifts and operations of His grace which are necessary for the right and profitable discharge of their sacred office. Divine grace, sincerely sought, alone can qualify you for a charge so pregnant in bearings on the immortal interests of your fellow-men, as it did the Disciples when the Holy Ghost fell on them on the day of Pentecost, and Peter said, "Therefore, being at the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, He hath shed forth that which ye now see and hear." You know that the same Spirit alone opens the understandings and hearts of your flock to receive the Truth in the love of it, awakens them to repentance, increases their faith, makes His grace sufficient for them, and moulds them to obedience and submission to God's will. We know that the grace of God is as necessary to enlighten, purify and strengthen for His service, and to quicken dead souls to life, as it was to lay the foundations of our salvation in the redemption that is in Christ. And yet how often is its necessity little borne in mind and are our supplications cold and unfrequent for this inestimable benefit. What else can we expect but little of His converting and sanctifying grace when it is thus seldom thought of and seldom sought? No, my Brethren, we may be assured that, if we do not own and honour Him as the only source of all strength and prosperity in the ministerial work, we shall incur His heaviest displeasure; and it will be a better and brighter day for our Church when we live and act more under this abiding impression.

The consideration of the passage before us further furnishes, as has been already adverted to, a lesson of encouragement to ministers in working out their own salvation, and being instrumental in that of others, with fear and trembling, seeing that, while you thus labour, God worketh in you both to will and to do. The real obstacles to the accomplishment of the objects of your mission are indeed formidable, and insurmountable by the natural man, and other things may appear to be difficulties to the slothful and fainting heart, but there are none which His Almighty grace is not able to overcome, and, if you in faith and patience use the appointed means. He will

give the increase. He will array you in His heavenly armour. With Him even the pebble from the brook will be enough to lay low the most mighty of your spiritual adversaries, the walls and strongholds of Sin and Satan will fall before you, and in their stead the spiritual temple of living stones will be built-up on that chief Corner-stone which God hath laid in Zion.

What abundant ground for trust and consolation to know that the very ends for which you labour are the objects of Christ's loving solicitude, and the Father's guardian care. Bring not in your own utter insufficiency your suit to the Saviour, distrustful of His power and grace, lest you expose yourselves to that rebuke which He addressed to the Disciples at the Sea of Galilee: "Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?" When Israel bemoaned himself and said, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my judgement is passed over from my God," he was thus reproved, "Hast thou not known, hast thou not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the Earth, fainteth not, neither is weary. There is no searching of His understanding: He giveth power to the faint, and to them that have no might He increaseth strength." We may depend too much on ourselves, but there is a no less sinful despondency and distrust. We may droop and grow languid under a sense of our own weakness rather than trust in the Divine promise. But look out of yourselves to the redeeming love and omnipotent grace of Him whose ambassadors ye are. Plead with Him amid all the sore bereavements and trials of the Church in the spirit of the prophet when he poured forth the cry unto Him, saying, "Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the Lord, awake as in the ancient of days, as in the generations of old. Art Thou not it that hath dried up the sea, the waters of the great deep; that hath made the depths of the sea a way for the ransomed to pass over?" Draw instruction and encouragement from the wonders of His might and mercy in the days that are past, and learn more and more for yourselves, in His fear and love, to put your confidence in Him. His arm is not shortened that it cannot save, neither is His ear heavy that it cannot hear. So shall you, though you may sow in tears, reap in joy. And "he that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall come again with rejoicing bringing his sheaves with him."

Lastly, all approach to boasting or self-glorying on the part of ministers, as if their usefulness came not from God alone, is excluded by the passage in our text. Even the great Apostle of the Gentiles says of himself, "We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." All your sufficiency, my brethren, from first to last, whatever of His renewing grace and strength you have experienced in your own heart, and whatever comfort you are

permitted to enjoy in having ground to conclude that the work of the Lord is in any measure prospering in your hands, is from God; and therefore to Him be all the gratitude and praise. Let this be the reigning desire of your souls. "Not unto us, not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory, for Thy Son's and Thy people's sake," and him that thus humbleth himself He will exalt, while he that exalteth himself shall surely be abased."

In conclusion, our text, while it expresses the sentiments and spirit in which ministers ought to act, conveys important lessons of instruction to the congregations and people to whom they minister. They are not to glory in the intellectual powers, the eloquence, or learning of their ministers, and thus tend to puff them up with the vain wind of mere popular applause, and infuse into them a false taste for those things as in any measure their chief aim, which are only subordinate to the great ends of their office, but to regard mainly their qualifications for and their usefulness in the work of the salvation of souls, for this their sufficiency shows their calling to be indeed of God, and is the result of the operation of His grace. Nor are you, my hearers, who have this day met together, along with the office-bearers of the Church, in the House of God, while you respect and esteem your ministers, to pride yourselves upon your possession of them, or to say, like the Corinthians, "I am of Paul, and I of Apollos?" "Is Christ divided? Who is Paul, and who Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?" Seeing that God is the only source of all their gifts and usefulness, look to Him in all, and give all the glory to Him, lest He, in His wise and righteous providence, cause you to feel your entire dependence on Him for these privileges which you enjoy by removing from you those whom you have been too prone to idolize. What is from God only can never be a reason for glorying in man, but the very reverse. And, as all their fitness for their work is from Him alone, you ought rather to make it your fervent petition on their behalf that His enriching grace may descend on them and on their labours. You ought to hold up their arms in their prayers and cares for you, by your supplications for them and for your own souls, and where there are thus praying pastors and praying people, there God will command the blessing, even life for evermore. You ought to cheer their hearts and strengthen their hands, and seek to have knit together more closely the ties of mutual consideration and affection, by giving them reason to cherish the conviction that they have your prayers and your sympathies, and cordially co-operating with them in the employment of all the means for promoting your own spiritual welfare, and that of others. Be concerned, that there be not in yourselves, or in your demeanour towards them, anything which may inter-

cept from you the Divine blessing on their endeavours, and so the Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified both in them, and in you, and ye will be their joy and their crown.

THE CHURCH IN THE LOWER PROVINCES.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, DALHOUSIE.

The Presbytery of Miramichi met in St. John's Church, Dalhousie, on the 10th of May last for the induction of the Rev. Alex. Forbes in the Pastoral charge of that congregation. The Rev. James Murray, Minister of St. Luke's Church, Bathurst, presided and preached an excellent and appropriate sermon from Luke xiv. 22; "And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room." He then put the usual questions to the Rev. Mr. Forbes, and, having received satisfactory answers thereto, he admitted him as minister of St. John's Church, Dalhousie, and briefly addressed the Minister and Congregation on their respective duties.

There was a good Congregation present, and at the dismissal of the Congregation the Rev. Mr. Forbes received a hearty welcome from those over whom he was placed in the Lord. *Halifax Monthly Record for July.*

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, NEW GLASGOW.

On Sabbath, the 13th May, a collection was taken in St. Andrew's Church, New Glasgow, in aid of the British and Foreign Bible Society. The amount £8 3s. 6d. was handed over to the Treasurer.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed to the same congregation on Sabbath, 24th June. The services were conducted, as usual, in English and Gaelic—and, although this ordinance was also dispensed in St. Andrew's Church, Pictou, on the same day, yet there were on this occasion more than the ordinary number of Communicants. The Sacrament being dispensed in two places on the same day, there were only two clergymen at New Glasgow: Rev. Mr. Pollok, Minister of the Parish, conducted the English services with much solemnity and ability, while Rev. Mr. McLean, Minister of Gairloch and Salt Springs, conducted those of the Gaelic with equal efficiency and acceptance. It was truly pleasing to observe the orderly and Christian-like conduct maintained by both congregations throughout the whole time. *Ibid.*

ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH, HALIFAX.

The General Annual Meeting of this Congregation was held in the Church, Hollis Street, on Monday, 11th June, in accordance with the Act of Incorporation.

The Honble. James McNab, Moderator, presided.

Wm. Murdoch, Esq., Chairman of the Trustees, submitted the Annual Report to the Congregation, with the Secretary's and Treasurer's Accounts for the year, with Auditor's Report,—all of which were highly satisfactory, and the Report was unanimously adopted by the Meeting.

The Session Poor Fund account was likewise submitted and the Treasurer's account of the Library Fund in connection with the church, from which we gleaned that there was nearly £40 expended in Charity by the Session, collected in the Church during the year, besides the quarterly collections for the poor and Library; £11 9s. 6d. for Queen's College, Canada; £30 for Colonial Committee Fund in Edinburgh; and £13 2s. 6d. for the Ladies' District Visiting Society, in connection with St. Matthew's. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

HON. JAMES McNAB, *Moderator*,
WM. MURDOCH, Esq., *Chairman*.
WM. SCOTT,
JOHN MUNRO,
D. MURRAY,
DAVID FALCONER,
NICHOLAS VASS,
GEORGE DRILLIO,
JOHN WATT, *Treasurer*.
A. W. SCOTT, *Secretary*.

Trustees.

Ibid.

SYNOD OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND IN NOVA SCOTIA.

This, the highest of our Ecclesiastical Judicatories, met this day, as indicted, for the despatch of business. The place of meeting is St. Matthew's Church in this city. The Rev. Alexander McGillivray, minister of McLennan's Mountain, Pictou County, the Moderator, delivered to an audience, composed of the members of Court and a respectable attendance of the laity, an edifying and appropriate discourse from Mark iii. 14. "And He ordained twelve that they should be with Him and that He might send them forth to preach." Immediately after Divine Service the Moderator constituted the meeting by prayer and declared the Synod open for the despatch of business. The Clerk, the Rev. W. Snodgrass, produced the Roll of Ministers, being members of Presbyteries within the bounds of the Synod, which having been called and the Elders present having produced their commissions from their respective sessions, the following took their places as Members of Court, viz. Rev. A. McGillivray, Rev. A. W. Herdman, Rev. A. Pollok, Rev. A. McLean, Rev. A. McKay, Rev. W. Snodgrass, Rev. J. Martin, Rev. J. Scott, and Rev. G. W. Sprout; Dr. Avery, Messrs. Little and McKenzie, Elders.

Mr. McGillivray's term of office as Moderator having expired, the Synod engaged in the election of a successor. The Rev. John Martin, of St. Andrew's Church in this city, was proposed by the Clerk. Several members briefly expressed their approbation, and Mr. Martin was unanimously chosen to act as Moderator for the ensuing year. We may find space in our next number for the address delivered by Mr. Martin on taking the Chair. A vote of thanks was unanimously passed and tendered by the Moderator, in appropriate terms, to the Rev. Alexander McGillivray for the urbane and courteous conduct he had uniformly manifested to the members of Synod while occupying the Moderator's Chair, and also for the excellent sermon he had this day delivered. Mr. McGillivray suitably replied to this acknowledgement of his services. While going to press, the Synod was engaged in the appointment of the usual committees. *Ibid.*

We extract the following from the *British Colonist of Halifax*, July 17th.

ADDRESS TO THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR.

On Monday, the 9th instant, a Deputation from the Synod of Nova Scotia in connection with the Church of Scotland, consisting of the Rev. John Martin, Moderator; Rev. William Snodgrass, Synod Clerk; Rev. Alexander McKid, Moderator of the Synod of Canada; Rev. Doctor Mathieson, of Montreal, Rev. John Scott, Rev. Allan Pollock, Rev. George W. Sprout, Rev. Alexander McKay, and Doctor Avery, accompanied by the Honorable James McNab, Honorable Alexander Keith, and William Murdoch, Esquire, waited upon His Excellency SIR GASPARD LEMARCHANT, the Lieutenant Governor of the Province, with the following Address to which his Excellency was pleased to return the subjoined Reply.

To His Excellency Major General Sir J. GASPARD LEMARCHANT, Knight and Knight Commander of the Order of St. Ferdinand, and of Charles the Third of Spain, Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief in and over

Her Majesty's Province of Nova Scotia, and its Dependencies, Chancellor of the same, &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

We, her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia, in Synod convened, as the Representatives of this Colony of a National Church recognized in, and pledged to uphold, the British Constitution, beg to approach Your Excellency with the expression of a devoted attachment to our Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria, of our sympathy with Her in the present great conflict in which Her fleets and armies are engaged, and of our profound respect for Your Excellency as Her Representative.

In this New World, in which our lot is cast, it is our constant aim to inculcate among those of whom we have the oversight those principles of sound religion and morality which, maintained from early times by our Parent Church in Scotland, have been mainly instrumental in moulding a people distinguished for their industry and respect of order, their reverence towards God, and their loyalty to their earthly Sovereign.

We rejoice that, in the good providence of God, the precious privileges of the British Constitution are so largely enjoyed by us in this Colony, and it is our constant prayer that they may be handed down unimpaired to the latest posterity.

While we have witnessed with deep satisfaction the temporal prosperity that has prevailed in this Colony during your Excellency's administration of the Government, we have noticed with thankfulness your Excellency's public recognition of Almighty God as the Source of every blessing, as the Ruler and Governor among the nations, by the appointment of days of thanksgiving for His mercies, and of humiliation on account of our sins.

It is our earnest prayer that God may smile on all your efforts for the welfare of those over whom you exercise authority, and that He may bless you in your person, your family, and your Government.

In the name, and by appointment, of the Synod of Nova Scotia in connexion with the Church of Scotland,

JOHN MARTIN, *Moderator*.
WILLIAM SNODGRASS, *Clerk*.

Halifax, 7th July, 1855.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S REPLY.

Reverend Gentlemen, and Gentlemen,

I receive with pleasure this expression of your loyalty to the Queen, and of your sympathy with the sufferings occasioned by the severe conflict in which Her Majesty's fleets and armies are engaged.

For the kind sentiments expressed towards my family and myself, and for the warm interest which you have evinced in the success of my administration, I beg you to accept my grateful acknowledgements.

Those moral and religious principles which, inculcated by your Church, have induced habits of industry, love of order, reverence for the Deity and loyalty to the Queen, in Scotland, cannot fail, when disseminated and fostered by its Representatives here, to produce corresponding results in Nova Scotia.

It is very pleasing to me to perceive your just appreciation of the blessings of the British Constitution, and I am convinced that no effort will be wanting on your part to ensure their transmission unimpaired to the latest posterity.

In adverting to the temporal prosperity of this Province, which has happily been co incident with my government, you have been pleased to allude with approval to my recognition of Almighty God as the Source of every blessing.

If my earnest endeavours to promote the welfare of the people over whom I have the honor and the happiness to preside shall be attended with any measure of success, I trust I shall not fail to ascribe that result to the sacred influence to which you have referred, whilst in the future prosecution of my public labours I shall rely with confidence upon the support of your spiritual ministrations.

J. GASPARD LEMARCHANT.

HALIFAX, 9th July, 1855

GEORGETOWN, P. E. ISLAND.

It must always be a subject of deep regret to the friends of the Church of Scotland that so many of those localities throughout these Colonies, in which her Ministers were at one time established and where her cause seemed once so prosperous, should now be in a great measure lost to her communion. Many a district could we point to, more especially in the Lower Colonies, where under proper and judicious management the Church of our forefathers might in these days have occupied a prominent position, and indeed held undisputed sway, where she now enjoys but a bare existence. Not by any means that we should feel disposed to reckon Georgetown among the number: for we know that we have still many staunch friends in that quarter, whom no consideration would induce to forsake us. But we are led to these somewhat unpleasant reflections by the perusal of a communication which we have received from the Rev. George Harper, who having, as we mentioned in a former number of the Record, accepted of a call from the people of Wallace and Pugwash, has only been able to spend a few weeks among our friends at the east end of Prince Edward Island. We sincerely regret that, having been called to labour in another corner of the Vineyard, Mr. Harper has been unable to make a longer stay among them. But let them not despair; better days, we trust, are in store for them as for others of our destitute Congregations. Slowly but surely are the ranks of our Colonial Clergy increasing. Every year sees fresh accessions to our numbers; and it is indeed highly gratifying to think that we are entering upon times when the Church of Scotland seems to be girding herself for her great work in such a manner as she never did before. With her Divinity Halls crowded with able, zealous and enthusiastic students, every year sees a greatly increased number of licentiates sent forth to proclaim the glad tidings; and, if it be said that of late comparatively few have reached these shores, the answer is easy—it is only because her borders are enlarging and her influence extending on every hand. Australia, calling across the wide waste of waters from the far south, implores the aid of our Committee to send more labourers among her scattered and benighted population, India stretching forth her hands imploringly and almost despairingly for help, while the other Colonies of North America, with anxiety equal to our own, are expecting their assistance. These are certainly very encouraging prospects. Meantime, let us earnestly pray that in the "good time coming" all our waste places may yet be supplied, and our Scottish Judah possess at length a name and a place in every corner of the land.

In conclusion, we have only to add that we trust Mr. Harper, having now had an opportunity of estimating the capabilities of the congregation of Georgetown, will lose no time in bringing their still destitute condition under the notice of the Colonial Committee; and it is our earnest wish that the result will be the speedy appointment of a Missionary for the district.

THE CHURCH IN THE COLONIES.

AUSTRALIA.

The Colonial Committee have now received a communication from the Rev. William Purves, the Delegate who was sometime ago sent to this country by the Synod of Australia for the purpose of obtaining ministers to supply the spiritual destitution existing in many parts of the Colony; and with whose assistance the Committee were enabled to send out 7 ministers to Australia, previous to the last General Assembly.

In reference to these appointments, Mr. Purves in his letter expresses his conviction that, on taking a calm and extended view of all the transactions and events connected with his mission to this country, and the introduction of the ministers sent out by the Committee into the Colonial field, the result, so far as it has yet been seen, is such

as every friend of the Church, both here and in the Colony, must see reason to rejoice in. Every thing has not gone just as could have been wished; but, considering the number of interests that were concerned, and the varied feelings and views of so many different persons, as well as the comparative magnitude of the undertaking itself, the success which, in the good providence of God, has attended the efforts made, is as great as could have been reasonably expected.

We have great pleasure in inserting the sub-joined account of the reception of Mr. Purves in the Synod of New South Wales after his return from this country. It is taken from the printed minutes of the meeting of Synod held on 26th October, 1854.

The Rev. Wm. Purves, who was sent by the Synod as their Delegate to the Church of Scotland in 1852, with a view to procure additional ministers for the Colony, and to advocate the general interests of the Colonial Church in the Mother Country, gave a detailed and very interesting account of his mission, mentioning the various steps which had been taken by him in connection with the Colonial Committee of the General Assembly, and the valuable assistance which he had received from that venerable body, who took the warmest interest in the prosperity of our Church, and most cordially co-operated with our Delegate in carrying out the instructions of the Synod.

The Synod, having heard with great satisfaction the statement of the Rev. Wm. Purves on the subject of his late mission to Great Britain, which, by the blessing of God, had been so eminently crowned with success, unanimously resolved to record their deep sense of gratitude to Almighty God for having graciously preserved their brother during his absence; for having strengthened and sustained him in his arduous undertaking, and restored him in health and in safety to the sphere of his former labours, after the successful termination of his mission, from which the most beneficial results might be anticipated. The Synod unanimously expressed their entire satisfaction and approval of Mr. Purves's conduct, and of the skill and prudence which he had displayed in the management of the delicate and important business which had been entrusted to him, and resolved to record their grateful acknowledgement of the eminent services rendered by their Delegate to the Colonial Church. The Moderator was then instructed to convey to Mr. Purves the cordial thanks of the Synod, which was accordingly done.

CHURCH IN SCOTLAND.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

[Abridged from the *Edinb. Evening Post*.]

The Annual Meeting of the Supreme Court of the National Church having been appointed to take place on the 24th May, the Rt. Hon. Lord Belhaven, Her Majesty's Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly, arrived in Edinburgh on Tuesday, and took up his residence in Holyrood Palace. On Wednesday evening, at 6 o'clock, His Grace was presented with the keys of the City by the Lord Provost, who was accompanied by the Magistrates and other civic functionaries, and attended by the usual retinue. The ceremony of presentation, which was gone through in the usual form, took place in the Picture Gallery of the Palace. His Grace afterwards gave the official dinner, which was attended by the civic deputation.

His Grace held his first levee in Holyrood Palace on Thursday morning.

The presentations were more than usually numerous.

The levee terminated about a quarter before 12 o'clock, at which hour his Grace left the Palace, and went in procession to St. Giles's Church, attended by a large number of the gentlemen who had been present at the levee, the officers in garrison, city dignitaries, and other officials.

A guard of honour from the 82d Regiment, the depot of which is in garrison here, were drawn up in front of the High Church, where the Commissioner arrived a few minutes after 12 o'clock. His Grace was immediately conducted to the Royal seat, accompanied by the gentlemen of his suite, by the Solicitor-General, and Sheriff Gordon. The Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Council occupied the official seats. The area was thronged by Members of Assembly and by a miscellaneous audience. An able discourse was preached by the retiring Moderator, Dr. Grant, of St. Mary's, who chose for his text, Matth. xix. 28, "Jesus saith unto them, Verily, I say unto you, ye that have followed Me, in the regeneration, when the Son of Man shall sit in the throne of His glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

OPENING OF ASSEMBLY.

At the conclusion of the service his Grace proceeded to the Assembly Hall, where a guard of honour from the 92d was also stationed, and immediately took his seat on the Throne.

The Assembly having been duly constituted by the retiring Moderator engaging in prayer, the Roll of Members was called over, and the House proceeded to the

ELECTION OF A MODERATOR.

Dr. GRANT rose and said—My fathers and brethren, it is now my duty to quit this Chair, and it is your duty and privilege to select a fit and proper person to succeed me, and to preside over your deliberations. It has been usual for the retiring Moderator to take the opportunity, before quitting the Chair, to thank his brethren for the kindness which had placed him there; and I assure you such an acknowledgement could not be rendered by any one with more lively gratitude than it is now by me, and with a deeper sense of the imperfect manner in which he had discharged the duties of his office, or with a more full conviction that, in preferring him to it, his brethren and friends had been guided by undue partiality. From the bottom of my heart I thank you for the honour—the highest you have to bestow,—and the recollection of which I shall fondly cherish to my dying day. It is not usual for the person occupying this Chair to take any part in the deliberations or discussions of the Assembly, but practice has sanctioned him in nominating a successor in his Chair for the approbation of the House, especially when it is expected that the election will be a unanimous one. I have no reason to doubt that that will be the character of this election, and I feel assured that I but anticipate the expression of your own wishes when I name the Rev. Dr. Andrew Bell, of Linlithgow. I know that, while to many others besides myself he is bound by the ties of personal friendship and affection, he is more or less known to you all as a minister now of long experience, of high Christian character and standing in the Church, of eminent abilities, great knowledge of Church business—one who has for many years discharged with singular faithfulness the duties of his parochial cure, and who, in this and other Church

Courts, has been peculiarly distinguished at once by ability and by sound judgement and discretion, and Christian meekness.

Principal LEE seconded the nomination, and bore his testimony to the high qualifications for the Moderator's Chair possessed by Dr. Bell.

Dr. Bell was then introduced to the Assembly, and took his seat in the Moderator's Chair amid the applause of the House.

Her Majesty's Commission, appointing Lord Belhaven as Her Representative to the Assembly, was then presented and read. The Royal letter was also presented, in which Her Majesty intimated Her "resolution to maintain the Church of Scotland in the possession of its ancient rights and privileges," and expressed Her hope that the Assembly would participate in Her feeling of sympathy for the suffering that had been occasioned by the War, and in her earnest desire that the sacrifices which Her people had so cheerfully made might be the means, under God's providence, of obtaining an honourable and lasting peace.

The letter was ordered to be recorded in the Minutes of Assembly.

The LORD HIGH COMMISSIONER then addressed the Assembly. He said: Right Reverend and Right Honourable, Her Majesty has again done me the honour to appoint me as Her Representative to the General Assembly, and has commanded me to express to you the perfect satisfaction with which her Majesty sanctions this meeting of our National Church. Her Majesty has at the same time commanded me to present to you the usual Royal gift of £2000. It is to be employed by you in such manner as you shall think best for promoting the moral and religious instruction of Her people in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Right Reverend and Right Honourable, I feel assured that all your deliberations on this occasion, as well as on former ones, will be conducted with that moderation and true Christian charity which is so essential to promote the great interests that are committed to your spiritual care. I have only further to state that I shall be most happy to do anything in my power to add to your comfort during the sittings of the General Assembly. (Applause.)

The Moderator then addressed the Commissioner in acknowledgement of the Royal gift, but his remarks were almost inaudible at the reporters' seat.

A Committee was then appointed to draw up an answer to the Royal letter.

THE WAR—ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY.

Dr. GRANT said—The House has now appointed a Committee to answer the Queen's letter, but it has been usual, in addition to this, when the country was placed in circumstances of difficulty or danger, to transmit a separate address to the Throne. That duty the last Assembly performed; but, notwithstanding of the wish we were then fain to cherish, we find ourselves still engaged in a bloody war with an enemy of great power and resources, as well as great bravery and unbounded ambition; and it seems in the circumstances proper that we should again transmit to the Throne the expression of our devoted loyalty and attachment or sympathy with our beloved Queen in the present state of the nation over which she rules, and of our earnest trust that the contest, begun, as we believe, for ends of which God may approve, may be speedily brought to a successful issue, and the blessings of a lasting peace

again be secured. War, though it may be overruled for a good end, is essentially evil and afflictive in its character. We devoutly believe it to be one of the means by which a righteous God chastises the nations, and in the course of this war events have occurred that are sufficiently painful and impressive. It is not merely that our national resources have been crippled, and our national industry interrupted, but an enormous sacrifice of human life has been incurred, which has occasioned deep regret among all, while it has brought bitterness to many a heart and sore bereavement into many a family. Many have fallen a prey to the devouring sword; disease and pestilence have slain their thousands; we have been to a certain extent baffled in our designs, and either to the continuance or extent of the war no one may yet presume to set a limit. We are suffering largely under national judgements, which may be occasioned by national boasting and self-reliance, and forgetfulness of God. And yet with all this there are circumstances well fitted to comfort our hearts and to cheer our despondency. We have not yet been driven to carry on a strictly defensive war. The battles that have been fought were far removed from our gates; our soil has not been polluted by the foeman's tread; our hearths and altars have not yet been threatened by the invading foe, and in one respect the fondest and proudest anticipations of the country have been fully realized, the days of English chivalry and Scottish endurance are not yet gone, our fleets and armies are yet composed of gallant and devoted men, loyal to their Queen, and true to their country, patient and enduring, counting not their lives dear to them in the cause of duty, facing undauntedly out-numbering hosts, and knowing not what it was to turn around and flee. (Great applause.) Let us trust that these are tokens for good; let us hope that, through the Divine blessing, the dark and murky cloud that now lowers over us may ere long turn round to us its white and fleecy lining, and that He in whose hands are the issues of war, as are all human affairs, will deign yet to smile on our national efforts, and soon crown them with the decisive triumph of victory. (Applause.) I beg to move that the General Assembly, taking into consideration the present state of the nation, and particularly the war in which the country is still engaged, resolve to present to the Queen a loyal and dutiful address with reference to the same.

Dr. PAULL, of Tullynessle, seconded the motion.

Dr. BISSET, of Bourtrie, referring to the answer to be given to the Royal letter, hoped that it would contain some allusion to circumstances which were hostile to the Church, and that it would not merely be framed in the style and echoing the language of the Royal letter.

Dr. AITON, of Dolphinton, suggested that a special diet of worship on account of the War should be held on the following day.

The motion of Dr. Grant was then agreed to, and a Committee was appointed to draw up an address to her Majesty.

AGENT OF THE CHURCH.

Principal LEE adverted to the loss which the Church had sustained by the death of the late Mr. William Young, who since 1837 had faithfully discharged, in the most satisfactory manner, the duties of his office as Agent of the Church. The Rev. Principal pronounced

an eloquent panegyric on the many virtues which adorned the character of the deceased in all the relations of life; and bore testimony to the great ability with which he conducted the business committed to him. He then detailed the procedure which was adopted by the General Assembly at the time the situation was last filled up, and mentioned that a Committee was appointed to inquire into the duties of the office, the fees that ought to be paid, and all the other matters relating to the conducting of the business, it being understood that the candidates would be subject to whatever regulations the Assembly might adopt.

Dr. ROBERTSON expressed his cordial concurrence in all that had been said as to the many qualities of the late Mr. Young; but he at the same time thought that, just in consequence of the manner of that lamented gentleman's appointment, unpleasant collisions had occurred from time to time of late years in the working of the Committees in regard to what were or what were not the privileges of the Agent. He believed a feeling of this kind was pretty general among the members of Assembly. They ought to know generally what appertained to the office of Agent, and this was the more necessary when they looked to the operations of the Church of late years. He referred to the number of the Schemes belonging to the General Assembly, and the complicated questions which sometimes arose in connection with these Schemes; and in reference to which it would become a question when the Secretary to the Schemes should perform certain duties, or when it might become necessary for the prosecution of the object of the Schemes to commit the business specially into the hands of the Agent. Dr. R. then referred to an office which had fallen into desuetude for several years, viz: that of an Agent in London. The business of that agent was to attend to any measure that might come before the Legislature, affecting the interests of the Church, and to report such measures to the Moderator or other office-bearer for the time being. It appeared to him that at the present time it was of great consequence that the Church should have early information in reference to the introduction of all such measures into the Legislature; and, whether they had such an agent or not, he thought that the party immediately responsible for this duty to the General Assembly should be the Agent for the Church. Under all the circumstances he thought it would be wise in the General Assembly, before proceeding to the election of an Agent, to consider these various questions. The Committee to whom the inquiry might be remitted could report on Monday, and then the election could take place on the day following. (Hear, hear.) The Rev. Doctor concluded by moving accordingly.

Mr. D. SMITH, W. S., seconded the motion and stated that it was in entire accordance with a resolution adopted by the General Assembly of 1851, who then agreed that, when any office became vacant, the Assembly should consider as to the duties to be performed, and the remuneration to be made to any official before the vacancy was filled up. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. BISSET had not heard any good reason for delaying to proceed immediately with the election, and, as he presumed that all the candidates were present, they would have an opportunity of learning the sentiments of the Assembly. He moved, in opposition to Dr. Robertson, that the Assembly now proceed

to fill up the vacant office, and that it should be mentioned specially, as a condition of election, that the candidate accept of office subject to any regulations as to duties or emoluments that the Committee might recommend.

Dr. BRYCE seconded the amendment.

For Dr. R's motion the numbers were 236, and for Dr. Bisset's, 63.

A Committee was appointed to bring up a Report with reference to the duties, &c., of the office.

The Moderator having pronounced the benediction, the Assembly adjourned at 6 o'clock till Friday at 12, principally for devotional exercises.

FRIDAY, MAY 25.

The Assembly met to-day at 12 o'clock.

After the usual devotional exercises had been engaged in,

Dr. HILL intimated that the Committee on Business had met that morning, and agreed to the transmission of several overtures:—

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

Rev. K. M. PHIN, of Galashiels, observed that the Report of the Committee on the Management of the Schemes was proposed by the Committee on Business to be taken up on Saturday (this day.) He thought this important subject would not be likely to receive so full, free and fair discussion in so thin a house as might be reasonably looked for on that day, so many of the members leaving Edinburgh to supply Divine ordinances in country districts. He was as anxious as any man could be to have the question which this Report would bring before them speedily settled; but he thought that, for the reason stated by him, it would be the more proper course to delay its consideration till some day next week.

He moved that the consideration of the Report of the Convener of the Committee on the Management of the Church's Schemes be postponed from Saturday till a day next week to be named.

Mr. MACKENZIE, Lasswade, seconded the motion.

Dr. PAULL, of Tullynessle, agreed with Dr. Cook (St. Andrews) that no adequate reasons had been given why an arrangement of the Committee on Business should not be adhered to; and moved accordingly, that this Report be received on Saturday, as proposed by them.

Dr. JOHN ANDERSON, Newburgh, had heard no proper grounds stated why the Assembly should disturb the order of business arranged by them after anxious deliberation, and this subject was now quite ripe for discussion in the General Assembly. The Report could be received and discussed, and sufficient time remain for gentlemen to travel any reasonable distance to officiate on Sabbath. He, therefore, seconded the amendment of Dr. Paull.

Mr. PHIN having replied, the Assembly divided, when 34 voted for the motion, and 95 for the amendment; majority for the amendment, 61. To the order of business, as stated, it was therefore agreed to adhere.

The Assembly then proceeded to engage in devotional exercises, and at a quarter to 3 adjourned, to meet to-day (Saturday) at half-past 11 o'clock, A. M.

SATURDAY, MAY 26.

The Assembly resumed at 11½ A. M.

PSALMODY.

Dr. MACPHERSON read the Report of the Committee on Psalmody and Hymns, recom-

mending to the favourable consideration of the Assembly the collection of 25 Hymns now laid on the Table, which they suggested should be sent down to Presbyteries, and the Committee re-appointed to receive suggestions. The Committee had been guided in their choice by the principle of only selecting such as would illustrate and enforce some important Scriptural truth, or express some leading features of the common experience of Christians—excluding, first, all hymns, however excellent, intended to be introductory to the other exercises of public worship, and, secondly, all which are paraphrases of the Psalms or of passages of Scripture already paraphrased. Dr M— concluded by saying that it was unnecessary to come to any decision till the Assembly had had an opportunity of examining the Hymns now in their hands.

Principal LEE regretted that there was not one of the hymns of Scottish origin, and that they should be compelled to go to the sister kingdom for any addition to our psalmody.

Mr. WALKER objected to any alteration or addition being made to the psalmody, which he maintained was perfect in all respects. The desire to introduce new hymns was only entertained by the juveniles in the Church.

The Report was ordered to lie on the Table.

MANAGEMENT OF THE SCHEMES.

Mr. D. SMITH, W.S., gave in the Report of the Committee on the Management of the Schemes of the Church.

The Report stated that the proposals submitted to and approved of by the Assembly of last year had reference, first, to the mode of carrying on the general business of the Committees; and, second, to the mode of carrying on the Financial Affairs of the Committees.

Professor ROBERTSON said the Schemes of the Church were in a state in which they could not long remain, but there was no man more able to conduct them to a safe landing-place than the Convener, Mr. Smith. There were certain parts of the Report of which he disapproved; and the Jewish Committee more particularly had some grievances to complain of. But the Assembly could not judge practically as to the difficulties of that Committee in the meantime. There had however been much done during the past year in the way of concentration of the management of the Schemes, and there was now a great part of the business transacted in the Office of the Schemes. If, then, the Committee was re-appointed with its present Convener, he was perfectly satisfied that, before another Assembly came round, they would have made a still greater advance in the way of concentration, but he would deprecate driving the Committee too rapidly. He would conclude with proposing that the Assembly approve generally of the Report, re-appoint the Committee, and instruct them to continue their efforts with a view to concentrate the conducting of the whole business of the Schemes in the Office in Queen Street, using their best endeavours and, if possible, with the concurrence of the Committee, to remove any difficulties which may prevent compliance with the particular recommendations contained in the Report, the Moderator to return the thanks of the Assembly to the Convener, Mr. Smith.

Dr. ROBERTSON's resolution was then agreed to; and the thanks of the Assembly conveyed by the Moderator to the Convener of the Committee, Mr. Smith.

THEOLOGICAL TEACHING

An overture from the Synod Lothian and Tweeddale in favour of the establishment of a more full and regular course of theological training, and one from the Presbytery of Linlithgow in favour of the superintendence of students and preachers, were remitted to a Committee.

TRINITY CHAPEL, ABERDEEN.

This case came before the Assembly in the form of a petition from the Presbytery of Aberdeen; a petition by Cooper and others, residents in Aberdeen; and an appeal by Cooper and others against a finding of the Presbytery. Dr Paul of Banchory, Dr Smith of Aberdeen, and Mr. Hamilton Pyper, advocate, appeared for the Presbytery; and Mr. A. R. Clark, advocate, for the petitioners and appellants, the members of the congregation.

Mr. A. R. CLARK in a remarkably lucid statement opened the case for the congregation.

Parties having been removed, some discussion took place on the subject, which resulted in the adoption of a motion by Mr. A. S. Cook, seconded by Mr. Shand, W.S., whereby the Assembly dismissed the petition and appeal from the congregation, and authorised the Procurator of the Church to appear and concur in a process before the Court of Session at the instance of the Presbytery, to carry out the object in view.

The Assembly then adjourned at 6 o'clock till Monday morning.

MONDAY, MAY 28.

The Assembly resumed at 12 o'clock.

JEWISH MISSION REPORT.

Mr. Tait, Kirkliston, read the Report of the Committee for the Conversion of the Jews. It commenced by referring to Cochin, whence Mr. Laseron, who addressed the Assembly last year, had returned, and where Mr. James Bonthorne, who had been appointed his colleague in the work there, more especially with reference to the heathen population in this locality (though associated with Mr. Laseron in his labours, and supported by the Jewish Committee,) had arrived. The mission and schools had somewhat suffered from Mr. Laseron's absence, but were again giving indications of decided improvement. The missionaries at Carlsruhe, Darmstadt, and Speyer, were steadily prosecuting their work and occasionally perceiving the fruits of their labours. Their attempts, however, to procure a suitable missionary had not yet been successful. This subject would, however, continue to engage the anxious attention of the Committee. With regard to the overture from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr as to the propriety of sending a missionary to Jerusalem, the Committee were much impressed with many of the arguments that had been urged in favour of such a step. Many circumstances, however, required to be taken into account in determining the path of present duty in this matter. It was well known that the Church of England had a representative in Jerusalem in high official station, and that under him several agencies were in due stated operation for ministering the Gospel to the Jewish population. Considering the comparatively limited amount of that population, the Committee could not shut out from their minds the reflection that the opening of a mission from the Church of Scotland in that locality might not unreasonably be regarded in the light rather

of a movement in behalf of Presbyterianism against Episcopacy than as a purely Christian enterprise for the salvation of souls. The Committee would not anticipate the decision of the General Assembly, but, if it seemed meet for the venerable Court to leave the matter for the consideration of the Committee, they would not fail to give it their most earnest attention. After referring to the continued usefulness of the schools at Cochin and elsewhere, supported by the Ladies' Association for the Education of Jewish Females, the Report referred to the suggestions of the Committee on the Management of the Schemes. With respect to the regulations affecting matters of finance, the Jews' Committee had intimated their willingness to bring their arrangements, so far as they possibly could, into conformity with the new system, but regretted that, with regard to the depositing of the books in the Schemes' Office, and the attendance of the Secretary there during certain hours of each day or week, they had found it impossible, consistently with their views of the interests of the Scheme, to make the necessary changes in their existing arrangements so as to conform to this plan. The business of the Scheme was not such as to demand the Secretary's regular or frequent attendance at the Office, and the depositing of the books there would be useless to the public, and inconvenient for him, unless he constantly attended. The Committee deeply regretted to have to report a very large decrease in the funds. Collections had been made in 739 churches and chapels, being a decrease of 53 as compared with last year. In the amount there was a decrease of £157, 1s. 6d. Contributions had been received from 37 parochial or congregational missionary associations, being an increase of 6 as compared with last year. In the amount of these was an increase of £17, 1s. 8d. In the contributions from individuals there was an increase of £34 2s. 9d.; in legacies a decrease of £176 1s. 3d.; and in contributions from the Lay Association a decrease of £39 4s. 4d. The whole income was £2831 3s. 2d., or £356 17s. 1d. less than the income of the previous year; while the expenditure was £3396 15s. 5d., or £980 12s. 2d. above that of the previous year. The balance in Bank had been reduced from £3521 to £2685.

The following was the overture from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, taken up in connection with this subject:

"That a missionary be established at Jerusalem for the conversion of the Jews, the present period being favourable, and there never having been any representative of Presbytery or of Scotland sent out to the Holy Land, while there are many such from all the other Christian Churches and nations of the whole World."

Mr. TAIT addressed a few remarks to the Assembly, enlarging on the statements given in the Report. He expressed his warm sympathy with the proposal to establish a missionary at Jerusalem, and his regret that the state of the funds did not warrant the Committee in entering more heartily into the object, particularly as they had not yet been able to send a missionary to Paris, where there were 20,000 Jews among whom he might labour.

Dr. GRANT moved the General Assembly approve of the Report, and (waiving the consideration of that part of the Report referring to the management of the business of the

Scheme) record the cordial satisfaction with which they had learned that the Committee had been enabled to secure the services of a licentiate of the Church as an additional missionary to Cochin; that the Assembly express regret that a suitable labourer had not yet been got for Paris; that the Committee be re-appointed, and that the Moderator be requested to convey the thanks of the House to the Convener and the Committee. The Rev. Doctor said that the Report bore the marks of the master hand that has traced it, and gave to them such accounts of this missionary undertaking as were well fitted to give them encouragement, and to satisfy them that the work was being done with zeal and vigour, and with great Christian prudence and discretion. It contained no lengthened list of conversions from Jewish blindness and prejudice, but they had long since learned to be moderate in their expectations on this point, and to be contented and thankful if they found that the seed was being faithfully and abundantly sown, in the hope that it might hereafter spring up and bring forth fruit. It should make them thankful to see that those coming under the influence of their missionaries were indulging a spirit of inquiry, that they were listening with patient attention to the expositions of Christian truth, and that they were ready to place their children under Christian education—all which things were now taking place. After some remarks on the claims of the Scheme to enlarged support, Dr. Grant concluded by paying a tribute to the high talent, the thorough consistent principle, and the high Christian character and apostolic zeal of the Convener of the Committee.

Dr. ARON, Dolphinton, moved that the Assembly remit the overture of the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr to the Committee for the Conversion of the Jews, with instruction to appoint an ordained missionary to Jerusalem as soon as the services of a properly qualified missionary could be obtained, and as soon as other circumstances would admit. He stated that, when he was in Jerusalem, he had been most hospitably and kindly entertained by the English Bishop there. He had drawn the attention of the Bishop to the anomaly that there was no representative of the Church of Scotland in Jerusalem, and he said that, when he went Home, he would promote by every means in his power the sending out by this Church of a missionary there. But first he asked the Bishop's advice and concurrence, lest it should be thought they wanted to compete, instead of co-operating with the Bishop's agents there. The Bishop told him that no such impression would ever enter into his mind, that he would hold out the right hand of fellowship to any missionary from this Church, as he had done to all the missionaries of the Reformed Christian Church from wheresoever they had come. This statement, he thought, should dispel all such hesitation as the Committee had expressed on this subject. The Rev. Doctor, after referring to the importance of Jerusalem as a key to Syria and the East, expressed his belief that this enterprise would so popularise the Scheme that they would have no difficulty whatever in raising the necessary funds, to which he believed that large additions would be made immediately that steps were taken to carry out this proposal.

Dr. ANDERSON, Newburgh, seconded Dr. Aiton's motion. He believed that the best way to revive the Scheme was by taking

hold of a place of so important a geographical position, and of such historic and ecclesiastical interest. Conversions of Jews made in Jerusalem would, he believed, vibrate to every land in which Jews were found.

Dr. ROBERTSON seconded Dr. Grant's motion. He believed the first necessity in extending the Scheme was to awaken a higher missionary spirit than had yet existed in this Church; and that they would attain no great success in the cause until not so much Jerusalem below as Jerusalem above occupied the minds and hearts of the Christian people, and until they showed a more real and living desire to promote God's glory. The strength of their missionaries must be in the prayers and sympathies and support of the Church, which they must stimulate and encourage to a still higher degree. The Rev. Doctor, however, expressed his belief that, though this was but the day of small things, the Jewish Mission was one of the most hopeful enterprises which the Church of Christ had undertaken.

After some remarks from Dr. Bisset, Dr. Paull and others it was agreed to recommend the subject of the overture to the favourable consideration of the Committee, Dr. Aiton's motion being withdrawn, and the above resolution being embodied in the motion of Dr. Grant, which was approved of.

The MODERATOR then conveyed the thanks of the Assembly to Mr. Tait, and expressed his peculiar satisfaction in doing so to a co-presbyter for 30 years.

DUTIES AND EMOLUMENTS OF AGENT FOR THE CHURCH.

Mr. D. SMITH, W.S., gave in the Report of the Committee on this subject:

Dr. ROBERTSON highly approved of the Report, with the exception of that portion of it referred to by Mr. Smith; and he begged to move that the Report be sustained and adopted, reserving the judgement of the Assembly as to the recommendation for the transfer of the conveyancing business, but remitting the recommendation to the Committee on the Management of the Schemes, with power to them to dispose of it. Dr. R. further mentioned, as a reason for his not adopting the recommendation of the Committee, that the Treasurer of the Endowment Committee was at present out of town, and that he (Dr. R.) had had no opportunity of communicating with him.

Dr. PAULL, Tullynessle, in seconding the motion, which he did with a great deal of pleasure, thought the Assembly would go along with him in thinking that they were very much indebted to the Convener for the practical manner in which he had brought forward the Report. (Hear, hear.)

The Assembly adopted the motion of Dr. Robertson, Mr. Cheyne, W. S., dissenting on the ground that the approval of the Report was only partial.

COMMITTEES OF ASSEMBLY.

Dr. BRUCE rose to support the overture which had been sent up from the Synod of Lothian on the subject of appointing and working the Committees of Assembly, standing and ordinary. The overture set forth that great irregularities and inconveniences had arisen under the practice now followed, and great complaints prevailed over the Church, and prayed that a remedy might be applied. It was obvious, therefore, from the nature of the overture, that it was one which must be sent to a small committee to report on the best mode of removing these irregu-

larities and inconveniences, but, of course, before granting the committee, the Assembly might reasonably expect that some grounds should be shown for the same. He might, however, be held as affording sufficient grounds in the fact that the Synod of Lothian, in an overture unanimously agreed to, and, he might say, carried by acclamation, had recorded their conviction that irregularities requiring remedy did exist. The Assembly might think with him that the testimony of such a body as the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale was enough to justify the appointment of a committee to report on the extent and nature of these irregularities, and he should therefore simply move for such a committee.

Principal LEE thought there were objections to the course now proposed. When committees were sought to remedy existing evils, these evils were generally set forth. The Reverend mover had done nothing more than affirm that there were such evils, but he had left the Assembly in the dark as to what they were.

After some discussion Principal LEE asked if the Reverend mover was prepared with a Committee?

Dr. BRYCE then handed in the names of the Committee which he proposed.

Dr. COOK (St. Andrews) said he was altogether opposed to the appointment of such a Committee, and should move that it be not appointed.

The Assembly divided, when there appeared, for granting a Committee, 38; refusing the Committee, 49; majority, 11.

The Assembly then adjourned till the evening.

EVENING SEDERUNT.

CASE OF THE REV. HENRY DUFF.

The Assembly resumed at 7 o'clock, and took up appeals on the relevancy of the libel, now being prosecuted before the Presbytery of Edinburgh, in the case of the Rev. Henry Duff, and for or against certain judgements pronounced by the Presbytery in the course of probation.

Mr. TAIT stated the reference. The case came before the Synod on the 1st of May, when it was proposed and agreed to by both parties, that, being then in process before the Presbytery, it should be referred *simpli-citer* to the General Assembly.

The reference was sustained after a short discussion.

A long discussion ensued as to whether the Assembly should declare the Presbytery's decision final, the ultimate result being the adoption of a motion by Dr. Robertson that, waiving consideration of the reasons alleged, the Assembly allow the appeal to be withdrawn, holding that, in consequence of its being fallen from, the judgement of the Presbytery had become final.

Mr. PYPEN then withdrew the various appeals the prosecutors had taken in course of probation.

Professor SWINTON moved that the Assembly dismiss the appeal on the grounds stated for the prosecutors, that the decision of the Presbytery was in accordance with the civil law of the country.

The motion was unanimously agreed to without discussion.

Mr. OGILVIE, and afterwards Mr. MILLER, then stated the nature of the other appeal on the part of Mr. Duff. The Presbytery of Edinburgh, at its meeting on the 14th May,

admitted the evidence of Mr. Lizars, engraver, in deposing to the accuracy of *fac-similes* prepared by him from certain documents that had been before the Court. It was objected on the part of the appellant that these *fac-similes* were not evidence, and could not therefore be received. There were, moreover, considerable discrepancies between the original documents and the *fac-similes*, which altogether destroyed their value as transcripts of the former.

Mr. PYPEN, for the prosecutors, having been heard, a discussion of some length took place. Two motions were ultimately brought before the House, the first by Professor Swinton, for sustaining the appeal, and the other by Sheriff Barclay, for dismissing it, and sustaining the judgement of the Presbytery.

The vote was then taken, when the motion of Professor Swinton was carried by 35 to 31.

Mr. MILLAR, in behalf of Mr. Duff, acquiesced.

The Assembly adjourned at a quarter to 1 A.M., till 11 o'clock next day.

TUESDAY, MAY 29.

The General Assembly met at 11 o'clock.

After praise and the reading of a portion of Scripture by the Rev. Dr. Simpson, of Kirknewton, the meeting was constituted with prayer by the Moderator.

The minute of Monday's sederunt were read and approved of.

Principal LEE made some remarks on that part of the duties of the Agent of the Church which had reference to the assistance he was wont to give in the discharge of his own duties as Principal Clerk of Assembly.

A member complained he could not hear a word of what the Very Rev. Principal had been saying.

Principal LEE could not help it. He was always of opinion from the very first that the building in which they were assembled would not efficiently answer the purpose both of a church and of a hall, in which the Assembly could properly conduct their deliberations. The plan upon which the Assembly Hall had been erected was, according to general opinion, very defective in respect of its hearing capabilities, and he feared that the only way, by which they could hope speedily to have this great inconvenience remedied, was the raising of a general subscription among themselves, and throughout the Church, for the purpose of procuring the erection of a more suitable edifice. The Very Rev. Principal intimated that he would have great pleasure in commencing a subscription with this view by setting down his name for the sum of £100. (Cheers.)

SERMONS BEFORE THE LORD HIGH COMMISSIONER ON SABBATH.

The following gentlemen were appointed to preach before her Majesty's Lord High Commissioner in the High Church on Sabbath first, the third of June:—The Rev. Dr. John Park, of St. Andrews, to lecture and preach in the forenoon, and the Rev. James G. Young, of Fintry, to preach in the afternoon.

LAW PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE CHURCH COURTS.

The Rev. Dr. GEORGE MILLIGAN, of Elie, called the attention of the Assembly to a subject which had been brought before them by the Presbytery of St. Andrews, in connection with the overture of that Presbytery on the duties of the Agent of the Church. The latter subject had been disposed of yes-

terday by the Report of the Committee appointed on Friday, but he was not aware that the other matter to which he alluded, and which was included in the overture from that Presbytery, and which he considered of very great importance indeed, had yet been considered.

Mr. DAVID SMITH, W.S., said the subject to which Dr. Milligan had referred had been under the consideration of the Committee appointed by the Assembly on Friday to define the duties of the Church Law-agent, and they had recommended the appointment of a special Committee to consider the matter, viz., of employing private law agents.

ANSWER TO THE ROYAL LETTER, AND ADDRESS BY THE ASSEMBLY TO THE THRONE.

The MODERATOR here, on behalf of the Assembly, respectfully asked His grace the Lord High Commissioner to do the Assembly the honour of presenting the answer to the Assembly to Her gracious Majesty's Royal Letter, and also the Address of the Assembly on the War in the East, to which his Grace replied that he would have much pleasure in so doing.

THE ELECTION OF LAW AGENT OF THE CHURCH.

Four candidates, viz.: J. Beatson Bell, W. S., Isaac Bayley, S.S.C., John Shand, W. S., and J. A. Macrae, W. S., were proposed. Three votes were taken, and, as the final result, Mr. Bell was declared elected by a majority of 25 votes, and was thereafter duly sworn in and inducted into office; after which Mr. Bell briefly thanked the Assembly for the high honour which their kindness had conferred on him, and said that he would endeavour to discharge the duties which they had now devolved on him to the best of his ability.

PROPOSED NEW PRESBYTERY.

A petition was presented from the Presbyteries of Dunfermline, Auchterarder and Kirkcaldy, praying for the disjunction of certain parishes and the formation of them into a new Presbytery of Kinross, on the ground of their remoteness from the parishes to which they at present belong, and the extreme difficulty of intercommunication in the district.

After some conversation it was resolved that a small Committee of the General Assembly should be named, with instructions to put themselves in communication with the Synods of Perth and Stirling, and the parties concerned, and report to next General Assembly.

The application of the Rev. Mr. Dickson, lately a member of the Free Church, to be admitted into the Church of Scotland, which came up on a reference from the Presbytery of Brechin, was remitted to a committee.

The Assembly then adjourned till the evening.

EVENING SEDERUNT.

The Assembly resumed at 8 o'clock.

PSALMODY OF THE CHURCH.

The Rev. P. C. CAMPBELL, Professor of Greek, King's College, Aberdeen, laid on the Table a motion on this subject to the following effect:—That the Assembly agree to approve of the diligence of the Committee, re-appoint them, and re-commit the matter, so as to procure the general opinion of the Church on the selection of 25 hymns, printed by them, through the Presbyteries. The Rev. Professor supported his motion by some remarks.

Dr. WYLIE, of Carluke, in some observations deprecated the course advised in the Professor's motion. He thought that they had sufficient material for the psalmody of the Church in their excellent metrical version of the Psalms of David. He moved a vote of thanks to the Committee for their assiduous labours in this matter, and especially to the respected Convener of that Committee; and that the Committee itself be discharged.

The Rev. Mr. CARRICK, of East Kilbride, said that this subject had been before the House for several years, and it was now proper that the question should be settled. He moved that the Committee be re-appointed to consider the whole matter, and report according to their discretion.

The Rev. J. COCHRANE, of Cupar, supported the motion of Professor Campbell, and defended the procedure of the Committee.

Mr. COUPAR, of Falford, Elder, also defended the proceedings of the Committee.

The Rev. Dr. COOK, of Haddington, agreed with Dr. Wylie. He thought it would be better that the mind of the Church should be given forth in regard to this matter. He agreed with Dr. Wylie that the general mind of the Church was that in the Psalms of David they had sufficient materials for the purposes of praise.

Professor CAMPBELL made a few alterations on his motion, which now stood as follows:—"That the Assembly approve of the diligence of the present Committee, discharge the same, instruct their thanks to be given to the Convener, and appoint a new Committee to consider the whole matter, and particularly the selection of hymns printed by them, (which, however, they were not prepared to sanction) and report to the next General Assembly.

The Rev. Mr. SCOTT MONCRIEFF, Elder, seconded Professor Campbell's motion, and the Rev. Dr. Cook (Haddington,) the amendment of Dr. Wylie.

The House divided, and the motion was carried.

The Rev. Dr. MACPHERSON, the Convener of the Committee, was thereupon called to receive, through the Moderator, the thanks of the House, which were accordingly tendered to him in due form, and acknowledged by him.

The Moderator having pronounced the benediction, the Assembly adjourned at 12 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, May 30.

The Assembly met at 11 o'clock.

THE SCOTCH SYNOD IN ENGLAND.

A letter was read from the Scotch Synod in England in connection with the Church of Scotland (signed by Dr. John Cumming), containing the usual expressions of respect, attachment and sympathy towards this Church. It stated that the Synod had petitioned against the Lord Advocate's Education Bill. The Moderator was requested to prepare a suitable answer to this address.

THE EDUCATION SCHEME.

Dr. JOHN COOK (Haddington) gave in the Report of the Committee for increasing the means of Education in Scotland, particularly in the Highlands and Islands:—

The Report stated that irrespective of the two Normal Seminaries in Edinburgh and Glasgow, there were at present 123 schools on the first scheme and 45 on the second, in addition to 13 female schools,—making in all 181. During the past year 3 schools, one at Poolewe, another at Aultbea in Ross-shire, and a third at Paible in North Uist, had been added to the first scheme; while one at Butterstone in the parish of Caputh, Perthshire had been added to the second. The sums

paid in salary to the teachers had been £2857 to teachers on the first scheme, £550 to those on the second, and £91 to female teachers,—making in all £3498. The whole emoluments, received by seventy of the teachers were £8246. The average income of each of one hundred and fourteen teachers on the first scheme was £50, 18s., of each of 43 teachers on the second £50, 16s., and of each of 13 female teachers £27 12s. The number of scholars attending all the schools in the course of the year amounted to a total of 17,234; and of those on the roll at the time the returns were sent in, making allowance for a few schools not returned, the number was 13,981; showing an increase, since last May, of 400 scholars. There were thus 14,000 children, who would otherwise have grown up in entire ignorance, and without even an opportunity of acquiring the most elementary knowledge, at present receiving instruction through the Assembly's Education Committee. Religious instruction had always been a leading feature of the Assembly Schools; and the Committee were happy to be able to report that, exclusive of the week day attendance, there were about 2000 Sabbath scholars. Adding this to the numbers on the roll at the time the returns were made, they had about 16,000 children now in regular attendance at these schools; while the whole number of children enrolled during the year, including the two Normal Schools, and more or less benefiting by the instruction afforded, was 19,234. There could be no better indication of the rising character of the teaching in the Assembly schools than the fact that of the 181 teachers, 37 on the first scheme, 19 on the second, and three female teachers, in all 59, held Government certificates,—no less than about one-third of the whole number. Since last meeting of Assembly the Committee had been deprived of the services of Mr. Gordon, in consequence of his appointment to be one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools for Scotland. The Committee had unanimously passed a minute expressing regret at losing the services of that gentleman, of whose discretion judgment and high qualifications they had had ample experience. After having taken all due means to secure fitting candidates, the choice of the Committee devolved on Mr. Laurie, a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, who during a lengthened residence in England, Ireland, and abroad, had directed his attention to and had had favourable opportunities of acquainting himself with different systems of instruction.

The following was an abstract of last year's financial operations:—Salaries or allowances from the Committee, £3198 16s. 8d. contributions paid directly to the teachers, besides 11 not returned, £796 11s. 4d.; annual value of accommodations gratuitously allowed, £1520; augmentations of salary from Privy Council, £858 7s. 6d.; allowances to teachers for pupil teachers from Privy Council, £203; for Normal Schools £3767 13s. 7½d.; fees and equivalents:—At 114 schools on the First Scheme, £784 12s. 8d.; at 43 schools on the Second Scheme, £929 0s. 6d.; at 13 female schools, £127 6s. 1d. (in all, £1790 19s. 3d.); total (exclusive of about £200 not returned), £12,435 8s. 4½d.

The ordinary expenditure during the last year had rather exceeded that of the previous year, while the Committee regretted to say the income available for that expenditure had diminished.

The ordinary receipts, exclusive of those to account of the Normal Schools, amounted to £4873 18s. 7d.; the expenditure to £4922 0s. 5½d.; the receipts from Normal Schools, from fees and Government grants, amount to £3485 17s.; the expenditure to £3767 13s. 7½d. The total income was £8359 15s. 7d.; and the total expenditure £8589 14s. 1d.; leaving an excess of expenditure of £229 18s. 6d. The ordinary receipts for the year ending April, 1854, amounted to £5157 16s. 5d.; the expenditure to £3705 3s. 3d.; the receipts from Normal Schools were, in 1854, £2516 19s. 10d. and the expenditure in ditto, £3145 15s. 6d. The total income was £7674 16s. 3d.; and the total expenditure £7850 18s. 9d.; being an excess of expenditure of £176 2s. 6d.

Collections had been sent in from a greater number of parishes than in preceding years: 925 congregations had contributed, being an increase, when compared with last year, of 36. Owing, however, to the falling off in the amount contributed by each, the sum total had not much exceeded that of last year. From 129 parishes no aid had been received. The Committee had gratefully to acknowledge a contribution of £507 from the Lay Association, and of £80 from the Elders' Daughters' Association. The latter Association now maintained most of the female schools on the Scheme. The Edinburgh Students' Missionary Association, in pursuance of their proposal last year to employ a portion of their funds in providing an adequate salary for a schoolmaster in some destitute locality, now supported the school at Tarbert, Argyshire.

The ordinary sources of income might be thus shortly stated:—From Church Collections £3282 11s.; from 35 Associations, £189 8s. 8d.; from Elders' Daughters' Association, £80; from Lay Association, £506 18s.; 1d. from individuals, in the form of donations, subscriptions, and legacies £406. 15s. 9d.; making, in all, £874. 6s. 7d.

Normal Schools.—At the date of the last Report there were 133 pupils in attendance at the two Normal Schools, of whom 70 were females. 187 have since been admitted—28 on the free list, maintained and instructed at the cost of the Committee, and 39 Queen's scholars. The others were self-supporting and day students, many of whom had attended only for short periods. 72 had received appointments in parochial, Assembly, sessional and other schools. There were 141 in attendance at the present date. Of the students examined last June, 74 succeeded in gaining the government certificate, of whom 49 were males and 22 were females—showing an increase on the preceding year of 32. Accordingly the payments made by Government during the past year on account of the two Normal Schools, now depending in part on the number of students who obtained the certificate, had exceeded very considerably those of former years. The large number of successful students amply testified to the zeal and efficiency with which both institutions continue to be conducted by their respective rectors and masters.

After referring to the attention paid last year to the industrial instruction of females in the Normal Schools, the Report stated that the number of students at the Normal School, who last year attended the class of Mr. Ross with a view to qualify themselves for giving agricultural instructions was 30.

The Report then explained certain changes, which, by recent minutes of the Privy Council, had been effected in the subsisting arrangements as to the Normal Schools. The Report went on to state that the returns from Presbyteries were more nearly complete in number than on any former occasion. Four Presbyteries only had failed to report. The contents of the returns were, on the whole, very satisfactory. Under present circumstances the Committee felt very strongly that this was not a time to relax in their exertions to extend to every destitute locality in Scotland instruction based on those sound principles which alone rendered it truly valuable, and which had been secured to the youth of Scotland for many generations by the connection subsisting between the Schools and the Church.

A supplementary Report was giving in on Agricultural Schools. It stated that nearly 3 years had now elapsed since the Education Committee recognised the importance of instructions in the principles and practice of Agriculture. On obtaining the subscriptions necessary to commence operations, towards the Committee directed their attention preparation of teachers who should be qualified to give the necessary instructions. Accordingly in September, 1853, Mr. W. T. Ross, after having studied for some time in the Glasnevin Training School, Dublin, opened an agricultural class in the Edinburgh Normal School. 11 students attended the first year, and their progress was such as to qualify them to undertake the charge of elementary agricultural schools.

During the past year the number of students attending Mr. Ross' lectures had increased to 30. In last year's Report reference was made to two Assembly Schools into which agricultural instruction had been introduced under qualified teachers—viz., *Cumiscross* in the parish of Sleat, Skye; and *Sabiston* in the parish of Birsbay Orkney. *Colbost* school in the parish of Duirinish, Skye, has since been added to the number. The Sub-Committee entertained the hope that the Report which they had now given of schools under their superintendence or cognisance would insure to them continued encouragement and support. It was much to be regretted that only 3 or 4 schools in all Scotland have yet been provided with agricultural teachers: but without a much larger annual income the number could not be increased. In these circumstances the Sub-Committee earnestly hoped that the future contributions to the Scheme would be to such an amount as might enable them to develop and carry out its objects more extensively.

Dr. Cook, after reading the Report, expressed his gratification that the returns of Presbyteries on this occasion had been so ample. At the date at which the returns were due, only 8 had not been received; and, having written to the Presbytery clerks for these, he had forwarded to him 4 returns, and statements from 2 that the schools had been examined, but from the illness of the secretaries the returns could not be forwarded; while he learned from the Presbyteries of Lerwick and Burray that the billows of the Atlantic, co-operating with the Lord Advocate—(a laugh)—had prevented the presbyterial superintendence of the schools in some of the Islands of Shetland. He thought it quite fair that he should bring under the notice of the Assembly what the country was saved by the gratuitous services of the Church in the superintendence of schools. It was stated in the Report that the Presbyteries of the Church had examined 2599 schools. He hoped that the Assembly should urge on the ministers and people of Scotland the great importance of even exceeding their usual liberality. He was quite sure the Assembly would feel as strongly as the Committee did that this was not a time that they should appear to recede in their exertions, but rather that they should, if possible, take a step in advance and show that, while they were objecting to what appeared to be an enlarged system of Education, they themselves should come forward handsomely and liberally to extend the means of Education. (Applause.) Dr. Cook then referred to the changes that had been made in the arrangements of the Privy Council, the purposes of which were to encourage longer attendance of students at the Normal Schools, which at present seldom exceeded a year. The Privy Council considered it of very great importance that there should be 2 years' attendance, or even 3, and the new plan and scale of grants were drawn up with reference to that object. The Committee also felt that, the Normal Schools being in point of fact the great colleges for the training of teachers, it was extremely desirable the attendance of students there should be extended. In concurring, however, with the changes proposed by the Privy Council, it must be obvious that there were involved in them, in some respects, very important alterations in the arrangement of the schools. The new plan implied an addition to the staff of teachers, one in Edinburgh and perhaps but one in Glasgow; but in respect of these arrangements the Committee felt persuaded that the compensation plan suggested by the Privy Council—that was withdrawing the restrictions on the admission of Queen's scholars—would give them funds that would enable them to meet satisfactorily the additional expenditure. The Church was at present bound to pay these Normal Schools a sum not exceeding £5 each, and the Committee did not anticipate that under the new arrangement there would be any additional call on the funds of the Church in reference to the ordinary expenses of the Normal Schools. But then under the new arrangement it was quite necessary to provide additional class-rooms. It would also be necessary to provide a chemical laboratory and apparatus

for the Edinburgh Normal School (costing about £150, of which Government would give £100.) and to make a considerable addition to the library. In these respects the Glasgow school was already well provided. The Committee expected to be able to make a temporary arrangement for the Edinburgh School, but still they must contemplate making considerable additions to its permanent accommodation. The attention of the Committee had accordingly been turned to the convenience and importance of providing a separate place altogether for the training of female teachers. The purchase of ground, and building such an edifice as would be required, would not cost less than £2000. Of that, the half, probably more, would be granted by Government; but, when they considered what the Committee would have to do in fitting up a museum and extending the laboratory, it was obvious that something like £1000 to £1500 would be required from the Church to put the schools in proper and efficient working order. It remained, therefore, for the Assembly to consider what might be done in this matter. It occurred to him that the Assembly should appoint a small Committee to communicate with the acting Education Committee, and to report the result of that communication to this Assembly, with the view of suggesting any plan that might occur to them for meeting this object. (Dr. Cook concluded amidst general applause.)

Dr. PAULL, Tullynessle, moved the adoption of the Report. He said the Scheme might not have increased in stature so much as they might have wished, but it was increasing, and he trusted that the time was not far distant when, through God's blessing, it would have acquired a full maturity for the purposes for which it was originated, a maturity that would know no decay. He trusted that he would not be mistaken in its being supposed that he wished to place this Scheme in apparent opposition to any of the rest of their noble Schemes. He looked on this Scheme as one which had materially fostered a missionary spirit within the Church, and as in some degree the parent of the other Schemes; and, looking at the statements which had been made in connection with it, he thought there was much to gladden the heart of the Christian, and encourage them to persevere in their good work. Dr. P. referred to the considerable increase that had taken place in the number of the scholars and of the schools, and to the fact that they had now nearly 20 thousands of the youth of the land in regular training, and enjoying the benefits of a sound religious education, which fact ought to awaken deep gratitude to God that the Church of Scotland had been instrumental in effecting so much good. Adverting to that part of the Report which spoke of the number of contributing parishes having increased, while the aggregate amount collected had decreased, the Rev. Doctor expressed a hope that, while the former state of things might go on extending, the amount of next year's subscriptions, through the re-awakened interest felt in the subject of Education, would be largely augmented. He also noticed in laudatory terms the services which had been rendered to the Scheme by the Lay Association and by the Elders' Daughters' Association, and referred in a special manner to the circumstance alluded to in the Report that a number of young men had been deprived of Government aid in consequence of the defective accommodation in teaching in the school-houses. He hoped this unfortunate state of matters would not be allowed any longer, but that through the attention of the House being turned to the subject some remedy might be devised. In conclusion the Rev. Dr., stated that he looked on the Report as affording the strongest possible contradiction to the allegation that the Church of Scotland had been neglectful of the education of the rising generation. (Hear, and applause.) He sat down by tabling a formal motion for the approval of the Report, thanking the Committee for the fidelity and zeal with which they had discharged their duties, approving of the plan for the education of the Normal School students, and remitting to the Committee, with the assistance of a Special

Committee, to make the necessary arrangements for carrying the plan into effect.

PROFESSOR CAMPBELL SWINTON, in seconding the motion, expressed his regret that he had not been able during the past year to attend more frequently the meetings of the Committee, of which he was a member. This circumstance, however, gave him the more favourable opportunity of expressing the feelings of gratitude which he entertained towards the Convener of the Committee and those connected with him in the management of the Scheme. The learned Professor also adverted to the circumstance noticed in the Report, and alluded to by Dr. Paull, that so many of the teachers were deprived of accommodation which their schools and dwelling-houses presented. He thought it a melancholy fact that many of their schoolmasters lived in miserable hovels with nothing better than clay floors, and he called on the landed proprietors of the country, who were now so laudably and honourably exerting themselves for the improvement of the dwellings of agricultural labourers, to interfere and remove this disgrace from the country. (Hear, hear.) He brought prominently before the House the allusions to the industrial instruction which the Committee were anxious to diffuse through the schools, and predicted that the most important and beneficial consequences would flow from an extension of such a course of training. He would not anticipate the other discussions on the general question; but he must say this, that, if any one, whoever he might be, had any doubts as to the fidelity with which the Church of Scotland discharged her duty in the matter of Education, he had only to read this Report and be convinced to the contrary. (Hear, and applause.)

Dr. ALEXANDER, St. Andrews, spoke in favour of the adoption of the Report, but hoped that the Committee, in their correspondence with the Privy Council, would endeavour to raise the standard of Education still higher than it was at present. He thought the elements of Greek ought to be taught at the Normal Schools, because the students were more and more beginning to be appointed as teachers in their parochial schools. He would deplore anything which had a tendency to lower the standard of Education in these schools, as would be the inevitable result if they diminished the attainments of the students at the Normal Schools.

Mr. D. MILNE HOME made some reference to the encouraging features of the Report, as presented in the circumstance among others that the number of schools in their ordinary and in their Normal Schools were yearly increasing. He looked on it as a hopeful symptom for the future that industrial instruction was now assuming an aspect of so much importance; and he specially alluded to those matters in the Report that were connected with this department of training.

Dr. ROBERTSON briefly urged the importance of developing still more the industrial training of which the Committee were so anxious to promote the establishment in their schools. He looked on this as one means which, in times of difficulty from commercial embarrassment and consequent want of employment for the lower classes, might be productive of the greatest benefit to society by enabling unemployed artisans to earn their livelihood by agricultural labour.

Mr. COCHRANE, Cupar, defended the system of Education pursued in the Church of Scotland's schools against misrepresentations that had been made of them in high quarters.

Dr. CRAIK briefly supported the motion, but impressed on the Committee the feeling of the House that every opportunity ought to be taken to keep up as high as possible the educational acquirements of their Normal School students.

The MODERATOR then briefly conveyed the thanks of the House to Dr. Cook (Haddington), remarking that his services in this cause were worthy of the honoured name he bore.

(To be continued.)

THE GLASGOW MISSION TO SCUTARI.

THE Rev. Mr. Macleod, the Secretary, has received a Note from their much esteemed missionary, Mr. Ferguson, of date 4th June. He says—“I have not recovered so rapidly as was expected. Now, however, I am gaining strength very fast, and hope soon to be able for duty. There are not many sick here now, and the work is light comparatively. Mr. Cannon, a minister of our Church, has had charge of my field since I became ill. He will remain in charge of it, and, when I resume, I shall relieve our friend, Mr. Drennan, a little in the Barracks.

I was recommended to go to Prince's Islands or Therapia for change of air, and in the beginning of last week I got a certificate from Dr. Calder, which Dr. Cumming, G. I. H., recommended, and of which Lord Wm. Paulet approved; so I spent last week at Prinkipo with much advantage. I returned here to spend the Sabbath, and I go off to Therapia in the afternoon, intending (D V.) to return again on Saturday first, when my fortnight's leave of absence expires. It is quite long enough for me, as the expenses are high.

On Thursday first I shall have been 8 weeks off duty—which, of course, I regret, but you need not be told that it was not my choice.”

The following is a portion of Mr. Ferguson's Journal, and is interesting, as affording what we know to be a truthful and unexaggerated account of his valuable labours, which we hope are by this time resumed—

February 10th.—Commenced duty to-day in the Hospital, and made the acquaintance of 15 Scotchmen. All seemed glad to see me. Spoke also to several English and Irish. Every one appears thankful for the smallest attention.

11th.—Sabbath. Visited in the forenoon, and returned to preach at four P.M.; but not one solitary hearer made his appearance! though several had promised, and I ordered a written notice to be read by the ward-master in all the wards. Rather discouraging. I hope such apparent carelessness may be satisfactorily accounted for. Must devise some sure method of giving notice throughout the whole Hospital.

12th.—Wrote 4 letters at the men's bed-sides,—a very pleasing duty. Many men without Bibles, who seem anxious to have one.

13th.—Took a pot of jam to R. B., whose gratitude could not find utterance. Think him one of the Lord's people. Slung round my shoulders a bag full of tracts, which created quite a sensation in the wards. Intended them only for my own people, but I could not resist the wistful looks of many as I passed along. Many asked for them, promising to return them when read. Have talked with 38 Presbyterians. Took the addresses of the relatives of two men seemingly dying.

14th.—I am satisfied that I was the means of helping to comfort the distressed soul of a dying man this day. He is of the Church of England, but the nurse called me, as she could not find his own chaplain. When I first saw him, he was convulsed and apparently quite unconscious. I spoke into his ear, and he seemed as if he heard me, and the nurse said that he liked it. By-and-by he opened his eyes, but could not speak. His eye caught my tracts, and he plucked one from the bag, with the eagerness of a dying man thirsting for the “Bread of life,” and held it as a sign that he wished to hear instruction. I spoke to him again for a few minutes, and then offered prayer shortly. When I saw him again, in a little while he was able to whisper, and he prayed earnestly and constantly, “O Lord, O Lord, have mercy upon me—have mercy upon my soul.” Next time I called to see him he was able to speak, and, as soon as he saw me, he inquired, “Are you the minister?” When he learned that I was, he said, “God bless you—God bless you.” I put my hand upon his head, and said, “God bless you.” I then repeated to him a few texts, which he seemed to prize much. When I made a pause, he said, “Pray,” which I did in a few sentences; and at the close, he repeated with a loud voice AMEN, AMEN, AMEN.” He expressed a confident hope in the mercy of God through the Re-

deemer. I left him, commending him to the care of Him who careth for all His people—promising to write to his mother—and hoping to meet him in glory. He wished me to tell his mother that he had every comfort he could desire, and that he died in hope of Heaven.

15th.—H. W., mentioned above, died in peace last night. Three of my men apparently fast going the same road—shall not be astonished though 2 of them be dead by the morning. Spoke to those, whose strength could bear it, in stronger language to-day than I have formerly used. Several seemed to listen with deep interest. Two Episcopalians are apparently deeply impressed, but not through my words; one of them, I fear, is dying. How needful is wisdom to be at once faithful and judicious! Had a long talk with a sergeant of the 63rd at the gate—touched his feelings acutely, when I asked if he had a wife and family. “Ay, Sir, that's the worst of it, that we may die here, and never see those dear to us again.”

16th.—Made the acquaintance of several for the first time, and visited all those in a dangerous state. Had much encouragement from some. A few apparently under convictions—others, alas! seemingly dying, trusting to their own good deeds, or, rather, comparative innocence. A Methodist wished to speak to me—he wept much, but said he was enabled to say, “Thy will be done.” I read to him from “The Sheltering Vine” parts iii. and iv., page 163:—

“Thy will be done.”
My God, my Father, while I stray,
Far from my home on life's rough way,
Oh! teach me from my heart to say,
“Thy will be done.”

A beautiful hymn. It seemed as if it had been expressly written for his case. I would here again thank Mr. McLeod for that book. It has cheered the hearts of many!

17th.—Wrote letter for W. M'N. to his wife. Spent the rest of the time among those seemingly dying, and those under convictions. To myself a profitable day, and I trust to others even more so. Two, formerly indifferent, melted under the Word. God grant that these impressions may not soon pass away. It is necessary to be earnest with all, but especially with dying men. Visited the Sable Hospital for the first time, and found 5 Presbyterians. Went to the Palace Hospital to inquire whether any Presbyterian officers were sick; none. Dr. Menzies said that the Scotchmen seem more healthy than the English and Irish. Two of my people gone this morning. Have hope of one; but, alas, none of the other!

18th.—Sabbath. Other two of my people gone; know nothing of the state of either. Very many dangerously ill. Must exert to see them often, and be faithful to their souls. Had a meeting for public worship at 4 P.M. 8 convalescents attended, and 6 or 7 others, of whom some seemed deeply impressed. Hope to have a larger attendance next Sabbath. We had no psalms, and could not have singing; but our meeting, such as it was, is the first that has been held at Scutari in the Presbyterian form.

19th.—A very pleasant day. Several seem deeply humbled. Wrote 4 letters. Many still very ill, and some apparently dying. One, to whom I proclaimed the fulness of the Gospel offer, said “It is too late now.” I replied, “No! it is not yet too late. ‘Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.’” He cried bitterly, and said I had quoted his father's text. He added “Amen” to the prayer with much fervour. He seems very near his end.

20th.—Another pleasant day among my people. Feel much encouraged to persevere in earnestly addressing the men. Two died—one in the morning, whom I had seen only twice, and the other in the afternoon—the Methodist spoken of, Feb. 16th. I doubt not he has gone to the “Happy Land.” A young man said, when I asked how he did, “I am just going; I shall not see tomorrow;” and so it was. Alas! he made no response to all I said to him.

21st.—Still saddened at so many being so ill.

Yet what a change in the health of my people! Scarcely one but had to tell me that he is decidedly better. Exhorted all to give the praise to God, and to express their gratitude. Many were in tears. One to whom I had spoken only twice before, declares he shall rise, if God spare him, a new man. The first time I spoke to him, he appeared exceedingly indifferent. The next time I called he was asleep, and I did not awaken him. Two days ago I found him awake, and seemingly glad of my visit. When I told him I had found him asleep last time I came round, he said twice over, “You should have awakened me, I like always to hear a few words now and then.” He was now very low, and seemed rather apprehensive of death. I offered to pray with him, but to my surprise he declined. To-day he received me gladly, told me he had received bad news, and put into my hands a letter informing him of the death of his father. He said, “When I saw you come in at the ward-door, I said to myself, then the Lord is sending me a friend to comfort me in my sorrow.” He wept much, and exclaimed, “Oh, what the Lord hath done for my soul!” The Scriptures are very precious to him now. He tried to repeat the 2nd Paraphrase, which he said he remembered from his youth. He could scarcely repeat it for tears. Every word seemed to tell upon him. He said it was his prayer. To God be all the praise.

22nd.—Wrote 3 letters, and 32 notices of the hour of public worship on Sunday, to be posted on the ward-doors. Visited the Palace Hospital, and found 15 men who have a special claim on me; all seemed glad to see me, some extremely so; the whole getting better; the whole much in want of books; some want Bibles, and desire particularly to have the Scotch Psalms and Paraphrases. Left 4 notices of Sunday meeting, in case any of the surgeons or others able to do so might wish to attend.

As I passed along one of the wards, inquiring for those to whom it is my special mission to minister, my attention was arrested by the giant-like appearance of one of the patients. He told me that he is the stoutest, and at the same time the youngest, of the heavy cavalry. He had caught cold in the trenches. To see such a large-bodied man laid prostrate by disease, and speaking in a whisper, shows, in very deed, that no man needs glory in his might. I was surprised and gratified to find him speaking, and with every appearance of sincerity, in the language of a devout Christian.

23rd.—One of my people died this morning. Several very bad cases are apparently getting better. Fear much that the feeling which many show is only temporary, and will, as soon as they get well, pass away like the morning cloud and the early dew. Still I cannot but hope that there are several cases where a decided change has been wrought. Put up notices of the hour of public worship.

24th.—Took two oranges to one to whom I had promised them yesterday, and to my surprise his spirit had just fled from its feeble prison-house when I reached his bedside. Was no less surprised to find another gone, who, two days ago, had his name taken down for England. A great improvement in the health of the men generally. Visited with lady Alicia Blackwood all the soldier's wives. Her ladyship has much credit for her efforts in behalf of this degraded and neglected class. Have promised to preach to them occasionally.

25th.—Sabbath. Prepared to preach in the afternoon—had about 20 hearers. Baptized one child—was called after the service to visit a man thought in a dying state. One of those pleasant cases, where the fire of Divine love has been kindled in the soul, and only requires to be blown a little to make it mount into a flame.

26th.—Visited S. F., Irish Presbyterian, whom I was called to see yesterday. Found him still alive, and able to converse freely. He said he felt the Lord was about to call him hence, and that a few days more would finish his race here, and that he felt more and more comfort at the thought of leaving this sinful world. Was much surprised to find W. R., alluded to on 21st, gone,

CORRESPONDENCE.

I doubt not he sleeps in Jesus. Several of my people worse in health, but apparently more thoughtful. Two young men told me that they think there will be a great change in the army after these afflictions, and that many of those who recover will lead new lives.

27th.—Visited Palace Hospital; all my people improving in health there. Added 6 to my list, 5 of whom have just come from the Crimea. All seemed most thankful for books and tracts.

28th.—Visited nearly the whole of my men in the General Hospital. 4 apparently dying—2 of them, I fear, impenitent. One man, who is getting better, and whom I formerly thought impressed, seems truly penitent, and says he wishes to prepare for the Communion. Gave him something to read on the Lord's Supper. Found out 4 Presbyterians whom I had not before seen. Visited also the Sable Hospital; all there doing well.

DEATH OF THE REV. DR. BREWSTER.—It is our painful duty to announce the death of the Rev. George Brewster, D.D., minister of the parish of Seconie. The deceased, though failing in health these twelve months past, had been able to perform the duties of his charge till within a few days of his death. He officiated at his parochial communion on Sabbath se'night, and on the 13th instant he attended a meeting of the Presbytery of Kirkcaldy. Last Friday afternoon he was taken unwell, and continued indisposed till Wednesday, the 20th instant, without any very alarming symptoms, when, at 3 P. M., the rev. gentleman got worse and very suddenly was called to his last account. This dire stroke has, we need hardly say, thrown his family into deep affliction and distress, and not merely his family but also his numerous and affectionate parishioners, and a large circle of clerical and lay friends both in and out of the county. By one and all the deceased was dearly beloved as a faithful pastor and an attached friend. To his family and people, and to his brethren in the Presbytery, the loss of the deceased is a most severe bereavement.—*Fife-shire Journal.*

PRESENTATIONS.—The Queen has presented the Rev. James Mitchell to the parish of Peterhead in the Presbytery of Deer; and the Rev. John McCrae Sandilands to the Parish of Urr, Presbytery of Dumfries.

THE Rev. James Pennel, assistant to the Rev. Wm. Robertson, New Greyfriars, Edinburgh, has been presented to the church and parish of St. Andrews, Dunfermline, vacant by the translation of the Rev. David Nichol to the parish of Dalgety.

INDUCTION.—On Thursday last the Presbytery of Dumfries met at Kirkbean for the purpose of inducting the Rev. John Inches Dickson, of the High Parish, Paisley, to the church and parish of Kirkbean. The Rev. Mr. Stephen, of Terregles, presided and conducted the services. The attendance was large, and the new minister received a hearty welcome.

THE NEW CHURCH AT SANDYFORD.—We are enabled to state definitely and with authority that the Rev. Mr. Macduff, of St. Madoes, has agreed to accept the pastoral charge of this new church. The necessary means are being adopted for obtaining a constitution, and Mr. Macduff's translation will take place towards autumn. We may congratulate the subscribers to the new church, and the Church of Scotland at large, on the prospect of so able, zealous and popular a minister being speedily settled in this locality.—*Constitutional.*

This Church was opened for public worship on Sabbath, the Rev. Norman McLeod preaching in the forenoon from Numbers xiv. 21; the Rev. John Caird in the afternoon from John iii. 7 and 8; and Rev. Dr. McCulloch in the evening from Isaiah lxiv. 11, first clause—"Our holy and beautiful home." The collections, forenoon and afternoon, amounted to upwards of £120.

[The conductors of "The Presbyterian" do not hold themselves responsible for the opinions expressed in the communications that may from time to time appear under this head.]

FROM A WESTERN CORRESPONDENT.

[To the Editor of the Presbyterian.]

DEAR SIR,—Will you permit me to submit a few enquiries or peradventure suggestions through your periodical for the consideration of those who are engaged in promoting the welfare of our Zion? With the blessing of the energizing Spirit of God they may tend to good.

At the recent meeting of our Synod there seemed to be an intimation *hinted* that in your part of the Province a well organized plan was about to be developed, which would operate in systematically drawing out the benevolent and Christian aid of our people in the support and extension of the ordinances of the Gospel among us. From a fund raised by the liberality of the willing-hearted the lack of endowment to any of the present or future ministerial labourers in our Provincial Church, it appeared to be expected, could be supplied. While the disposition and habit of our members and adherents would be greatly improved in the department of communicating, such a "scheme," we may be confident, will be welcomed by every "wise-hearted" disciple of Jesus belonging to us.

The Synod was much affected on having its attention invited to the solemn bereavements with which it had pleased Him, who is "Head over all things," to visit it since last ordinary meeting. Within about 6 months not less than 5 ministerial brethren had been removed from the Church on earth. Alas! during the recent Session a sixth was added to the number, "was taken sick and within a week passed away from earth, and its trials and duties." We cannot, as a Church, be too much humbled under the rod of chastisement. It behoves every one of us to "repent in dust and ashes," to cherish contrition of spirit, and more than ever to "work while it is day," seeing "the night cometh, when no man can work."

Most anxiously it is hoped that something special will be done with a view to supply the places of these departed servants of Christ, and to meet the urgent necessities of the many vacant congregations that look to us for the ministry of the Gospel. Could not a vigorous effort be made among the preachers and divinity-students of the Mother Church to obtain a goodly and seasonable re-inforcement of suitable labourers for the abundant harvest that must yet be reaped? If a delegate were sent to plead with Christian and deep-felt earnestness the wants and claims of our Church in the divinity-halls and among the licentiates and min-

isters of the Church in Scotland, surely the appeal would not be in vain. Would it not be responded to by some of those Christian men who have consecrated themselves to the Lord for the work of winning souls and edifying the body of Christ? Would there not be found those who, actuated by the missionary spirit in the service of their loved Master, would say, "Here are we, send us?" Certainly it were unwarranted and faithless to conclude that an effort, such as that now proposed, would issue only in disappointment and bitterness. If our delegate were to visit the various "Halls," say in January next; address and press the students with an especial reference to Canada; confer with their Missionary Associations; enquire after promising preachers or ministers willing to devote themselves to the Colonial field, putting himself into correspondence with them; and plead our cause in the next General Assembly, assuredly we might expect good fruits of such labour. Let all this be accompanied by faithful prayer by all "the seed of Jacob" pertaining to us, and verily it will succeed. In any case we would have the comfort of feeling that we had done what we could. Will nothing of this kind be attempted? Let me solicit you, Mr. Editor, to use your best exertions to bring it before the notice of those who can act in this business.

Turning now to the subject of Sabbath Schools, it is refreshing to perceive advancement there in the right direction. I understand that we have Sabbath-teachers and scholars in Montreal and Kingston who intend to support some of the interesting young inmates of the Orphanages at Cochin and Calcutta in connection with our Church. Others may have engaged or may soon engage in the same good work. The openings present a most inviting call. If five pounds currency be sufficient to maintain an orphan at one of these Institutions, many a Sabbath School within our borders could in the course of a year raise this sum. What an endearing relation would the orphan, thus upheld, sustain to her youthful patrons! How improving and elevating the intercommunications to which it would lead! *Undoubtedly the obligation of giving to the cause of our Lord should be taught our children and youth in the Sabbath School.* This is a part of their Christian education and training which it is wrong to omit. Opportunities should be afforded them periodically of contributing for the highest good of their less favoured fellow-sinners. What hinders the constituting of every Sabbath School a Juvenile Missionary Association?

So soon as such a proposal as this is being carried out, the necessity is felt of intelligence bearing upon the state and progress of Christianity in the World at this time. What a field here opens up for the enlightened instructor of the young of our Sabbath Class! Here may be introduced

the desirableness and importance of a Sabbath School monthly publication, issuing from our body. It is true that various periodicals of this nature (a very small portion of them native, the greater number foreign,) can easily be procured. But this does not discharge us from the performance of a duty that may be resting upon us. The *felt want* of such a messenger as that now alluded to should lead to its being supplied. If our Church will show that she has strength adequate to comply with this invitation, not only shall we be found rendering in some measure our share towards the Christianisation of the rising generation, we shall be able more freely and surely than otherwise to teach "the lambs" of the flock to be "sound in the faith." The fruits of this "sound doctrine," as taught in the schools of the Church of Scotland, from her Pulpits, and in her standards, are seen in what is excellent in the national and hereditary character of the people. From this *indoctrination* must flow any excellence to which we, as a Colonial branch of the Church, may attain. Compared with other Christian denominations, we are cast into the shade as regards music, external decoration, &c. In regard to doctrinal truth the reverse is our position. How momentous then that we should be able to instil into the heart and mind of those, who in the morning of life are entrusted to our spiritual oversight, the knowledge and love of "the Truth as it is in Jesus"! How powerful an auxiliary in effecting this would our juvenile monthly for Sabbath Schools become! In order to arrive at it, and to have the Spirit of grace accompanying, oh, that we were seeking and striving with simple and sincere prayerfulness!

Could these hints be successfully carried into operation, we might soon advance farther. We at present are invited to aid and sympathize with the Jewish and Foreign Missions of the Church of Scotland. Is it too much to hope that the day is not distant when we shall be able to send out the Missionary of the Cross from among ourselves? The Mother Church is likely soon to be represented by at all events one of her Jewish Missionaries to *Israel in Jerusalem*. How honourable and how fraught with health and prosperity to our own Christian communion, if we, her most progressive offshoot, could also send a representative to the East, and to the city of Zion, so likely soon to become intensely interesting to the World. I may here mention that an ecclesiastical colonial body, not so numerous as we are, maintain, I think, three Missionaries on the Foreign field with the happiest consequences to their several congregations at home. I allude to the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia.

While the chastening hand of our God has been laid upon us, it is right also to acknowledge with fervent gratitude His goodness towards us. Where our minis-

ters are exerting themselves in dependence upon the blessing of the Divine Master, there are good tokens of encouragement vouchsafed. Within a short time past, and within the bounds of the Presbytery of Hamilton one congregation, at the celebration of the Lord's Supper, had an accession of about 70 new members, another of about 30, and a third of 26. Does not this look as if the Lord were drawing the people to us? Shall we not, like the great Apostle of the Gentiles, from such instances "thank God and take courage?"

MISCELLANEOUS.

BURNETT PRIZE ESSAYS.—We understand the first Prize Essay, by Rev. J. Anchor Thompson, is at press, and will be published by Messrs. Rivington, of London, in two 8vo vols., about the end of June. Messrs. Blackwood have announced Dr. Tulloch's Essay (second prize) for publication during May; it is entitled "Theism: the Witness of Reason and Nature to the All-Wise and Beneficent Creator;" in one vol. 8vo.

DR. DICK.—The friends of Dr. Dick of Broughty Ferry, the gifted author of the *Christian Philosopher* and kindred works, have been for some time assiduous in their efforts to get from Government a small annual tribute which might aid in comforting the declining years of one who has produced many works of enduring excellence, but which, unfortunately, are not so extensively read as their merits entitle them to be. The labours of these gentlemen have now been rewarded by the Lords of the Treasury conferring on the venerable Dr. Dick the munificent pension of ten pounds!—*Alloa Advertiser*.

NEW BISHOPRIC IN BORNEO.—A new see for Borneo has been constructed, and the Rev. Dr. Francis T. McDougall, who has been for some time the chief missionary in the island, has been appointed the first bishop with the title of "The Bishop of Labuan," and will be consecrated by the Archbishop of Canterbury in the course of a few days. The bishop-designate is a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, and practised for many years as a medical man. He held for a considerable time an important medical appointment in connection with King's College Hospital. When Dr. McDougall is consecrated, there will be 30 Colonial Bishoprics in connection with the Established Church of England.—*Morning Herald*.

SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF DR. TYNG'S SABBATH SCHOOL.—Sunday, April 15, being the 10th Anniversary of the Pastorate of Rev. Dr. Tyng over St. George's Episcopal Church, New York, a sermon, appropriate to the occasion, was preached in the morning. In the afternoon the children of the Sabbath Schools occupied the floor of the magnificent building, the galleries being densely crowded with spectators. It was a truly interesting spectacle. The pulpit was tastefully decorated with white muslin and flowers. He proceeded to receive from the various classes their contributions to the cause of Missions, which in the aggregate amounted to no less a sum than \$1,822, 57.

Seven years ago this Sabbath School commenced with 9 teachers and 35 scholars; it now numbers 1,593 scholars and 95 teachers, including 433 scholars from a newly established and much needed school in Avenue A, corner of Nineteenth Street. We may add that in the morning the Reverend Dr. stated that during the 10 years of his connection with this church more than \$77,000 have passed through his hands, collected from his congregation for evangelical purposes. Dr. Tyng stated one interesting fact respecting one of the boys. His name is Edward Moses. He was the first boy to come to the school, has

never been absent a single half-day, and has brought in *thirty-six* other boys. What a fact is this for Sunday School teachers and pupils!

CURIOS INSCRIPTION.—In one of our exchanges we find the following Vaudois inscription, which is cut on the stone of an old house in Grosse Pierre, Commune de Molines, in Quayras, High Alps:

Pecc viv gener crim morte
ator ens avit ine m

Salv mori reserv sangu vita

The middle line is the termination of the corresponding words of the first and third lines. Example: Pecc-ator. Salv-ator, viv-ens, moriens, etc. The following translation into English has been made:

liv sinn transgre procur damn
A ing er's sssion ed ation.
dy Redeem pa purchas salv

NOVEL SUBSTITUTE FOR CHURCH ATTENDANCE.—Our readers will be aware that during the last few years persons afflicted with deafness have been enabled to enjoy the services of the church by having a gutta-percha hearing-apparatus, fitted up in their places of worship, to convey the sound from the pulpit to their respective pews. A recent case which has just come to our knowledge is still more remarkable. A lady, connected with one of the fashionable churches in the New Town, was so enfeebled in health that she was unable to leave her bed, and felt her inability to join in the public exercises of devotion one of her greatest deprivations. An ingenious friend suggested that she should take a house adjoining the church and have one of these gutta-percha conductors actually led into her bed. The suggestion was carried into effect, and now in the solitude of her sick chamber she listens to the public ministrations of her spiritual adviser.—*Caledonian Mercury*.

BIBLES CIRCULATED IN THE FRENCH FLEET.—The Society has two zealous, good, and active Colporteurs in Messrs. Sellar and Costabel, and their labours of love are blessed with encouraging success, as you will perceive when you read the Constantinople Auxiliary Society's Report. Mr. Sellar was so anxious to visit the camps at Balaklava and Sebastopol that, finding a free passage to the former place, he left for the Crimea, with a box of New Testaments, to spend the Christmas holidays amongst his countrymen, and endeavour to do them some good. On his return I shall report to you the result of his trip. Notwithstanding the rebuffs Mr. Costabel has to endure from the Sisters of Charity, and prejudiced, jealous Popish priests, he goes always a-head, and is not without his days of rejoicing. The Romanists are not always of the same opinion relative to the circulation of the Scriptures, as you will perceive from what I am going to state. Mr. Costabel went on board of a French man-of-war, and requested the captain to permit him to distribute New Testaments amongst his crew. That officer thanked him for his good intentions, but he saw no necessity whatever for his men to read that book. Mr. Costabel, thinking he might object to the edition, assured him that the Testaments he offered were approved of by his church. "C'est égal," he replied; and, thanking him again, bowed from his deck. From this vessel he went to a much larger one where the Captain gave him immediate leave to distribute the Scriptures on board. In another man-of-war the commander referred him to the chaplain, who of course set his face against his pious work, and told him that the Scriptures ought not to be circulated but in the Latin tongue, as if that was of any use to the sailors. Mr. Costabel, however, insisted on visiting the Protestant crew, and giving them the Scriptures, and went down the hold for that purpose, followed by the chaplain, who was telling him all the time that there were no Protestants on board. This, however, proved untrue, for Mr. Costabel found several sailors of that persuasion, who were very glad to have Testaments. One of the sailors put out his hand for a Testament, when the chaplain opposed, saying

that he was a Roman Catholic. "How do you know that?" said the sailor. "Because," replied the chaplain, "you have always been such." "That is true," answered the sailor, "but you do not know what I am now." In another ship of war the chaplain himself gave immediate permission to Mr. Costabel to distribute the Scriptures to all on board without distinction. When Mr. Costabel related all this to me, he had just arrived at our dépôt for a fresh supply of 300 French Testaments and some Bibles, to return again to the men-of-war.—*Bible Society Recorder.*

MISSIONS OF TURKEY.

THE following is the circular published by the London Committee for aiding the above Missions:—

In consequence of the remarkable openings for spreading the Gospel in Turkey, an Association has been formed in aid of missions in that empire, especially among the Armenians and Greeks.

1. *What are the openings?*

From Ararat, Ur of the Chaldees, and Antioch, to Constantinople and the shores of the Mediterranean, where Paul planted the earliest Gentile Churches, "the Word of the Lord has free course, and is glorified."

Two hundred places in that region now contain Protestants, but of these only about thirty have stated pastors or teachers.

Nineteen churches have been formed with more than four hundred communicants, of which two are at Smyrna and Thyatira, and a third near Antioch.

In Constantinople there are four evangelical congregations.

Among the Greeks in the capital and in North-Western Asia Minor—a field long worked without any apparent fruit—an awakening has commenced, and there is a cry for the Gospel.

Among the Armenians—through Asia Minor, Armenia and, Northern Syria—there is a widespread and earnest spirit of inquiry, which has extended greatly during the War.

One hundred native agents could at once be employed.

Many in the United States—many students in the mission seminaries—many evangelists and colporters—are desirous to enter the field.

II. *What can we do?*

None of our British missionary societies are in a state, or are prepared to occupy this ground.*

Amidst the many societies already existing, it is very desirable, if possible, to avoid forming a new one.

A truly evangelical missionary society is already working in this field, has all the necessary apparatus at work, and is capable of extension, but has limited means, viz:—

THE AMERICAN BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.

III. *The Western Asia Mission and Society* has before been formed to aid and supplement the Turkish Missions of the Board chiefly by—

Native pastors, evangelists, and colporters.

The preparation of pious youths for the missionary work and education generally.

The result will be—

A great saving of expense.

To work in union with our brethren in Christ.

To present a united front to those whom we wish to evangelize, and to all the enemies of our faith.

To strengthen the foundation already laid, and extend it, as the providence of God may bless our efforts.

Evangelical British Christians are therefore, earnestly invited—

To pray that God may revive these old Christian communities.

To contribute of their substance to this great object.

To seek to interest others in it by diffusing information.

* The Church Missionary Society has at present but one agent in Asia Minor, its chief efforts in the Turkish dominions being in Egypt and Palestine, in connexion with the encouraging work of Bishop Gobat.

The Characteristics of this work are—
It interferes with no other mission.
The apparatus for carrying it on is already at work.
It seeks to "bring into the way of Truth those who profess and call themselves Christians."
It is for a field "white unto the harvest," and of deep and peculiar interest at the present time.—*Evangelical Christendom.*

POETRY.

THE LITTLE BOY THAT DIED.

Dr. Chalmers is said to be the author of the following beautiful poem, written on the occasion of the death of a young son whom he greatly loved:

I am all alone in my chamber now,
And the midnight hour is near,
And the faggot's crack and the clock's dull tick
Are the only sounds I hear;
And over my soul in its solitude
Sweet feelings of sadness glide,
For my heart and my eyes are full when I think
Of the little boy that died.

I went one night to my father's house,
Went home to the dear ones all,
And softly I opened the garden-gate,
And softly the door of the hall;
My mother came out to meet her son,
She kissed me and then she sighed,
And her head fell on my neck, and she wept
For the little boy that died.

I shall miss him when the flowers come
In the garden where he played;
I shall miss him more by the fire-side
When the flowers have all decayed;
I shall see his toys and his empty chair
And the horse he used to ride;
And they will speak with a silent speech
Of the little boy that died.

We shall go home to our Father's house—
To our Father's house in the skies,
Where the hope of our souls shall have no blight,
Our love no broken ties;
We shall roam on the banks of the river of peace,
And bathe in its blissful tide,
And one of the joys of our Heaven shall be
The little boy that died.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED SINCE OUR LAST PUBLICATION.

John Martin, W. S., Edinburgh, 1855	0	2	6
Miss Gunn, " " 1855	0	2	6
Miss Armour, Kilmarnock, 1855	0	2	6
Mrs. W. Aird, Sydney, N. S. W. 1855	0	2	6
John Lawrence, Paspebiac, 1855	0	2	6
Daniel Bisson, " " 1855	0	2	6
Daniel Ross, " " 1855	0	2	6
Alex. Munro, Salmon River, Pictou 1855	0	2	6
R. Sutherland, Earltown, Pictou, 1855	0	2	6
A. chd. Petrie, Cumberland, 1855	0	2	6
A. N. Lowry, Montreal, 1855	0	2	6
Hou J. Ferrier, " " 1854	0	2	6
John Jack Chateauguay, 1854-5	0	5	0
John Cameron, Esq., Dundee, 1855	0	2	6
Widow McDonell, Charlottenburgh, 1855	0	2	6
Rev. Dr. Skinner, London, C. W. 1855	0	2	6
James Nish, " " 1855	0	2	6
Mr. Henderson, " " 1855	0	2	6
Duncan Campbell, " " 1855	0	2	6

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James B. M. Chipman, Esq.

General Agent for the British North American Colonies.

OFFICE, MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE.

The Agency of this Institution differs widely from an Agency as commonly conferred by parent Institutions abroad. The General Agent, together with the Local Boards as above, by Power of Attorney executed by the London Court, are fully authorised to act on behalf of the Society; so that for all practical purposes this Agency is essentially a Colonial Company, strengthened by a large bona fide capital safely invested in London.

Agents and Medical Examiners have been appointed throughout Canada, and the other Colonies; and proposals for Insurance will be transmitted the General Agent, and Premiums received by the Agents, through whom pamphlets and blanks can always be obtained.

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A Life Assurance may be effected on the Life of another person. Premiums payable at option of assured in the above-mentioned ways.

A Life Assurance may be effected on two or three lives jointly in one Policy, the sum assured being payable to the survivor.

In any of these forms parties may participate in profits or not, at their own option.

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