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VOLUME II.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

Thursday, May 16th, 1839.

Lord Belhaven her Majesty's Lord High Commissioner, held his first Levee on Thursday forenoon, which was more numerous attended than on any similar occasion for a great many years back. Amongst the presentations were the following noblemen and gentlemen:—

The Lord Provost, the Marquis of Huntly, Earl of Leven and Melville, the Earl of Dalhousie, Lord Torphichen, Lord Greenock, Lord Robert Kerr, the Hon. Bouverie Primrose, the Hon. W. Sandilands, Sir James Milles Riddell, Sir Andrew Agnew, Sir D. Maxwell, Sir Robert Abercrombie, Sir James Stewart, Sir Charles Fergusson, Sir William Hamilton, Sir George Ballingall, Count Martigny, Le Chevalier de Bivar, Attache a la Legation de Sa Majeste Britannique, the Solicitor-General, the Procurator for the Church, Principal Macfarlan, Principal Dewar, Professor Jackson, Professor Scott (Aberdeen), Professor Kelland, Professor Sime, Rev. Dr. Muir, Rev. Dr. Duncan (Ruthwell), Dr. Cook, Dr. Fleming (Neilston), Dr. Dickson, Dr. Gordon, Dr. Burns (Paisley), Dr. Simpson (Kirknewton), Dr. Clason, Dr. Ralph (Liverpool), Dr. Brown, (Aberdeen), Dr. Clark, Dr. Abercrombie, Dr. Monro, Dr. Thatcher, Dr. Hunter, President of the Royal College of Surgeons, Dr. J. H. Balfour, Dr. MacLagan, Surgeon to the Queen, the Magistrates and Town Council of Edinburgh, the Magistrates and Ministers of Cannongate, Bailie Thom of Leith, Rev. Mr. Thomson (Dundee), Mr. Home (Greenlaw), Mr. Maitland (Kells), Mr. Forrester (Linton), Mr. Murray (Balmaclellan), Mr. Paul (Tullynessle), Mr. Miller (Aboyne), Mr. Clark (Inverness), Mr. Ross (Inverness), Mr. Cousens (Lauder), Mr. Abercromby Gordon, Mr. Runciman, Mr. Macfarlane, Mr. Gray (Perth), Mr. Tannoch, Mr. J. Thorburn (Forglan), Mr. Houston (Dalmellington), Mr. Murray (Aberdeen), Mr. Anderson (Cults), Colonel Irving, Colonel Kinnaird, Colonel Gordon, Colonel Blanchard, Colonel Dundas, Colonel Carter, Colonel H. M'Gregor, Major MacLaine, Major Nunn, Major Taylor, Captain Sinclair, Captain Bruce Boswell, Bengal Army, Captain Hope, Lieutenant Perott, Lieutenant Tulloch, 90th Regiment, the Officers of the Guard, Mr. Trotter of Dreghorn, Mr. Inglis of Redhall, Mr. Howison Crauford of Craufordland, Mr. Bruce of Kennett, Mr. Craige of Glendoick, Mr. Smith of Glenmillan, Cluny M'Pherson, Mr. Graham of Leitchtown, Mr. Henderson, Queen's Remembrancer, Mr. Longmore, Exchequer, Mr. Sheriff Boswell, Mr. Sheriff Douglas, Mr. Rhind, Advocate, Mr. Thomas Anderson, Advocate, Mr. Gracie, Commissary-Clerk, Mr. Jameson Torrie, Mr. Bridges, W. S. Mr. Laurie W. S. Mr. W. Malcom, Mr. W. Paul, &c. &c.

A detachment of the 3d Dragoon Guards and of the 1st Royal, formed the guard in the Palace yard. About twelve o'clock his Grace proceeded in his carriage to the High Church, preceded by the military guard and a carriage in which were the pages, ushers, &c. parties of the day police, in their new uniform, and the streets were lined by the 3d Dragoon Guards.

Before his Grace entered the Cathedral many of the seats had been occupied, and when divine worship began the church was completely filled. The Rev. Dr. Muir, Moderator of last General Assembly, preached an eloquent and excellent discourse from 1st John, iv. chap. 1. 2. and 3. Public worship having been concluded, his Grace the Commissioner and suite walked in procession to the Tron Church, where the Assembly was constituted with prayer.

The Moderator (Dr. Muir) said—The time is now come, fathers and brethren when I am to leave this chair, in which, I may well say; no deservings of mine could ever have put me; and the consciousness of this prevented any wish of mine to be appointed. It was the great indulgence and kindness of my much respected fathers and brethren, which formed the sole basis for distinguishing me with such honour. For the courteousness and friendliness to which my own conscious shortcoming made me the more keenly alive, and which I have so uniformly received, I am, and will, while I live, feel deeply grateful. The remembrance of last General Assembly, during which so much good spirit and good order were maintained, is strongly impressed on my mind; and my fond persuasion is that as much, nay, that even more of that good spirit and good order will prevail during this Assembly, and will secure calm deliberation on matters, with regard to which a false step may produce tremendous consequences. With regard to a successor in this chair, I beg leave to state that my attention has been directed to Dr. Henry Duncan of Ruthwell—one who is eminent in the Church, and distinguished most creditably for himself and the country, by his writings and by his practical improvements on parochial economy which have done so much to promote the public interest.—I beg to move that Dr. Duncan be appointed Moderator. (Cries of "Agreed.")

Dr. Duncan was elected Moderator by acclamation, and having been installed, the Commission of his Grace the Lord High Commissioner, and also the Queen's letter, were read and ordered to be engrossed.

His Grace the Commissioner then addressed the Assembly;—Right Reverend and Right Honourable, the Queen has again conferred upon me the distinguished office of representative to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland; and her Majesty commands me to express to you her undiminished confidence, in your loyalty and attachment to her throne, and of your zealous and anxious exertions to guide the people committed to your care, in those moral and religious duties which are ever the surest safeguards of the altar and the throne. Her Majesty continues resolved to support the Presbyterian Church as by law established; and I have the pleasure to present you with £2000 for the moral and religious instruction of her people in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. I am commanded to afford you every aid and assistance, in the due exercise of your undoubted rights and privileges; and I trust that calmness, and moderation and brotherly love will pervade all your deliberations. I am commanded also to express to you her Majesty's regret, that a proper place of meeting has not yet been prepared for you; but at the same time I am desired to inform you that her Majesty's orders have been issued, to provide such with as little delay as possible. Right Reverend and Right Honourable, it will afford me the most unfeigned gratification to do every thing in my power, that may conduce to your comfort and convenience during the sitting of the Assembly; and I hope your Moderator will communicate your wishes to me on all occasions without the smallest hesitation.

The Moderator then addressed his Grace in reply and said—The appointment of your Grace as Commissioner by her Majesty is felt, I am sure by the General Assembly, as a new proof of her Majesty's kindness, and long knowledge of your Grace's excellent character, have won for you the respect and attachment of the members. It affords us high satisfaction to be assured of

her Majesty's undiminished confidence, in the loyalty and Christian zeal of the Church of Scotland; and we will endeavour to earn the approbation of her Majesty, as well as the approbation of our own consciences, by promoting to the utmost of our power, in humble dependence upon Divine assistance, the moral and religious welfare of the people committed to our charge. We rejoice in the renewed assurance, that her Majesty will continue to maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of our National Church, and we receive it as an acceptable assurance of her Majesty's good will, that your Grace has been commanded to afford the General Assembly, your aid and countenance in the exercise of those rights and privileges. We do trust that the deliberations of this Assembly will be conducted in such a spirit of Christian meekness, moderation, and brotherly love as may deserve and meet with your Grace's approbation. We accept with gratitude the munificent donation of £2000 for promoting the moral and religious improvement, of the spiritually destitute population in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland; and we shall endeavour faithfully to apply that fund for the important purpose for which it has been granted. The expression of your Grace's personal desire, to promote the comfort and convenience of the Assembly is peculiarly gratifying; and I beg to assure your Grace, that the Assembly feels a corresponding anxiety, to render the duties of your high office as little burdensome as possible.

The Assembly then proceeded to appoint the Committees on Bills and Overtures, and to dispose of other matters of routine.

COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY.
Dr. Cook wished a Committee appointed to report on the record of the Commission, and the report of that Committee with the record, to be laid on the table on Monday, when he should be ready to make a proposition on the subject.

After a few words from Dr. Brown and Dr. Bruce, a Committee was appointed to revise the record of the Commission; to report on Monday.

The Assembly adjourned at half-past four o'clock to Friday.

Friday, May 17.
The greater part of this day's sederunt was, as usual, devoted to prayer.

The following ministers were appointed to preach on Sabbath before his Grace the Commissioner;—Forenoon—the Rev. James Macfarlane, St. Bernard's church, Stockbridge. Afternoon—Rev. George Duncan, minister of Irongray.

BOOKS FOR THE BLIND.
Principal MACFARLAN introduced Mr. Alston of Glasgow, who presented the Moderator with a copy of the Book of Genesis, and a copy of the Psalms and Paraphrases, printed for the blind. Mr. Alston stated that the blind children in the different institutions in Scotland and England, by means of the types invented for the use of the blind, read the Bible as well as any who had the use of their eye-sight. Mr. A. stated that it was his intention to print the whole Bible, for the use of the blind, which with his limited means, would occupy him for three years; and that if he was spared till the expiry of that time, he would have much pleasure in being again honoured with so kind a reception by the Venerable Assembly, (Hear, hear.)

On the motion of Dr. Cook, the Moderator communicated the thanks of the Assembly to Mr. Alston for his philanthropic and useful labours.

The Assembly adjourned about four o'clock, till eleven on Saturday.

Saturday, May 18.

Rev. Mr. FAIRLY, assistant minister of Mauchline, was appointed to lecture and preach before the Commissioner on the forenoon of Sabbath se'ennight; and the Rev. Mr. Murray, assistant minister of Balmaclellan, on the afternoon.

The Queen's letter to the Assembly, and the Assembly's answer, were then read, paragraph by paragraph and the answer unanimously agreed to, which was then signed by the Moderator, and presented to the Commissioner to be transmitted to her Majesty.

Mr. CANDLISH said, that a series of works has of late years been published anonymously in this city, with the following titles, viz;

1. The Morning and Evening Sacrifice.
2. The Last Supper.
3. Farewell to Time; or, Last Views of Life, and Prospects of Immortality.
4. The True Plan of a Living Temple, 3 vols.
5. A Manual of Conduct, or Christian Principle exemplified in Daily Practice.

He moved therefore that these books should be remitted to the Presbytery of Dalkeith, with instruction to inquire into the subject complained of, and to proceed therein according to the rules of the Church.

The Rev. Mr. M'KELLAR seconded the motion, but spoke in a tone inaudible to the reporters.

The motion was then unanimously agreed to.

NEW CONSTITUTIONS.

On the motion of Mr. DUNLOP the new constitutions for Dunfermline, Catrine, Milton, Blackridge, Ladlop, Linwood, Rothsay, Methil, Milton of Balgonie, Edenslee, St. Matthew's, Brownfield, Chapelton, were unanimously carried. Mr. Dunlop stated that the Marquis of Bute had given an endowment of £75 per annum to the new church of Rothsay, in addition to his late endowment to the North Church of Bute.

The Assembly adjourned after some other business being transacted at the table, at half-past six till eleven o'clock on Monday.

Monday, May 20.

The Clerk read a letter from Lord John Russell, stating that the under-mentioned reports were to be forwarded by post, for the use of the Moderator and the Assembly;—Six copies of the Report on the Poor, six copies of the Report on the University of Glasgow, and six copies of the Second Report on the University of Aberdeen.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE RETURNS RESPECTING THE MANAGEMENT OF THE POOR.

Mr. DUNLOP, convener of the Committee, presented the report. The first table, he stated consisted of a view of the whole parishes of Scotland, with the exception of fourteen, returns from which had not been received. Under the head of each parish there was contained all the information, that could be gathered on the amount of the poor; the number of paupers on the permanent roll for three years; the number of lunatic paupers; the number of persons receiving occasional relief, with a calculation of the average in all these classes; then the average number of children for whom education was provided. Branch Second—consisted of the funds for the support of the poor; the average of collections at the church doors for 1835-36-37; average of voluntary contributions; the amount of assessment; yearly average of collections. Third Branch—The number giving gratuitous services in the management of the poor; the number of hired agents; the number of persons employed in levying assessments; the average expense of levying assessments; the number of persons employed in managing the poor. Last Branch—The distribution of funds; calculation of the average amount for lunatic paupers; average amount of occasional relief to the poor; average amount expended on education to children; total annual amount of funds distributed.

Mr. Dunlop concluded by stating, that the whole expense of the report to Government, besides the free transmission of letters and the expense of the schedules, was £165.

Mr. WHIGHAM said that there was no one, whether clergyman or layman who did not feel under obligations, for the extensive and important information which the report was calculated to impart. He proposed that the Committee should be instructed by the Assembly, to prepare a petition to Government, to direct a copy to be transmitted to every parish minister.

Mr. CANDLISH said that this could be no more than reasonable, considering the great labour which the ministers had been put to, in furnishing such valuable information. He begged to move a vote of thanks to the Committee in general, and especially to the Convener.

Mr. SHAW STEWART seconded the motion. The MODERATOR then rose to present the thanks of the House to Mr. Dunlop, and said he had great pleasure to be the medium, through which the Assembly return their thanks to Mr. Dunlop, for the indefatigable labour he had undertaken, and for the uncommon clearness with which he had brought out the facts contained in the report. The Assembly considered every thing connected with the poor, as a matter of great interest, and he was persuaded, from his own experience in country parishes, that the principle laid down so judiciously in that report, might be of great use to Kirk-sessions, in making proper regulations for the management of the poor.

The Assembly then adjourned at 8 o'clock.

Tuesday, May 21.

The Assembly met at eleven o'clock forenoon.

REPORT ON ASSEMBLY HALL.

Mr. ALEX. DUNLOP reported verbally the proceedings taken by the Committee on the erection of a hall for the meeting of the General Assembly. The Assembly, on hearing Mr. Dunlop's report, agreed, on his motion, to appoint a committee to consider the report and documents, and to report to the Assembly as to what steps should be adopted in the circumstances.

CASE OF MR. ROBERT LAING, STUDENT IN DIVINITY. The petition of Robert Laing, student in divinity of Jedburgh might be authorised to proceed to take him on trials, which, in consequence of his certificates not having been forwarded in time to the Synod, they were unable to do without the concurrence of the Assembly. Considering the peculiar circumstances of the case, the Assembly agreed that the Presbytery should proceed with his trials, dispensing with the certificates to the Synod.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN ENGLAND.

The Assembly then proceeded to the consideration of a petition, statement, and overtures to the General Assembly, anent the Synod of the Presbyterian Church in England in connection with the Church of Scotland.

"That your petitioners have already received certain privileges at your hand—that the ordained ministers of the Synod, by being licentiate of Presbyteries in Scotland, do already enjoy pulpit and sacramental intercourse with their brethren—that, by a deliverance of your Venerable Court in 1836, they possess the privilege of giving an account of the state of religion among them, and of receiving advice—and the Synod is declared to be a branch of your Church.

"That for reasons which they are prepared to state, your petitioners consider these privileges to be insufficient, for the great ends of edifying that part of the body of Christ to which they have been sent—that they are desirous of being placed in still closer connection with the Assembly of the Church—and that they humbly conceive that, were two ministers and two elders from the Synod in England, to be received as corresponding members into the General Assembly, with power to deliberate and vote this

would be satisfactory to them, profitable to their people, and beneficial to the Church at large.

"May your Venerable Court be pleased to grant the prayer of their petition to the above effect.

"And your petitioners will ever pray.

CHARLES THOMSON, Modr.

ALEXANDER MUNRO, Clk. S.

WILLIAM HAMILTON, Elder.

HUGH RALPH, LL. D.

JAMES R. BROWN, D. D."

The petition was followed by overtures from the Presbytery of Annan, the Synod of Stirling, the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, the Presbytery of Inverness, the Presbytery of Stranraer, and the Synod of Moray, to grant to the Synod of Presbyterian churches in England the prayer of their petition.

On the motion of Mr. Candlish, the deputation (the ministers and elders who signed the petition) were allowed to be heard at the bar.

Parties being removed.

Mr. DUNLOP, moved that the Gen. Assembly having heard the deputation, from the General Synod of the Presbyterian Churches in England, and having considered the overtures anent their relations to this Church, desire to renew their expression of their heartfelt satisfaction at the formation of said Synod, as the supreme judicatory of the Presbyterians of England, adhering to the Westminster Standards and Confession of Faith, and earnestly desire to strengthen their hands, in so far as it is in their power, by establishing an intimate relation between these Presbyteries and the Church. And the General Assembly resolve that, with the concurrence of said Synod, the two Churches shall mutually interchange frequent communications, by means of deputations to and from their respective judicatories; and the General Assembly recommend their Presbyteries in their communications, and transactions with said Presbyteries and Synod in England, such as translating Scotland and the like, to follow the same rules and procedure, which they adopt in similar communications and transactions with their several Presbyteries in Scotland. And the General Assembly enjoin their ministers and licentiates in removing to England, whether temporarily or permanently, to enter into communion and intimate correspondence with the ministers, and congregations of said Synod in the places where they reside, and to evince by their conduct their sense of the truth and importance, of the principles on which both Churches are founded. And the General Assembly farther direct their Presbyteries, in the event of any irregularities or misconduct on the part of their ministers or licentiates, while residing in England, being reported to them by the Presbyteries of said Synod, immediately to inquire into the same, and thereupon proceed in the case according to the rules of the Church. And, lastly, the General Assembly nominate and appoint—a deputation to attend the meeting of said Synod at—, to communicate to the Synod this act, and to assure them of the warm and brotherly affection, wherewith they regard the allied Church, which they are the Supreme Court, and their earnest desire to co-operate with them to the utmost of their power, in promoting the interest of the Presbyterian Church, to which they are attached alike by present ties, and a grateful recollection of former days."

Dr. Cook intimated his intention to move that the motion of Mr. Dunlop be sent down as an Arier Act.

The Assembly adjourned shortly after ten o'clock.

Wednesday, May 22.

AUCHTERADER CASE.

Previously to the commencement of the business for the day, Dr. Cook begged it to be understood that the debate should terminate to-night, and that there should be no adjournment. Rev. Mr. WALKER, Muthill, suggested that

on entering into the consideration of a question of such vital importance to the Church, prayer should be offered up for Divine aid in their deliberations, which was unanimously agreed to. The Rev. Mr. Burns of Kilsyth was called upon by the Moderator, and offered up a prayer accordingly.

DR. CHALMERS'S MOTION.

The General Assembly having heard the report of the Procurator on the Auchterarder case, and considered the judgment of the House of Lords, affirming the decision of the Court of Session, and being satisfied that by the said judgment all questions of civil right, so far as the Presbytery of Auchterarder is concerned, are substantially decided, do now, in accordance with the uniform practice of this Church, and with the resolution of last General Assembly ever to give and inculcate implicit obedience to the decisions of civil courts in regard to the civil rights and emoluments secured by law to the Church, instruct the said Presbytery to offer no farther resistance to the claims of Mr. Young, or of the patron to the emoluments of the benefice of Auchterarder, and to refrain from claiming the *ius devolutum*, or any other civil right or privilege connected with the said benefice.

And whereas the principle of non-intrusion is one coeval with the Reformed Kirk of Scotland, and forms an integral part of its constitution, embodied in its standards, and declared in various Acts of Assembly, the General Assembly resolve that this principle cannot be abandoned, and that no presentee shall be forced upon any parish contrary to the will of the congregation.

And whereas, by the decision above referred to, it appears that when this principle is carried into effect, in any parish, the legal provision for the sustantiation of the ministry in that parish may be therefore suspended, the General Assembly being deeply impressed with the unhappy consequences, which must arise from any collision between the civil and ecclesiastical authorities, and holding it to be their duty to use every means in their power, not involving any dereliction of the principles and fundamental laws of their constitution, to prevent such unfortunate results, do therefore appoint a committee for the purpose of considering, in what way the privileges of the National Establishment, and the harmony between Church and State, may remain unimpaired, with instructions to confer with the Government of the country if they see cause.

Mr. BRUCE of Kennet seconded the motion, and offered some remarks in support of it, but which were rendered utterly inaudible to the reporters by the noise occasioned by members leaving the House.

This motion was carried by a large majority. The Assembly adjourned at two o'clock on Thursday morning till eleven in the forenoon.

Thursday, May 23.

In consequence of the protracted sitting of yesterday, the Assembly did not meet to-day till noon.

Mr. DUNLOP reported from the Committee for procuring accommodation for the Books of the Church, and at his suggestion an unanimous vote of thanks was passed to the Society of Writers to the Signet for their kindness in affording temporary accommodation. Thanks were also voted to Mr. Laing the librarian.

Dr. LEE called the attention of the House to certain books, copies of which had been sent to the Assembly—the Books of the Universal Kirk—and the Records of the Kirk, both of which are in the course of publication, and without having examined them minutely, he felt justified in stating that great pains appeared to have been taken in their compilation. Another work had also been presented to them from the Bannatyne Club, of which he was himself a member.

INDIAN MISSIONS.

Dr. BRUNTON then gave in and read the Report of the Committee on the Propagation of the Gospel in India.

Mr. CANDLISH, in rising to move the approval of the report, and thanks to the Convener, congratulated the House on their having arrived at a subject on which no difference of opinion could arise. The Rev. Gentleman spoke at considerable length on the importance of this great scheme, and the aid it was likely to receive, as well as the other great objects of the Church, from the periodical details given in a work now in course of publication—*The Missionary Record*. Mr. Candlish concluded by moving that the report be approved, and that the thanks of the Assembly be given to the Committee, and to Dr. Brunton the Convener.

Sir CHARLES FERGUSSON seconded the motion, and strongly impressed on the House the propriety of congregations uniting and sending out missionaries, and of those who are friendly to the great object contributing permanently to its funds by annual subscriptions.

The MODERATOR.—Dr. Brunton the honour of once more receiving the thanks of this venerable Court, for the manner in which you as Convener of the India Committee, have promoted the welfare of that important mission has been well earned, by the judicious zeal you have evinced and the unwearied attention you have paid in conducting its affairs. But highly as I doubt not you appreciate this distinction, a far nobler reward belongs to you and those with whom you are associated. No more gratifying spectacle can be exhibited to the world, than that of a Christian Church, directing its energies to the extension of the Saviour's kingdom, and carrying the light of the Gospel, with its humanising influences and glorious hopes, into the dark places of the earth, and no more exalted office can be conferred on any individual, than that of being a fellow-labourer with the great Head of the Church in so high an enterprise. This honour is yours. The wisdom and Christian spirit which the Committee have displayed, and the ability, the enlightened zeal, and the devotedness of the missionaries employed, have been evinced by the success with which this pious measure has already been attended, and the foundation which has been laid for the extensive and permanent establishment of the Gospel, in the vast and interesting regions which are the subject of its operations. May the Divine Master whom we serve, without whose blessing all human efforts are vain, afford you the unspeakable satisfaction of seeing your labours of love crowned with yet more abundant success! May He employ you still more extensively as an honoured instrument, for dispelling the delusions of heathenism, and for bringing the many millions of idolaters under British sway, into the light and liberty of our most holy faith! and may the spiritual benefits you are the means of bestowing, be reflected back upon your own soul!

Dr. DUFF then addressed the Assembly. On the motion of Mr. DUNLOP,

Mr. CLARK of Inverness then invoked the Divine blessing on the Rev. Dr. Duff and the cause in which he was about once more to engage.

Colonel DUNDAS proposed that a collection should be made in aid of the Indian Mission, to be placed at the disposal of the Rev. Dr. Duff, in affectionate remembrance of his exertions in the cause, and also in acknowledgment of the impression he has made upon the members of the Assembly. He recommended that the contributions be paid as far as possible, anonymously.

After an adjournment of an hour, the House resumed at six o'clock,

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES IN THE COLONIES.

Principal MACFARLAN gave in the report on Colonial Churches, which generally presented a favourable view of their progress, but the particulars could not be obtained. The report was understood to state that the differences in the Scottish Church in New South Wales were healed; and it noticed with much satisfaction that Government had conceded an annual grant, to the clergymen of the Church of Scotland in Lower Cayenna. Principal Macfarlan while he personally expressed the delight he had always felt, in holding the situation of Convener intimated that it

was his wish to be relieved of its duties, which from the variety of his more immediate avocations, commensurate as they were with the hours of every day, and his residence in Glasgow, frequently rendered a double communication necessary, and being productive of inconvenience to those, with whom he had to transact the business of the Committee had been too inadequately discharged; and he expressed his fear that he was rather standing as an incubus, on the interests of the Committee, than promoting its cause as he could wish to do.

The adoption of the Report was moved by Mr. Thomson of Dundee, and seconded by Dr. Laird of Portmoak, both of whom entreated the Very Rev. Principal to continue in the discharge of the important duties of the Convener. Sir Charles Fergusson also spoke to the same effect, and suggested that some arrangement might be made by the Committee to lighten the labours of the Convener. The House cordially responded to the desire of the speakers, that Principal Macfarlan should withdraw his resignation.

The MODERATOR conveyed the thanks of the Assembly to the Very Rev. Principal for his able, zealous, and effective discharge of the duties of the Convener, and their desire that he should continue in the office.

Principal MACFARLAN acknowledged the kindness of the Assembly. Certainly if it was the wish of the Assembly to appoint him again to the office of Convener, he would not allow motives of personal convenience to interfere with public duty—(hear, hear)—but he trusted that the House would indulge him with some such assistance as several members had had the goodness to suggest. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. DUNLOP proposed that the Assembly should record their cordial sense, of the kindness the Committee had received from the Government, in the recent grants they had made, and in their frank recognition of the co-ordinate claims of the Church of Scotland, with those of the Church of England in the Colonies. (Hear, hear.)

The Committee was re-appointed.

SYNOD OF ULSTER'S HOME MISSION.

The MODERATOR intimated that the Rev. Mr. Morgan, of the Synod of Ulster, had a very important communication to make to the House.

The Rev. J. W. MORGAN, then addressed the Assembly at great length.

Mr. CLARK of Inverness moved that the General Assembly express, through the Moderator the interest which they take in the progress and support of true religion in the Synod of Ulster, and their great satisfaction at the increasing number of that body; and that the General Assembly cordially recommend the Home Mission of that Synod, to the countenance and support of the members of the Church of Scotland.

Mr. ROBERTSON of Ellon seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

The MODERATOR, in communicating the motion and the thanks of the Assembly to Mr. Morgan for his gratifying statement, assured him of the deep interest taken by the Church of Scotland in the increasing prosperity of the Synod of Ulster, and hoped they would continue to co-operate with the General Assembly; and he was confident, that when they sent deputations to this country, in furtherance of their views, they would meet with the most cordial support throughout the length and breadth of the land. (Hear, hear.)

THE SLAVE TRADE.

The following overture from the Presbytery of Annan was read:

"Whereas, notwithstanding the strenuous efforts which have been made by this country, for the suppression of the slave trade, and the abolition of slavery, it appears, from unquestionable evidence, that the nefarious traffic in human beings, between Africa and America, carried on under the flag of nations calling themselves Christian, has of late years greatly increased, and now subjects at least one hundred and twenty thousand souls annually to the horrors of slavery; while it is also the occasion,

during the same period, of not fewer than two hundred and fifty thousand murders; and that, besides all this, a hundred thousand Africans fall yearly victims, in another quarter, to the Mahomedan slave trade, making, on the most moderate calculation, an annual loss to Africa of nearly half a million of human beings; and whereas this dreadful traffic, while it subjects Christian Europe to the foul opprobrium, and immeasurable criminality of not only permitting, but of being parties to such deeds of horror, presents a barrier to every thing that can soften, enlighten, or civilise the inhabitants of that vast continent—suppressing all other commerce—creating endless insecurity—kindling perpetual war—banishing knowledge and social improvement—and, above all, rendering that quarter of the globe, which contains a hundred millions of immortal souls, inaccessible to the blessings of Christianity:—It is humbly overtured by the Presbytery of Annan, to the Venerable General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, that they would be pleased to take this most painful and humiliating subject under their serious consideration, and to adopt, by application to the Legislature or otherwise, such measures as to their wisdom may seem best calculated, for promoting the total extinction of the African slave trade and for establishing, in its place, the blessings of a legitimate and humanising intercourse, along with the means of religious instruction; thus using their influence in wiping out one of the foulest stains that ever disgraced humanity, in freeing the Christian world from a load of incalculable guilt, and in opening to the injured African race, the ennobling truths, the substantial blessings, and the elevating hopes of the Gospel of peace."

Mr. CANDLISH said, it was with great pleasure he rose to support this overture, which he had been requested by the Moderator to do, as his being in the chair prevented his doing so himself. He not only most cordially agreed in the overture, but he was proud in having the opportunity of bringing it before the Assembly. At a very great expense to the country, they had at length succeeded in having the slave-trade and slavery annihilated in the British dominions; but he was sorry to say that both still existed, to a very great extent in other parts of the world, and that its horrors were not in any degree mitigated where it continued to be carried on. It still formed the great barrier to the civilisation and evangelising of the continent of Africa, as it most effectually shut the door against the entrance of liberty and Christianity to that dark portion of the globe. He was glad, however, that measures were at present in progress, and he trusted they would be carried into effect, for putting a stop to this inhuman traffic; and he thought he would not require to say anything to induce the Assembly to aid in this great work, by which they might, in some measure, make a return of good for the many wrongs done to the poor Africans. He would therefore move that a Committee be appointed to draw up a petition to Parliament, praying them to use all their influence with other countries to put an end to the horrors of the slave trade.

Dr. DEWAR seconded the motion.

Mr. BISSER supported the motion, which with Mr. Candlish's motion was agreed to.

Friday, May 24.

Mr. BRIDGES said he had a communication to make which he was sure would be gratifying to the members, as at the expense of a few minutes now they would be saved perhaps hours afterwards, which from the pressure of business was an important matter. Circumstances had led him on several occasions to press on the attention of the Assembly a very important question—the question of patronage. There were numerous petitions on this subject, on the table of the present Assembly, as well as a number of overtures showing how strong the mind of the country was directed to this subject, and to all of which he was sure the General Assembly would give every consideration. It was evident, how-

ever, from the position which that question occupied on the roll of business for this evening, that it would come on at such a late hour—that it would not be doing justice to the question itself, and would encroach too much upon the members in the exhausted state, in which they must then be to go on with it. It therefore appeared to the friends of the question to be the more proper way, to withdraw the question altogether on the present occasion. Their reasons for adopting this resolution were that the resolution which had been brought forward by an illustrious individual, had secured the appointment of a large and as it was intended an open Committee, before which this question would necessarily come; and they were therefore willing to leave the matter in the meantime in the hands of that Committee. There were a great many petitions from various parts of the country on the table and as they had been got up with considerable trouble and expense, it was proper that the names, at least of the places from which they came should be stated. Mr. BRIDGES then read the names of the places, among which were—Kirkcowan, Stewarton, Dalkeith, Dundee, Maybole, Greenock, Paisley, Kirkmichael, Barra, Cupar Angus, Ellie, and other places.—He would therefore, leave the matter in the hands

COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY.

The MODERATOR suggested to the Assembly that Dr. LEE should be added to the Commission, which would be considerably benefited by his knowledge in conducting the business of the House. Dr. Lee was accordingly unanimously appointed a member of the Commission for this year.

Dr. COOK moved the appointment of a committee for the purpose of considering and removing certain doubts, more especially relating to the powers of the Commission. It appeared to some that there had been a deviation, from what had always been understood to be the law, namely, that the Commission could take up nothing but what the Assembly contemplated consideration of this Committee was, whether, in the event of this Commission being counted out, it was competent for them to meet again till the time appointed for their meeting by the Assembly. It was understood that the Commission should, however, proceed as they had heretofore done till the report of the Committee should be given in.

WIDOWS' FUND.

The Rev. Dr. GORDON gave in the report of the Committee on the Widow's Fund.

Dr. COOK said—In the fund in which my Rev. Friend is so closely connected, we all of us feel the greatest interest. It is connected with those that are dear to us, and whose situation is often peculiarly distressing. The trustees have been singularly fortunate from the commencement of the fund, in the selection of able and kindly collectors; and it gives me much pleasure to bear my humble testimony to the great merit, the great kindness, the unwearied attention, which my Rev. Friend, the collector, has ever shown to all who have made application to him. Under his management the fund is going on as well as it can be expected to do. No one, who has come in contact with my Rev. Friend in the discharge of his duties, but must be impressed with his uniform kindness and attention. I move that the thanks of the Assembly be therefore given to Dr. Gordon.

The MODERATOR—I have great pleasure in being the organ of the Assembly in returning you thanks for the manner in which you have conducted the important affairs of this fund.—We are all of us interested in the way in which this is done; and I am sure that every member of this Assembly cordially responds to the pleasure of the Learned Doctor. It gives me pleasure in saying, that your kindness, your attention, your zeal and the ability with which you have conducted the affairs of the fund have given

the highest satisfaction to the Assembly in whose name I return you our thanks.

Rev. Mr. PAULL of Tullynessle read the Supplementary Orphan Fund. About the beginning of March last, the amount of the sum was £407 18s 6d. Since then, subscriptions to the amount of £63 17s. had been intimated to him of which £28 had been transmitted to him. He had received this day the sum of £9 9s. from one of their Presbyteries, and the handsome donation of £5 5s. from the daughter of a deceased clergyman. From India he had received a donation of £10 10s. from the son of a deceased clergyman. The whole amount of this fund was deposited in one of the banks of Aberdeen, and the Company had contrived to give them four per cent. for it. He begged to suggest to the Assembly, that a subscription of £1 upon every clergyman of the Church should be recommended in order to increase this fund, which was immeasurably below what it ought to be.

Rev. Mr. THOMSON, Dundee, begged to call the attention of the Assembly particularly to this fund; and he trusted that before another year, instead of the paltry sum of £500 this fund would amount to considerably more than £1,000.


Dr. BURNS, Paisley, thought that the fund should be recommended not merely to the attention of ministers but the honourable the elders of the church. He knew no claim that could effect a deeper lodgment in the heart than the claim which was before them; a more useful charity never was presented to any benevolent mind, and which must commend itself to every heart.

Dr. MUIR moved that the thanks of the Assembly should be given to the Convener for the faithfulness, labour, zeal, and kindness which he evinced in conducting this supplementary fund.

The MODERATOR—I have much pleasure in returning to you the thanks of the Assembly, for the zeal, the efficient and tender manner in which you have conducted the business of this fund which has been intrusted to you. I do hope that your zeal and fidelity will call forth the sympathy of the Church, and that thus you will be enabled to lay before the next Assembly, a more favourable report of the success of this important scheme, in which it is the wish of the Assembly that all the Presbyteries of the Church should co-operate.

(To be Concluded.)

TO BE SOLD OR LET.

 THAT excellent FARM, on the Wind sor Road, about 15 miles from Town at present occupied by John Morris, containing 375 Acres, considerable of which is under plough, and fenced in. There is on the Property a Stone House, Barn, and Stabling—would answer well for a Tasion given immediately. Terms will be made easy for purchasing, as the principal part of the Money, if required, can remain by Security on the Property.

ALSO—TO LET.

A HOUSE, with Stable and Garden attached, in Mait land Street, near the North Barracks, at present occupied by Mr. Charles Beamish. Possession to be given on 1st May.

For further particulars concerning both, enquire of the Subscriber.

Halifax, March 20th, 1839.

A. KEITH.

HALIFAX DISTILLERY

BELOW FRESHWATER BRIDGE.

THE SUBSCRIBER respectfully informs the Nobility, Gentry, and Public in general, of Halifax, that he Distills

WHISKEY—OF THE VERY BEST QUALITY, Made purely from Malt, in taste and flavour very fine highly approved of by the best judges, and which has met the approbation of all who have given it a trial.

The Subscriber trusts that it being a HOME MANUFACTURED ARTICLE, and the produce of this country he will meet with that encouragement which will remunerate him for his enterprising exertions. Orders at Distillery will be thankfully received, and the strictest personal attention paid to the execution thereof, and sent free of expense to any part of the town.

Country Orders, and Orders from the neighbouring Province will be punctually attended to.

The Subscriber also informs Medical Gentlemen and Rectifiers, that he Distills HIGH WINES of the very best quality.

July 25, 1838.

JOHN OAL.