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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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VOLUME V.

Price 2s. 6d. per annum.

No. 7, July, 1852.

Subscribers to THE PRESBYTERIAN, who have not remitted payment of the past year's Subscription, are respectfully and urgently requested to send the same, along with a remittance for the year 1852, THE PRESBYTERIAN being payable in advance.

CHURCH IN CANADA.

MEETING OF SYNOD.

The Annual Meeting of our chief Ecclesiastical Court takes place on Wednesday, the 7th of July, and will be continued during the remainder of the week. The place of meeting is at Williamstown, and we trust in our next to be able to communicate that a goodly number of Ministers and Elders have been in attendance, and that they have been enabled, with the Divine blessing, to devise many wise measures for the benefit of our beloved Church, and for extending our usefulness in these Provinces. As we have reason to believe that several important overtures will be laid before the Synod, we have determined, rather than give, as heretofore, a dry detail of the proceedings, to employ an efficient Reporter, whose labours, we have no doubt, will enable us to lay before our readers at least the spirit of the different speakers' addresses, if not their very words. The public generally take too little interest in the proceedings of our Church Courts, and the effect on these bodies themselves is not unfrequently very prejudicial. In the absence of a large and interested auditory, and knowing that the remarks made are not to be reported, the speakers often adopt a conversational and not very dignified style of address, which by no means tends to elevate the character of the proceedings in the estimation of the few chance visitors who listen to them. If our good friends in Glengarry will do their part by attending the meetings of Synod, we will do ours by reporting, if necessary in a supplementary sheet, an accurate account of the proceedings.

OVERTURE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE SYNOD OF CANADA, IN CONNEXION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

WHEREAS the persons, usually nominated to constitute the Commission of Synod, are never able to meet together for the transaction of business, so that what is called the Commission of Synod is often nothing more than a few of the members of the particular Presbytery within whose bounds the Commission for the time is appointed to meet, and anomalous and irregular proceedings have sometimes taken place; and whereas, for the prevention of these in future, it is necessary to render the Commission what it was intended to be, a *bonâ fide* EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SYNOD; an Overture will be presented to the Synod at its next meeting to the following effect:—

1. That the members of which the Commission shall be constituted shall be nominated by their respective Presbyteries, during the meeting of Synod, in the ratio of one member for every six (*less or more*) ministers composing each Presbytery. The nomination by Presbyteries to be duly certified to the Synod on the day previous to its adjournment; and, in case any Presbytery shall fail to certify, the Moderator of Synod shall nominate for such Presbytery.

2. That the Commission shall meet on the call of the Moderator, if need be, on the second Wednesday in May, and the second Wednesday in October, in the place where the Synod held its last meeting.

3. That the presence of one member at least from every Presbytery shall be deemed essential to constitute a quorum;

and, if, through the absence of its member, any Presbytery is not duly represented, the said Presbytery shall be held delinquent, and, unless valid reasons be assigned, shall be subject to censure by the Synod.

4. That the Commission shall have no power to originate any new measures, or to transact any business whatever except such as has been committed to it by special instructions from the Synod.

5. The Moderator of the Synod will be the Moderator of the Commission; and, in case of his absence, any member of the Commission may be chosen to fill that office. The Clerk to be chosen from the members present.

6. It shall be the duty of the Commission to record its proceedings, and to lay a copy of the record before the Synod.

Montreal, June 2, 1852.

MONTREAL, June 15, 1852.

STR,

I shall offer no apology for calling your serious attention to the matters contained in the following OVERTURE intended to be proposed to the Synod, which shall assemble at Williamstown on the first Wednesday in July:

"WHEREAS since the secession of many of our Ministers in 1844 this Synod, and several of the members thereof individually, have used great exertions to procure Ministers to supply the destitute localities within our bounds, and during the seven years that have since elapsed, we have obtained eight Ministers from the Church of Scotland, and nine from other Presbyterian bodies, which,

together with six Ministers licensed and ordained by the Synod, making a total of twenty-three, presents only an actual increase of nine members on the Roll of 1851 over that of 1845,—an increase bearing no adequate proportion to the spiritual destitution which prevails among the members of our Church in this Province, enlarging, as it does, by emigration and the natural increase of population; THEREFORE it is respectfully over- tured that this Synod do take some effectual means to enforce the duty that is laid upon us to perpetuate and extend our Church, and to diffuse its blessed influence among all, who shall ask for the benefit of its ministrations, by training up young men for the Ministry; and that for the attainment of this object the Synod do ordain that Presbyteries shall use effectual means to secure at least one student, on an average, from every four congregations, and, if need be, assist to maintain him at Queen's College during the whole course of his studies; and that, for the carrying out of this scheme, the Synod shall organize itself into Educational Boards, of four congregations each, on such a plan as shall best insure cordial and effective co-operation in this measure."

If the Synod can be induced to agree on any scheme of this nature, it will be deemed highly satisfactory, that the Trustees of Queen's College, at a general meeting of the Board in October last, with the view of rendering that Institution more efficient, resolved to appoint, as soon as practicable, a Principal and two Professors in addition to the two who are now employed. When these appointments are completed, the means of education may be deemed adequate to our present necessities. To extend the usefulness of the College, and to increase, as far as lay in their power, the number of Theological Students, the Board of Trustees farther resolved that it should be the duty of the officers to be appointed to devote three months during the College recess to visiting the principal congregations of the Synod, to promote the interests of the collegiate education, and to awaken the desire in pious young men to consecrate themselves to the work of the Ministry in this land. When this measure shall be fully carried out by the Professors of Queen's College, it will fall in harmoniously with such a scheme as that suggested in the preceding overture; and, through the Divine blessing, we may look forward to an era of greater prosperity for the Church of Scotland in Canada.

With a full knowledge of the difficulties and discouragements by which we have been surrounded, and which still in a deplorable degree encumber us, permit me to state frankly my opinion that our Church has not faithfully discharged its duty to Queen's College. That In-

stitution is peculiarly our own in its origin and design. Its funds were collected mainly from our own people. The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has continued annually a liberal donation to its funds—a donation originally intended to assist in educating a native Ministry. Yet, after the lapse of nine years, and a large expenditure, the result has been, as appears from the Roll of 1851, only six Ministers to the Church, some of whom received part of their education in Scotland. What great disadvantages Queen's College has laboured under is known to us; immensely aggravated they have been by the negligence and apathy of those whose duty it was to have relieved them, and who had in their own hands the power of placing it on a more efficient footing. Whether a free and candid statement of the evils that threaten us will arouse our Ministers and people from their apathy remains to be seen.

To present more distinctly the condition of our Church, I subjoin the following TABULAR VIEW:—

TABULAR VIEW.

Presbyteries, 1851	Ministers of the Church of Scotland on the Synod Roll, September, 1844.	Other Ministers of the Church of Scotland on the Roll of 1851.	Ministers received from other bodies on the Synod Roll September, 1844.	Other Ministers received from various Presbyterian bodies on the Roll educated chiefly in Canada: Roll, 1851.	Licensed by the Synod, Canada: Roll, 1851.
Hamilton, 12	1	2	4	9	9
Bathurst, 10	2	1	4	0	0
Kingston, 10	2	0	0	0	0
Toronto, 12	2	0	0	0	0
Montreal, 14	3	0	5	0	0
Glasgory, 7	4	2	1	0	0
Total, 69	22	6	15	9	6

The Synod as now constituted is made up of—
 Ministers of the Church of Scotland, 30
 Ministers from other Presbyterian bodies, 24
 Its own Licentiates, 6

Two Professors and two Missionaries on the Roll of the Presbytery of Kingston.
 One French Missionary on the Roll of the Presbytery of Montreal.
 One Missionary and a Catechist on the Roll of the Presbytery of Toronto. †

It may further be stated, in order to exhibit our true strength and position, that several of the Ministers, whose names are included in the preceding numbers, are wholly laid aside from their work by age and infirmity; while several more are verging on that advanced stage of life which forbids us to hope for many years of that incessant and exhausting toil which the exigencies of our Colonial Church demand of a faithful Minister.

In bringing your attention to this question in all its bearings, you will not forget that in addition to the general obligations under which we are laid as Ministers, to perpetuate and extend our own Church, there are other obligations of a special kind laid upon us. We enjoy a very considerable assistance from the Clergy Reserves-Fund—a boon from Providence to enable us to extend our usefulness in that wide field which is spread before us. The census as belonging to our Church, is 67,900.* The Divine Head of the Church requires, and the State too is entitled to require of us, that we should care for the spiritual well-being of these thousands. If we fail in our duty, if we are constrained to testify, as we have too long testified, that, notwithstanding all the advantages which the State affords us, we cannot find Ministers to supply our vacant congregations and missionary fields, there will be found among our

* I have not the means of knowing at present our numbers in C. E.

† Note.—In 1844, at the second meeting of the Synod in that year, 63 names are found upon the Synod Roll; but shortly after, and previous to the meeting of the Synod in 1845, 2 Ministers retired from the Presbytery of Montreal, 2 from the Presbytery of Glasgow, 3 from the Presbytery of Hamilton, and 4 from the Presbytery of Quebec; total 11.

In 1845 the Synod Roll contains 61 Ministers and 3 Professors—64 names.
 " 1846 " " " 51 " " 2 " " 53 "
 " 1847 " " " 56 " " 1 " " 57 "
 " 1848. No minutes published.
 " 1849 the Synod Roll contains 53 " " 2 " " 60 "
 " 1850 " " " 61 " " 1 " " 62 "
 " 1851 " " " 60 " " 2 " " 63 "
 The Synod, which originated by descent from ours in 1844, has now upon its Roll 74 Ministers with pastoral charges, and 6 without pastoral charges.
 The United Presbyterian Synod, whose origin is not long anterior to 1844, has now on its Roll 42 Ministers with pastoral charges, and 2 without pastoral charge.

adversaries, and by and by there will spring up faithful men among ourselves, who will not scruple to urge, in conformity with a widely prevailing wish in this country, that the bounty of the State for Religious purposes should either be transferred to more energetic hands, or be withdrawn altogether and applied to secular objects. When it shall be as well known to the public as it is to our Clergy Reserve Commissioners, that there are large surplus funds, which, notwithstanding the spiritual destitution of multitudes of our people, are lying unemployed, because we can neither obtain from Home, nor raise up among ourselves, "men who will watch for souls," a righteous cry will go forth against us, if not to destroy, to impoverish. All other Churches, I am aware, are struggling as we are, and complain as we do; but, if they, in their greater penury, accomplish more than we, we shall assuredly soon sink down to a lower level than that on which they stand.

The facts exhibited in the preceding tabular view are melancholy enough; they ought also to be admonitory. During the last seven years the additions to the Ministry have done little more than counter-balance the waste that death and other causes have made in its ranks. We are indebted for nearly half its strength to a source that may be styled foreign in reference to the legal designation which our Church bears. While, should we take our omen of the future from the past, which we may certainly do if former apathy prevail, the next seven years will only find us further sunk in senility and decrepitude. Will such a prospect not put an end to our vain-jangling, and paper-schemes, plausible enough sometimes, which are never carried into execution because the inert mass is content to approve without any serious united effort to realize their good, and treats practically the authority of our ecclesiastical judicatures as a thing without force or obligation. If there be any among us despairing of our condition, and destitute of all hearty good will to advance our cause, hugging themselves in that guarantee of stability which a parliamentary enactment is supposed to give, and congratulating themselves that, whatever may come of the Church, "there shall be peace in their day," they ought to be reminded that the descent of a church, like that of a man, into the valley of death is not always a period of peace, but more usually of sorrow and tribulation to all connected with it. Let us not shut our eyes then upon the prospect. It requires no gift of prophecy, and only a little skill in the statistics of life in men and churches, to predict that, unless we shall be more successful than we have been in increasing our power from healthful and legitimate sources, twenty years will not pass before the Church of Scotland in Canada is a shapeless shadow, a heterogeneous

thing which its parent will refuse to own. No friendly man, thoroughly acquainted with the state of our affairs, will treat this contingency lightly. Our duty, our safety, our very life, lies in the application of a right remedy.

While I use the liberty of presenting these statements in support of the overture which I intend to submit to the Synod, I may remind you that, even should it pass into an act, and better still, should it be practically carried out from November next, so that fifteen students destined for the Ministry should enter Queen's College every year thereafter, seven years must elapse before the full advantage of the measure shall begin to be regularly enjoyed, while during this period there would be increasing annually a burden upon the liberality of the Educational Boards, according as the number of beneficiaries is multiplied. That we should induce the Synod to ordain in terms of the overture ought not to content us. Nor should we even be satisfied with seeing this measure, or any other good measure, being successfully carried into operation for raising up a native Ministry. We have also the immediate and urgent duty to provide, if possible, an increase to the number of our Ministers during the intervening years. And where can we most naturally look,—still look, though we have long looked in vain,—but to the Church of our native land. Ministers, who have recently come amongst us, say that there may still be found probationers in the Church of Scotland, able, pious, devoted, ready to cast in their lot with us were the matter fairly presented to them. Well, if so, let a more strenuous effort be made to present the spiritual destitution of Canada fully and fairly, with all the encouragement we have to offer. May be we shall be more successful than we have been. God rules over all, and why should our hope and confidence fail? To increase the probabilities of success, however, the Synod should declare and communicate to the Parent Church without reserve all our difficulties and perils and wants as the Church of Scotland in Canada; and with the able and zealous advocacy of the Rev. Dr. Mathieson, who is now in Scotland, we may entertain a better hope. And, if it should be deemed expedient from the extreme urgency of the case, the Synod might strengthen the hands of Dr. Mathieson in this business by deputing another messenger to represent our condition over the length and breadth of Scotland, and to say to the good men who are willing, "Come and help us."

That these matters may be fairly considered, and a reasonable hope of a remedy cherished, every Minister with his Elder should make it a point of conscience to attend the approaching meeting of Synod. Coming up in a right spirit, may we be led to devise wise and liberal

things, for only by devising thus can we stand.

I am, Rev. Sir,
Yours with Christian affection,
ROBERT MCGILL,
Minister of St. Paul's Church, Montreal.

PETITION TO THE SYNOD OF CANADA
ON THE SUBJECT OF ROMAN CATHOLIC ANNOYANCES.

The respectful petition of the undersigned, members of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connexion with the Church of Scotland, to the Venerable Synod, whose spiritual jurisdiction they own,

HUMBLY SHEWETH,—

That your petitioners, residing chiefly in the City of Montreal, are surrounded with a Roman Catholic population, who at present constitute a large majority; that, while they freely acknowledge the right of their Roman Catholic fellow-citizens to worship God according to the dictates of their conscience, free from all hindrance and molestation, they claim for themselves, and all other Christian denominations, an equal right on the common ground of Christian principle and equitable law; that your petitioners notwithstanding the reason and justice of this claim are very frequently disturbed in their religious exercises on the Sabbath-day by deafening peals of bell-ringing during the hours of public worship; by tawdry and alluring processions, attracting the young and the idle away from their religious duties, and so crowding the streets that many are hindered and prevented on their way to the sanctuary of God; and from these causes the sense of wrong and resentment is at times so strong as to endanger that peace and harmony which should ever prevail among the worshippers of the same God and the fellow-citizens of a free and well regulated commonwealth.

That under a deep sense of these grievances, and in a full view of the peril to which they expose the public tranquillity and well-being, we respectfully request your Venerable Synod to declare, whether it be not a fundamental principle of that civil and religious liberty for which we are sincerely grateful, as subjects of the British crown, that no religious denomination shall be allowed to do anything beyond the walls of their sacred edifices which might give disturbance or offence to any other denomination of their fellow-Christians; and, in particular, that they shall not be allowed to follow any practice whatsoever outside their sacred edifices, such as processions, music, and bell-ringing, which may in any degree disturb their fellow-Christians within their own edifices, worshipping God according to their conscience; and also, that in none of their Collegiate Seminaries within any city shall the use of racket-courts and other noisy games be permitted on the Lord's Day to annoy those who reside in the neighbourhood; and further, if these evils are proved to exist, and to be persisted in in despite of

every remonstrance, whether we ought not to apply for a remedy at the hand of our civil rulers.

And further; your petitioners in the full belief that your Venerable Synod will declare that the aforesaid principles are founded in truth and justice, and that a practical regard to them by all denominations of Christians is essential to the maintenance of good will and public order, humbly crave, that you will recommend to all the members of our Church in Canada to support by petitions to the Legislature the application of your petitioners for a remedy to this vexation, that they may enjoy in quiet the rest of the Lord's Day in their religious assemblies. And your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

(Signed,)

The following Proclamation has been issued by the Queen, prohibiting within the United Kingdom the public exercise of Roman Catholic ceremonies elsewhere than in places of worship:

BY THE QUEEN—A PROCLAMATION—VICTORIA R.

Whereas, By the Act of Parliament, passed in the 10th year of the reign of his late majesty, King George the Fourth, for the relief of His Majesty's Roman Catholic subjects, it is enacted that no Roman Catholic ecclesiastic, or any member of any religious orders, communities, or societies of the Church of Rome, bound by monastic or religious vows, should exercise any of the rites or ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Religion or wear the habits of his order, save within the usual places of worship of the Roman Catholic Religion, or in private houses; And whereas it has been represented to us, that Roman Catholic ecclesiastics, wearing the habits of their orders, have exercised the rites and ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Religion in high-ways and places of public resort, with many persons in ceremonial dresses, bearing banners and objects, or symbols of their worship in procession, to the great scandal and annoyance of large numbers of our people, and to the manifest danger of the public peace; And whereas it has been represented to us that such violation of the law has been committed near places of public Worship during the time of Divine Service, and in such a manner as to disturb the congregations assembled therein; We have, therefore, thought it our bounden duty by and with the advice of Our privy Council to issue this, Our Royal Proclamation, solemnly warning all those whom it may concern, that, while We are resolved to protect Our Roman Catholic subjects in the undisturbed enjoyment of their legal rights and religious freedom, We are determined to prevent and repress the commission of all such offences as aforesaid, whereby the offenders may draw upon themselves the punishment attending the violation of the laws, and the peace and security of Our dominions may be endangered.

Given at Our Court, at Buckingham Palace, this 15th day of June, in the year of our Lord 1852, and in the fifteenth year of our reign.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

THE CONGREGATION OF CHATHAM, C. W.

We have much pleasure in extracting the following from the *Kent Advertiser*.

To the Editor of the *Kent Advertiser*.

CHATHAM, 10th June, 1852

DEAR SIR,—You would oblige a Subscriber by inserting the following.
On Sunday, the 30th ult., the members of St. Andrew's Church in this Town presented their

Minister, the Rev. John Robb, with a handsome SILK GOWN, as a token of their esteem for him, and of their just appreciation of the faithful performance of his Ministerial labours amongst them. We have reason to know that this gift has been worthily bestowed. Though not a member of Mr. Robb's Church, yet we have had ample opportunities of witnessing the zeal with which he has discharged, since his residence here, the many responsible duties pertaining to his sacred office. His assiduity in visiting the sick, his attention to the wants of his flock, added to an easy and agreeable manner, have gained for him the good will and respect of many beyond the members of his own congregation. It is pleasing to others to witness this exhibition of a people's grateful feelings to their spiritual teacher; it must be still more gratifying to the Minister himself to know by this tribute that his labours amongst them have not been in vain, but are duly appreciated by those for whose present and future happiness they are daily exercised.

The Gown was presented by Mr. W. McKenzie Ross, whose very appropriate remarks on the occasion, with Mr. Robb's Reply, we publish below.

REVEREND SIR,—To testify our regard for you, and our attachment to the Church of our forefathers, a Gown, which I now hold in my hand, has been procured by the members and friends of this congregation, who have deputed me to present it to you in their name and behalf. I take this opportunity of declaring their attachment to the Church of Scotland, and I am instructed to assure you, that this attachment is not of recent origin. It was formed in their earlier days, has been cherished (even under much discouragement) through life, and has lately been increased by your ministrations amongst them. It has been truly delightful to them to have met with you within these walls, where you have imparted to them those religious instructions, which, if attended to (and I hope they have not been uttered altogether in vain) will not only fit them for Heaven, but also for better discharging the duties of their several avocations; and they sincerely hope and earnestly wish that you may long be spared to go out and in among them as their worthy pastor and guide, and to merit not only their but other people's approbation, and, when I speak my own sentiments, I am sure I but express the sentiments of all those who so generously contributed to this small token of our approbation and esteem.

REPLY.

SIR,—I beg to assure yourself, and those whom upon this occasion you represent, of the high satisfaction with which I receive this token of your regard. The Church, the particular Church to which you take this opportunity of declaring your attachment, I conceive to be by no means unworthy of it, and I assure you that it would be to me a subject of the most pleasing reflection, if I should find reason to believe that my ministrations have tended to strengthen this attachment, and (if I may be allowed the expression), your attachment to God and Godliness. May you be enabled so to profit by the privileges which you enjoy as to become more and more worthy and honourable members of the one great and universal Church.

I duly appreciate the expression of personal regard towards myself. While God is pleased to spare me, and continue my ministry among you, I hope my earnest wish and most fervent prayer will ever be, that it may be rendered conducive to your spiritual improvement. I have received many pleasing tokens of your respect for myself, and your regard for your Church, and, if I may be allowed to specify individual merit, I venture to take this opportunity of declaring my sense (and I believe I speak the sincere sentiments of the congregation) of the great services which you in particular have rendered to this Church. While we assure you that we duly appreciate them, I hope that nothing may occur to dispirit your exertions for the future. May we grow in kindness and brotherly love towards one another, and realize the good and pleasant spectacle of

brethren, Christian brethren dwelling together in unity.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

This Presbytery met on the 2nd and on the 15th of June. The following is a summary of the principal proceedings on these two occasions.

Mr. Macnab reported that he had dispensed the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in Saltfleet to forty-three communicants, and in the presence of a large congregation. Mr. Mowat reported that he had preached in Williams and London on two successive Sabbaths, and that our people in Williams were very anxious to have the Communion dispensed among them in Gaelic. It was accordingly directed to apply to the Presbytery of Toronto for a Gaelic Minister, who might give his services for a couple of Sabbaths to Williams and the neighbourhood.

Mr. William Johnson, Student of Divinity, was examined previously to being taken on trial for licence, and acquitted himself to the satisfaction of the Presbytery.

The Rev. George Bell gave in the subjoined Report of the labours of Mr. Gordon, Catechist.

"I have to report, that since the last meeting of Presbytery I have preached three times at Dover, and twice each at Fredericksburg and Falkirk. At the latter places the announcement of having procured the services of a Catechist for the summer was received with much satisfaction. By imperative engagements, connected with my own congregation, I was prevented from visiting Silver Hill some weeks ago, as I previously intended.

Mr. Gordon arrived at Simcoe the week before last, and I immediately made an appointment for him at Jarvis, in the Township of Walpole, for the first Sabbath. The meeting, which he held there, was well attended. During Mr. Gordon's stay I have arranged to preach there once in four weeks.

Last week I went with Mr. Gordon to Fredericksburg and Falkirk, introducing him to several of the people there, and arranging for his lodging for the present at the latter place, where he is making arrangements for commencing a Sabbath School. On Friday we went to Silver Hill, on the town line between Charlotteville and Walsingham, and visited several Presbyterians in that locality. Finding that the most of them lived some miles to the south-west;—I made an appointment for Mr. Gordon at a school-house near the middle of the Township of Walsingham. There are in the neighbourhood about twenty-five families of Presbyterians, two or three of them having formerly belonged to the Free Church, and two or three of them being Covenanters, but all anxious to obtain religious nances from us. The settlement is quite new, most of the settlers having come in within four years, and many more are still coming. It is important that the moral improvement of the people should keep pace with the physical advancement of the country, and the establishment of a mission among them was received with much joy and thankfulness. The road to Silver Hill passed through several open plains, one of which, with its preading and bushy oaks and pines, its graceful groups of shrubbery, and its continuously undulating surface, covered with brilliant flowers, was one of the most complete landscape gardens I have seen; and, as we admired this garden of our Heavenly Father's planting, it was our prayer that, cultivated by the same hand, the fruits of

righteousness may flourish with equal luxuriance in the mission which we had just commenced.

Mr. Gordon's Sabbath services will for the present be given alternately to the station in Walsingham, Falkirk, Fredericksburg and Goshen. The last is a Scotch settlement in Middleton, twelve miles west of Fredericksburg. He will take two places on each Sabbath. His exploration of portions of Charlotteville, Walsingham, Windham, Middleton, Norwich, Dereham and Bayham, will probably exhibit more clearly what I am already convinced of, namely, the pressing necessity for at least two missionary labourers in that extensive tract of country."

GEORGE BELL.

Simcoe, May 31, 1852.

OPENING OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, BROCKVILLE.

The Congregation of Brockville under the pastoral charge of the Rev. John Whyte enjoyed the high privilege of entering their new Church on Sabbath, June the 27th. The church is named "St. John's," and has a constitution inalienably connecting it with the Church of Scotland. The building is one that does credit to the taste and liberality of the Brockvillians. It is built of a beautiful slate-coloured stone, and situated on the Main Street on a slight rising ground, looking down on the clear and flowing waters of the St. Lawrence. The main entrance, approached by a short flight of stairs, is Gothic, and surmounted by a square tower, ornamented with four pinnacles, topped by blocks of stone hewn out in the shape of *the Thistle*, which is generally encircled with the words, *Nemo me impune lacesset*. Passing through a square vestibule, the body of the Church is entered by doors on the right and left. The ceiling is flat and lofty, and most chastely ornate, and at once arrests the eye of the visitor for its simple yet striking beauty. The pulpit is an octagon, painted walnut, resting on a marble platform surrounded by a balustrade, the pews oak, the roof white as the driven snow, the walls of a light fawn colour. The painter's department, and in fact, the whole building, does credit to the respective tradesmen employed on it; and may, without any hyperbole, be set down as a model of ecclesiastical architecture to Presbyterian Congregations, which, it is to be hoped, some of our Brethren westward will not be slow to imitate.

The morning appointed for opening was propitious, the air still and clear, though here and there a small cloud might be seen resting on the sky. The Congregation filled the Church at an early hour, and the expression on every countenance seemed to be,

*I joyed when to the house of God,
Go up, they said to me.*

The morning service was conducted by the Rev. Dr. Machar, Principal of Queen's College, Kingston. After the leading devotions the Rev. Dr. preached an eloquent and appropriate discourse from Acts x, 33. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are

commanded thee of God. Having drawn a graphic picture of the inquiring and pious disposition that animated Cornelius, and of his sense of responsibility for the members of his household, he proceeded to show his hearers the spirit and temper in which they should hear the Word. 1st. As in the presence of God, from whom the message comes, and to whom they were accountable for the manner in which they heard it. 2ndly. In a solemn frame of mind, because the subjects were solemn in themselves, and awfully solemn in their consequences. Let them not reject the preaching of the Gospel because it might sometimes be painful to their feelings, and condemnatory of their practices. Let them not seek that God's servants should preach smooth things, but truthful things. The question was not whether these things hurt their vanity, or struck at their self-love, or militated against their preconceived notions, or denounced some of their cherished inclinations; but were they true? Were they founded on God's Eternal Word? If so, let them not resist the convictions brought home to their hearts by the preaching of it, lest haply they be found fighting against God. 3rdly. The duty of heads of families to see to it, that the members of their households were instructed in Divine things. *Cornelius called together his kinsmen and near friends*. He felt it his duty to assemble them, as well as himself, to hear all things that are commanded of God. Hear this, ye heads of families, and learn your responsibility for those whom God has placed under your roof. Learn from the example of this devout centurion your duty not only to attend the House of God yourselves, but to bring your children, friends and domestics also, to hear the instructions of God's Word. Remember you do not stand alone, you cannot stand alone. There is no isolation in the universe of nature, nor is there any isolation in the moral universe. God will hold you responsible for any one over whom you might have exercised a beneficial influence or a restraining influence. And woe to the man who locks up his Lord's talent in a napkin, and buries it, only to be presented against himself in the day of the restitution of all things. Use therefore well this influence, exercise this talent, and let yours be the token of Divine approbation. *I know him that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord*.

The Doctor then concluded with a congratulatory address on the interesting and auspicious circumstances in which the congregation had now in God's good providence taken possession of their new place of worship. The afternoon service was conducted by the pastor, who preached from Psalms xxvii, 4. *One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple*.

Amidst all our desires one desire, it was shown, should hold the supremacy. What was this desire? Let any one ask himself, What among all my desires is the chief desire? What as a rational and immortal being am I living for? And all argument, all reflection, clearly and honestly conducted, would lead to the conclusion that the chief desire of the creature should be to remember and serve his Creator, of the child to obey and honour his Father, of the saved being to adore and love his Saviour, and of him, who is placed upon trial for eternity, to make sure of obtaining the acquittal of his Judge. Again, what was it to dwell in the house of the Lord? It was not merely going to the house of God, or being there ever so long or so often. He doubtless, who had a clear and deep conviction of the one chief desire of an intelligent and immortal creature, would frequent the house of God as a devout worshipper, and in order that his heart might be instructed and improved. But the temple of his soul's constant residence was to dwell in the presence of God, to entertain a sense of continual dependence upon Him, to cherish emotions of gratitude toward Him, to yield up the affections and desires in love and obedience to Him. All religion, all convictions, all emotions, are vain and worthless, unless they thus lead the soul into the temple of God and cause it to dwell there.

Again, to behold the beauty of the Lord is to contemplate the character and attributes of God; to raise our grateful regards to Him as the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again to the lively hope by the resurrection of Christ from the dead to an inheritance which is incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away.

The power, wisdom, omnipresence, justice and mercy of the Divine character were shown to disclose views of ineffable beauty. After descanting on these lofty themes, and showing the relation which man's immortality bears to them, Mr. W. concluded by urging upon his brethren the propriety of so dwelling in the temple of God here as that they might have a place in the temple Above, where the beauty of the Lord and the glory of His works should more and more unfold themselves to their renewed and beatified spirits and where that divine beauty and their minds should undergo a perpetual progression.

The evening service was resumed by Principal Machar, who preached from Zechariah xiii, 1. *In that day there shall be a fountain opened* &c. From this text the Doctor was peculiarly felicitous in unfolding and pressing home the great doctrines of the Gospel, showing the necessity of washing in this fountain which Christ has opened for sin.

Shortly before the evening service it began to rain in torrents, and continued heavily during the greater part of the evening. This prevented as many being present

as in the former parts of the day. The audience was large and highly attentive at the first two diets, and, it is said, struck the Venerable Principal as one of the most intellectual that he had addressed.

Our people in Brockville will long remember that day, and look back with feelings of congratulation and hearts of thankfulness to Him who has promised to meet with His people and bless them in that place where He records His name, and who loves the gates of Zion better than all the dwellings of Jacob.

REV. MR. MACDONNELL, LATE OF BATHURST, N. B.

We are glad to hear that the Rev. Geo. MacDonnell, formerly of Bathurst, New Brunswick, and latterly Pastor of a Quoad Sacra Church in the West of Scotland, has consented to settle in Canada. He had embarked with his family on board of the screw-steamer *Petrel* at Greenock for New York, when his voyage was unfortunately delayed by an accident which happened to the condensing apparatus of the vessel. In a letter, just received from Mr. Macdonnell, he states that the *Petrel* was to leave on the 29th June, so that, much to his disappointment, he would not be able to visit his brethren assembled in Synod. Mr. Macdonnell is well known as an author of several works of merit. His books on "Heathen Converts to the worship of the True God" and his "Sermons and Devotions, principally for the use of Mariners," met with a favourable reception from the public.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

Considerably abridged from the Edinburgh Evening Post.

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland commenced its sittings on Thursday, 20th May, in the Assembly Hall.

Prior to the meeting of the Assembly, the Earl of Mansfield, the Lord High Commissioner, held a levee in the Picture Gallery at Holyrood House at eleven o'clock.

Shortly after noon his Grace the Lord High Commissioner descended the great staircase leading from the Reception-room, and proceeded to the front of the Palace, where he was received by the guard of honour. The state procession to the High Church was then formed. It was headed by a detachment of Hussars, followed by the splendid band of the regiment. The Sheriff and Sheriff-Clerk of the county in Court dress came next in an elegant phaeton. Then followed in order a carriage in which were borne the city mace and sword, and a long string of carriages, in which were the Magistrates and other civic functionaries of the City, Canongate, &c. The Lord Provost's elegant private carriage, in which were his Lordship and a friend, came next, drawn by four spirited horses, the coachman and attendants being in the state livery of the City. This was followed by one of his Grace's carriages, drawn by four beautiful greys, in which were two pages and the bearers of the various insignia of office. Then came his Grace the Lord High Commissioner with his chaplain and purse-bearer in a magnificent state carriage, drawn by six bays, splendidly caparisoned, and each led by

a footman in the elegant livery of the noble Earl, while three footmen hung together at the back. His Grace's private carriage, also drawn by four beautiful horses, the carriages containing General Napier and the Staff, and a long line of private carriages and more humble hackneys, extending as far as the eye could reach, followed; and a detachment of Hussars brought up the rear of the procession.

The whole route presented an animated and imposing spectacle; every available space was seized, and the windows and in some places even the roofs of the houses were occupied. To crown all, the sun shone out in brilliancy and splendour.

On arriving at the High Church, shortly before one, the Commissioner alighted from his carriage to attend Divine service, which was conducted by the Rev. Dr. McLeod, of Morven, the Moderator of last Assembly. The Reverend Doctor preached from Isaiah, xlv. 22, "Look unto Me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else." At the conclusion of the service his Grace proceeded in his carriage to the Assembly Hall and took his seat upon the Throne. A numerous assemblage of ladies and gentlemen occupied the galleries on each side of the Throne.

The Moderator, having taken the Chair, engaged in devotional exercises, after which the roll of members was read and adjusted.

The MODERATOR proposed as his successor the Rev. Dr. Forbes, of Boharm. (Cries of "Agreed, agreed.") In proposing Dr Forbes, he said, I cannot suppose that all the members of this House have had opportunities of knowing, as many of them have had, the worth and excellence of my respected friend's character in private life, nor do I suppose that all have had the opportunities, which many have enjoyed, of witnessing his zeal, faithfulness, and energy in the discharge of the duties of the pastoral office. But my respected friend, Dr Forbes, has assuredly established his character not only in these respects, but above all as a useful, upright and able member of our Ecclesiastical Courts, and nowhere is his character better known or more fully established than in this General Assembly. I at all events would say that I have known few, if any, of the members of our General Assembly, who with less sacrifice of its time have conducted more than our respected friend has done to promote the order and regularity of its proceedings. (Applause.)

Dr Forbes was then introduced by Dr Simpson, and took the Chair.

The Royal Commission, appointing Lord Mansfield the representative of her Majesty in the Assembly, was then read by Principal Lee, and ordered to be recorded.

Her Majesty's letter, accompanying the Commission, was also read, in which her Majesty renewed her assurance of countenance and support to the Church of Scotland.

His Grace, the LORD HIGH COMMISSIONER, then rose and said,—Right Reverend and Right Honourable—the Queen having been most graciously pleased to constitute and appoint me as the Lord High Commissioner to this Venerable Assembly, I cannot approach the duties, which I am called upon to perform, without soliciting the same kind indulgence that you have on previous occasions extended to my predecessors. I have in command from her Majesty to assure you of the continued interest which she takes in the spiritual happiness of the people of this part of her Empire, which under Almighty Providence is to be attributed to the piety of the Ministers and Elders of the Established Church, the rights and privileges of which Church she is determined to preserve inviolable according to law. Right Reverend and Right Honourable, I have it in command from her Majesty also to acquaint you that she has ordered her gift of £1000 to be continued, and has granted in addition £1000 to be applied to such objects as may be found most to promote the propagation of Christian knowledge and the principles of the Reform-

ed Religion in the Highlands and Islands of this part of the United Kingdom. It is for the General Assembly to determine whether a portion of that money may not be beneficially appropriated to enabling and aiding young men to preach the Gospel in the Highlands and Islands. Right Reverend and Right Honourable, I entertain the most perfect confidence that all your deliberations will be conducted with that judgement and discretion which you have hitherto manifested, and which will ensure for your exertions the approbation of your fellow-men, and the gracious favour of your Sovereign; and I may be permitted to add, that, if I can in any manner contribute to your convenience and comfort, my services are at the disposal of this Venerable House.

The MODERATOR then addressed his Grace, in High Commission. He assured his Grace, in his name of the Members of the Assembly, that his appearance amongst them as the representative of our gracious Queen, and on personal grounds, was altogether such a demonstration of the Royal kindness and favour as was invaluable on many accounts, and especially as being a symbol of that union between Church and State which experience had proved to be profitable to both, and which they held to be in strict accordance with the Word of God. May He, who is the King and Lord of nations, as well as the Head and Hope of His Church, be pleased to grant that the Sovereign of Britain may be long favourably disposed to that portion of His Church which He hath planted in our native land, and that we and succeeding generations, following in the footsteps of our fathers, may continue, by loyalty to the Monarch and fidelity to the people, to merit the Royal countenance and support. The appointment of your Grace to represent the Royal Person in this Assembly is very gratifying to the Church, not only in respect of your exalted rank, your high talents, and your estimable character, but also in respect of associations with your Grace's name, to which no Scottish heart can be indifferent and cold. Where the long line of Scottish Monarchs received the emblems of their Royalty is your Grace's residence, and at the mention of Scoue what Scotchman does not feel his pulse beat with a fuller throb? At the name of Mansfield what Scotchman is not elevated by an honest pride in the reflection that his country gave to Britain that gifted individual whose powers of mind formed the subject of a nation's wonder, and whose merit as a judge gained him a nation's gratitude and a world-wide fame? We receive with liveliest satisfaction the renewed assurances, conveyed by your grace, of her Majesty's concern for the welfare of our Church, and her determination to support it in the unimpair'd enjoyment of all its rights and privileges. The renewal of the Royal donation of £2000 for the promotion of Religion in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland demands and receives our warmest gratitude. We will endeavour to apply this Royal bounty for the best towards the purpose for which it is entrusted to our care; and we think that we can venture to promise that the result will continue to be so beneficial as not to disappoint her Majesty, either as to her confidence in our management, or as to her piety and benevolent wishes for the welfare of her people in these remote districts of her dominions. We entreat your Grace to believe that we feel deeply obliged by the kind and courteous expression of your purpose to promote our convenience and comfort in the discharge of our duties during the meeting of the Assembly. We feel confident that we shall find those expressions fulfilled, and we trust that on our part nothing will occur to mar your Grace's satisfaction at having been called on by the Sovereign to the high honour of representing her august person at this time in the ancient capital of her Northern Kingdom. Looking up to Him, who is the Father of Lights, and from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift, and in dependence on His heavenly aid, we trust to be enabled to exhibit to your Grace, to the Church, and to the country, that wisdom which cometh from Above, pure, and

peaceable, and gentle, that spirit of meekness which is becoming the servants of the Gospel of grace, and that brotherly love which is the Saviour's own test of true discipleship. In this dependence, and thus minded, it will be our humble endeavour to approve ourselves unto Him, by whom kings reign and princes decree justice, and then will we hope, may it please your Grace, that your Grace will be able to report favourably of us to Her whom, as we fear God, we are bound to honour, and whose many virtues have gained for Her the devoted attachment as well as the dutiful loyalty of Her subjects.

A Committee was then appointed to prepare an Address in answer to her Majesty's letter. The other usual Committee were appointed, and the Assembly adjourned till Friday.

In the evening his Grace entertained a numerous party at dinner in the Picture Gallery at Holyrood. Upwards of two hundred guests were present on the occasion.

FRIDAY, MAY 21.

The Assembly met to-day at twelve o'clock, Dr Forbes, Moderator.

After devotional exercises, conducted by the Moderator, Reports were given in from the various Committees. The Committee reported their refusal to transmit an overture from Colonel Dundas of Carronhall, praying that provision might be made for administering the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper privately to sick and infirm persons. Against this decision Colonel Dundas appealed to the General Assembly, and it was agreed to hear the appeal on (Saturday.)

The Committee refused to transmit papers in the case of Mr. Simpson, late of Barry, who was deposed from the Ministry at last Assembly, whereupon his agent had appealed to the General Assembly. The ground of refusal was that the case had been already adjudicated upon by the Supreme Court, and that consequently no appeal could be brought against its decision.

The following appointments were made for preaching before his Grace the Commissioner in St. Giles Church on Sabbath:—

Rev. John Tannooh, Glamis, to lecture in the forenoon.

Rev. Robert Gillan, St. John's, Glasgow, to preach in the afternoon.

The Assembly then engaged in devotional exercises, led by Dr. Arrol, of Edinburgh.

A Report was next given in by the Committee on Disputed commissions. The Report stated that in several cases the Elders commissioned as members, had not been certified as *bona fide* Acting Elders; and it was recommended that the certificate of their respective Sessions to testify that they properly came under that designation should be procured, and would be held as sufficient, in order that they might be enabled to take their seats. The commission from the burgh of Dundee being written on one sheet of paper, and the attestation on another, did not conform to the prescribed requirements; but it was recommended to accept it, at same time enjoining the Presbyteries and Burghs to adhere strictly to the Act on the subject. In the case of the election of representatives for the city of Edinburgh, the second election took place on 11th May, long within the period when elections are prescribed to take place; and Mr. Baird, designed in the first commission as an heritor was not so designed in the second. The Report was adopted.

A prayer meeting in connection with the General Assembly was appointed to be held, as usual, in St. Andrew's Church on Sabbath evening at seven o'clock; and, after prayer by Dr Ralph, of Dalgetty, the Assembly adjourned till Saturday at noon.

Saturday, May 22.

The Assembly met to-day at twelve o'clock, the Rev. Dr. Forbes, Moderator.

CASE OF MR. M'LEAN, OF CAMPBELTOWN.

MR. CAMPBELL, the Moderator of the Presbytery of Kintyre, craved leave to bring under the

notice of the Assembly a matter of pressing importance to himself and his co-presbyters. Some time ago that Presbytery proceeded against one of its members, the Rev. Mr. M'Lean of Campbeltown, on a charge of drunkenness, falsehood, fraud, and wilful imposition. They took evidence, and drew up a libel, which contained twenty-two different counts. Sixteen of these counts they found to be proven; but against this decision Mr. M'Lean protested, and appealed to the General Assembly. Instead of following up that appeal, he had taken within the last few days his case into the Court of Session by applying for suspension and interdict against the Presbytery. Such being the state of matters, the Presbytery of Kintyre craved the assistance and advice of the Assembly.

The Procurator of the Church objected to the subject being taken up, as it was brought before the Assembly in a manner informal and irregular. Principal LEE was of opinion that the matter should be remitted to a small committee.

Dr. HILL begged to move that the whole matter be referred to a committee with full powers, and that they be instructed to communicate with the members of the Presbytery of Kintyre who were members of Assembly, and to give them the benefit of their counsel and advice.

Dr. ROBERTSON did not object to the Presbytery's craving the advice of the Assembly, if any difficulty had arisen; but he did object to their coming here simply because an application had been made for an interdict against certain proceedings of theirs without telling the Assembly the grounds of the application, insisting all at once upon a committee being granted. He would like to know what would be the position of the Assembly, supposing the Lord Ordinary did not give a judgement before Friday next. Was he to understand that the General Assembly was prepared to hang up the case for the whole twelvemonth, simply on the ground that a civil action had been raised against the Presbytery, perhaps most incompetently? He conceived it was due to the dignity of this Court that they should proceed to consider the case on Friday, altogether irrespective of any proceedings in the Court of Session. (Hear, hear.)

This motion was unanimously agreed to.

DISPENSATION OF THE SACRAMENT IN PRIVATE.

Colonel DUNDAS, in support of his appeal, stated that a large body of the members of the Church, and amongst others two noblemen, who were among its warmest adherents, were strongly in favour of the object of the overture. In these circumstances he thought it was very hard that the overture should not have been allowed to come before the Assembly.

Dr. LEE thought it would be desirable, if it could be done, that the overture should not be read, inasmuch as by going into it they might be led to make remarks that would be disrespectful to some sister churches.

Dr. ROBERTSON said they must hear the terms of the overture before they could give any opinion at all in respect to it.

The overture was then read. It suggested that, if an infirm person should apply to the minister or elder of the parish for the administration of the Sacrament in his or her house, the Kirk-session should consider the application, and, if thought to be for edification, the matter was to be brought before next meeting of Presbytery, and, if they consented, that notice of what was to be done should be made from the pulpit on two successive Sabbaths, and that all the members of the congregation who chose should be invited to attend and to partake of the Sacrament.

Dr. STEVEN said he thought the Committee on Overtures ought not on trivial grounds to interrupt the progress of any overture to the Assembly; but he considered that this was just one of the class of cases in which they ought to exercise their power, as he was convinced that it would not be for edification to have such a subject discussed in the Assembly. It was a notorious fact that this subject had been settled long ago by the Assembly; and every one knew that it had

been for ages the law of the Church to prevent such a practice from being followed within its pale. The same had been the case in all the foreign Presbyterian churches, and it appeared to him that this was not the time for the Church of Scotland to tamper with such novelties.

Principal LEE corroborated what had been said by Dr. STEVEN as to the practice sought to be introduced by the overture having been condemned by the Assembly at least three hundred years ago. The terms of the overture in fact were almost identical with those of one of the Five Articles of Perth, the imposition of which was so strenuously resisted by our forefathers. He thought it would be very difficult to discuss the question without making use of language which might be very offensive to some of the sister Churches. On these grounds he had certainly said that he should shrink from being a party to raising this discussion; and, when asked whether the transmission of such an overture did not appear to imply some degree of approbation of its contents, he had replied that in the circumstances he thought it did.

Dr. RALPH, of Dalgetty, was not unfavourable to the principle of the overture, but d'd not consider it desirable that the subject should at present be introduced.

Dr. PAULL, of Tullynessle, while opposing the principle of the overture, held that the Committee on Overtures had stepped beyond their rightful powers in interrupting it in its progress to the Assembly. (Hear, hear.) He considered that no secret court should be allowed to shut the door of the Assembly against an overture such as this, which was respectfully and temperately worded. He moved that the Assembly should sustain Colonel Dundas's appeal, and that the overture should be allowed to be transmitted.

Sheriff TAIT said he had always understood that all the Committee on Overtures had to do was to see that the overtures they had transmitted were right in point of form, and contained nothing positively criminal.

Dr. ROBERTSON said he could not agree to the non-transmission of the overture. It was respectfully worded; and the Assembly ought to look the subject, to which it referred, fully in the face.

The motion of Dr. PAULL was then agreed to.

CASE OF MR. SIMPSON, OF BARRY.

Mr. MILLER, advocate, appeared at the bar as counsel for Mr. W. Simpson, who had been deposed by last Assembly for drunkenness, and appealed against a decision of the Committee on Bills for refusing to transmit a petition from him, in which he asked to be reposed into the status and office of a minister of the Church, or at least, in the first place, a committee of the Assembly to take evidence as to his innocence.—Rev. Mr. Nisbet defended the decision of the Committee.

Mr. MALCOLM, W. S., also defended the Committee.

Dr. BRYCE moved that the decision of the Committee on Bills be sustained, which was agreed to *nem. con.*

CASE OF THE PRESBYTERY OF DEMARARA.

Mr. H. SMEATON, writer, Glasgow, appeared, as agent for the Presbytery of Demerara and Essequibo, to appeal against a decision of the Committee on Bills, refusing to transmit the papers in their case to the Assembly. He was instructed to assure the Assembly that the Presbytery was most anxious for a renewal of the friendly relations which existed between the Presbytery and the Assembly's Colonial Committee, but which had been interrupted by the unfortunate dispute and controversy that had arisen. The Presbytery were convinced that a reconsideration of their case would not only promote this desirable object, but tend to remove the stigma which rested unjustly, as they thought, upon their character and reputation as a Presbytery, in consequence of statements contained in the Colonial Committee's Report in June, 1851. The Committee upon Bills refused to transmit the petition and other documents, because the matter was *res judicata*; but, as he apprehended that the deliverance of the Assembly was not intended to be final, he

considered that it was quite competent now to reconsider the whole matter.

Mr. MALCOLM, S. S. C., said the Committee had refused to transmit the petition and other documents of the Presbytery because the papers contained language not only disrespectful to the Colonial Committee, and to its much respected Vice-convener (Dr. Clark,) but to the Assembly itself.

Principal LEE said he was almost disposed to think that matters had now arrived at this position that the Assembly were called upon to say whether or not they should hold any further communication with this Presbytery, because of the defamatory complaints they had made against the Colonial Committee. He himself had received from the Presbytery a letter, the most infamous that he ever saw in his life, and letters in a similar spirit had been written with respect to his friend, Dr. Robertson. Was the Assembly, then, to have any further dealing with a Presbytery that so outrageously spurned the authority of the Church, and endeavoured to bring it into disrepute?

Dr. PIRIE moved that the subject be delayed till the Report of the Colonial Committee should be received.

Dr. ROBERTSON proposed to the agent for the Presbytery of Demarara to withdraw the documents laid before the Committee, several statements in which were considered to be offensive, and present their case by regular petition, and couched in respectful language.

Dr. PAULL moved that the Assembly sustain the decision of the Committee on Bills, reserving the right of the party to bring forward the matter by regular petition.

The proposal of Dr. Pirie to delay the matter was agreed to.

THE AUCHTERARDER CASE.

The petition of the Rev. James Walker, of Mu-thill, the Rev. Thomas Young, of Gask, and Mr. Thomas Miller, elder, Ardoch, seeking assistance for the expenses incurred in the well known Auchterarder case, was then taken up.

Mr. A. S. COOK, for the petitioners, contended that the expenses they had incurred had been incurred in fighting the battles of the Church. In the case of Letherdy, the Church had paid all the law expenses and damages, and had likewise paid the law expenses of the Auchterarder case; and he held that it was just as much bound to relieve the petitioners from the proportion of damages which had effeired to them in compromising the case with the Rev. Mr. Young. Had the Disruption not occurred, he believed that this would never have been made a question. If this Assembly held itself to be no longer the Assembly of the Church of Scotland, or not the same Assembly which sat in 1840 and 1841, then they might have a plausible ground for saying that they were not bound to follow the course of previous Assemblies, and pay the expenses occasioned by its proceedings; but he apprehended this was not a ground of judgement which any here would adopt. Unquestionably, and notwithstanding the Secession of 1843, this Assembly remained the Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and was bound by the resolutions of its predecessors, and was bound in law and in honour to relieve every man of the consequences of what he did in acting in conformity with the injunctions of what was at the time the General Assembly of the whole Church. The only proper question that could have been mooted, he thought, was whether the gentlemen of the Presbytery of Auchterarder who succeeded were bound to pay any proportion of that damage, and whether the General Assembly was not bound to pay the whole. These gentlemen might have said, "We have been compelled to leave the Church, and are not bound in our private capacity by any of the acts of the General Assembly, and therefore the obligation no longer rests with us but with the body which calls itself the General Assembly of the Church, and the legal successor to the body under whose commands these expenses were incurred." These gentlemen, however, did not choose to adopt that plea, and they

agreed in the fairest and most equitable spirit to take on their shoulders a fair proportion of the amount of these damages. Not a penny of that amount, however, had been paid out of the private pockets of these gentlemen. It had all been paid out of the public funds of the Free Church; and was this Assembly to leave their brethren in a less favourable situation? It had been said that the petitioners had no right to relief, seeing that the damages paid were the result of a compromise; but was this not a far more reasonable step than to have had run the risk and incurred the increased expense of a jury trial in assessing these damages. It had been stated, that there were no funds; but he was convinced, if the claim were admitted, that means would be found to meet it. If this course were not taken, the petitioners might bring an action against such parties as they considered to be liable to them in point of law; but to save them from this necessity, he hoped the Assembly would acknowledge the claim, and leave it to a committee to see how the money could be raised, for which there was no immediate haste.

Mr. SHAND, W. S., after calling the attention of the House to certain statements in the petition, said, that, as these matters had not been cleared up and as the documents to which the petitioners referred had not been discovered among the records of the Assembly, the House had no alternative but to appoint a committee to expiscate the facts, and therefore he moved that a petition should be remitted to a committee to report.

Mr. WALTER COOK, W. S., said he had protested all along against what had been done by the petitioners in respect to these law proceedings, and, therefore, did not consider himself responsible for any of the expenses that had been incurred. The petitioners ought to go to the party who went along with them in their proceedings, and get what relief they could from them. It could not be expected that those who were put to the enormous expense of defending the action, (about L.4000), should now be called upon to pay the expenses of those against whose proceedings they had all along protested. This claim had formerly been before the Finance Committee of the Church, and so satisfied were they of its injustice that they refused it. He moved that the petition be now refused.

Mr. CHEYNE, W. S., begged to second the proposition of Mr. Shand.

Mr. MALCOLM, W. S., seconded the amendment.

Mr. R. H. STEVENSON said, notwithstanding the alleged liberality of their friends who had seceded, he must take leave to say that their generosity and liberality had never extended so far as to lay out L.2000 without very good cause indeed, or for the liquidation of any debt not absolutely imperative on them. This claim had on former occasions a full and complete hearing, and, the matter being *res judicata*, he objected to the appointment of a committee.

Dr. PIRIE said the case could not be held to be *res judicata*, as it appeared that, owing to some cause or other, none of the reports made to the Assembly on the claim could now be found; and they, consequently, did not know what had been done. He believed, however, that the petitioners had no claim in law or honour; but under all the circumstances he thought it would be better to refer the petition to a committee, and to have such a report brought up as would finally settle the matter, in as far as that could be done by a decision of the Assembly.

After some further discussion the Assembly divided, when the motion of Mr. Shaw, remitting the matter to a committee, was carried by a majority of 62 to 40.

DUNDEE CHURCHES.

Mr. SHAND, W. S., the Convener, then read the Report of the Committee on the Dundee Churches.

It appears from documents in the possession of the Committee, that they, after obtaining the advice of eminent counsel, opened a communication with the Town Council; but, not having obtained any

satisfaction, they, on the 19th November, 1851, raised an action of declarator in the Court of Session, concluding to have it found and declared "that the funds and property held and enjoyed by the burgh of Dundee, under and in virtue of a charter granted by Queen Mary, bearing date of 15th April, 1567, and subsequent charters and acts of ratification, conforming the same now commonly known as the Hospital Fund, are applicable to the sustentation of the Ministry of the Word of God, and the support and maintenance of the Clergy of the Established Church of Scotland within the burgh of Dundee. And that it ought and should be farther found and declared that the defenders, as the holders and administrators of the said Fund, are bound, out of the revenues thence arising, to provide suitable and adequate stipends to the ministers of the Established Churches within the said burgh, other than the rector or first minister of the parish, who is otherwise provided for.

Defences to this action have been lodged by the Town Council of Dundee.

Dr. HILL moved that the thanks of the House be returned to the convener and committee; that the report be approved of; the committee be re-appointed with the powers formerly conferred on them; and that the Assembly of new exhort the Presbytery of Dundee to maintain by all proper and constitutional means the rights of the Church; and in the event of the Presbytery, or any pecuniary assistance in reference to the legal proceedings, that the General Assembly commend their case to the countenance and support of the friends of the Church at large.

The motion was unanimously agreed to, and the Moderator conveyed the thanks of the Assembly to the convener and committee, whose exertions, he observed, it was mainly owing that the claims of the Church to this endowment had been placed in their present position.

The Assembly then adjourned till Monday at 12 o'clock.

MONDAY, MAY 24.
The Assembly met to-day at twelve o'clock, Dr. Forbes, Moderator, and was engaged for some time in devotional exercises.

ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN.

Dr. MACLEOD, of Morven, said he was sure that all the members of the Assembly had responded most cordially and earnestly to those supplications which had been offered up by the Moderator with so much propriety on behalf of our beloved Sovereign. The Moderator had well characterised this day as an auspicious one; and he was sure that it was the earnest prayer of all before God that in His infinite mercy He would allow many returns of this auspicious day. It was very pleasing to observe that the feeling of loyalty which pervaded this Assembly pervaded all classes of the community, who in different modes would express their loyalty. But he held that it was in all respects right and fitting that they should now, convened as they were as the Assembly of the National Church, agree to lay before her Majesty a loyal and dutiful address of congratulation on the present auspicious occasion, the anniversary of her Majesty's birthday. (Applause.) He begged to move accordingly.

Dr. HILL seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to, and a small committee was appointed to frame the address.

COLONIAL MISSION.

Dr. CLARK, the Vice-Convener, submitted the Report of the Colonial Committee. The following is a summary of the proceedings of the past year:—

Canada.—Many applications for ministers and missionaries have been received from different places in Canada. One missionary, the Rev. Andrew Blair, was appointed and sent out by the Committee to Toronto; but, before further progress was made, the Committee received a letter requesting them to suspend their proceedings until the arrival of a delegate from Canada, who is daily expected. A very satisfactory Report has

been received of the progress of Queen's College, Canada.

(The particulars of this portion of the Report appeared in the 65th page of our number for May).

The Committee have agreed to give a bursary of £15 for next year to a student of Theology. The amount of grants made during the year to Canada is L.605.

Nova Scotia—New Brunswick—Prince Edward's Island.—The Committee have recently resolved to offer L.150 per annum each to three or four well qualified missionaries, willing to go out to Nova Scotia either permanently or for a period of years. In Prince Edward's Island the labours of the Rev. Robert MacNair, who has now returned to this country, have been most abundant. During the past year the Committee have made grants in connection with these Provinces amounting to L.301, 13s. 10d.

Newfoundland.—In consequence of the resignation of the Rev. Thomas King, a call, numerously signed, was given by the congregation to the Rev. Francis Nicol, of Halifax, who has now been settled in St. Andrew's Church, St. John's, Newfoundland, with every prospect of success. The Committee have voted the sum of L.50 for one year in aid of Mr. Nicol's salary.

British Guiana.—On the recommendation of the Committee the Right Hon. Earl Grey was pleased to appoint the Rev. John McUraith, late of Gourcock Chapel, to the church and parish of All Saints in the Presbytery of Berbice. Mr. McUraith sailed from Greenock some time ago. The deliverance of last Assembly was transmitted to the Presbytery of Demerara. A voluminous communication was received from that Presbytery in December last; a Committee was appointed to consider it, who were unanimously of opinion that, as the documents referred to those proceedings which had already been deliberately considered and adjudicated upon by the General Assembly, it was not only unnecessary, but incompetent, for the Colonial Committee to take them up again, leaving it to the Presbytery of Demerara to adopt such further measures as they might be advised.

Jamaica.—The congregation of the Rev. Mr. Radcliffe is in a very prosperous state; and he is anxious to have a licentiate sent out who can assist him, and also superintend the schools he has established.

Grenada.—The Committee have been enabled to fill up the vacant charge in the island of Grenada by the appointment of the Rev. William Beaton.

Mauritius.—The appointment of the Rev. Patrick Beaton to the Presbyterian Church in Mauritius was noticed in last Report. Every exertion has been made by his people in the island to raise funds for the erection of a church. The Committee have agreed in the meantime to contribute L.300, but the sum required is L.3000.

Australia.—The Committee have been enabled in the course of the year to send out three ministers—first, the Rev. John McBean, formerly of Charlotte Town, Prince Edward's Island, who was appointed to the Mount Barker district; second, the Rev. James Low, who has been appointed to Melbourne; and, third, the Rev. John Reid, formerly of Liverpool. All these clergymen have proceeded to their respective charges.

New Zealand.—The Committee have received very favourable accounts of the proceedings of the Rev. Mr. Kirkton in New Zealand. His congregation continues to prosper.

India.—The Committee have received several communications from the Rev. Messrs. Hamilton and Macfarlane, and from the Kirk-session at Madras, wishing to have a missionary at Bangalore. The subject is at present under the consideration of the Committee. The Committee understand that a communication will be made to the General Assembly by the Committee on Indian Churches in regard to the increase of Scotch chaplains in India.

The Committee remark, in conclusion, that, although they have been able during the past year

to send out six ministers to different places in the Colonies, the applications for ministers, and particularly for missionaries, are as numerous and urgent as ever. The Committee's income for the last year has arisen from the following sources, viz:—

1. Parochial Collections, 783 parishes,	L.1978	7	9
2. Congregational Associations,	105	5	10
3. Contributions from Individuals,	48	18	0
4. Legacies,	48	10	11
5. Bank Interest,	153	12	10
6. Lay Association,	349	9	1
	L.2684	4	5

The Committee regret to announce that the Collections have considerably fallen off during the past year. As compared with last year, the income is less by L.359, 12s. 3d. This decrease has arisen chiefly under the head of Parochial Collections, which are L.403, 8s. 4d., less than those of last year.

Dr. CLARK, after reading the Report, said that there was one subject not adverted to in it, to which he would simply allude. In 1824 or 1825 a church was built at the Cape of Good Hope in connection with the Church of Scotland at an expense of L.4000 or L.5000. At the period of the Secession, the party occupying it disowned all connection with the Church. In these circumstances it would be necessary to consider what steps should be taken by the Committee in the matter. He deeply regretted that the Reverend father of the Church, the Convener of the Committee, and, he might say, the founder of the Scheme, was prevented by indisposition from being present to address the Assembly. Dr. Clark then proceeded to allude to the questions in dispute between the Committee and the Presbytery of Demerara.

Dr. STARK rose to order, and objected to such observations being made by one who was not a member of the House.

Dr. PIRIE thought that the proper time for hearing Dr. Clark would be when the Demerara case came up to be discussed by the Assembly.

After some discussion on this point of order, the course suggested by Dr. Pirie was declared by the Moderator to be the most orderly mode of procedure, and Dr. Clark accordingly resumed his seat.

Dr. MACLEOD, of Morven, said he had every desire to direct the attention of the Assembly to the proceedings of their friends in British North America, but this would be done by Dr. Mathieson and Mr. McNair, who had just come from the scene of operations. Of Dr. Mathieson he would only say, that he was quite sure that there was no one in British North America, to whom the cause of the Church of Scotland, and of Religion, was more indebted than to that gentleman. He was sure, also, that one and all of the members of this House would be highly gratified in listening to their esteemed young friend, Mr. McNair, who was able to speak of another very important field of labour, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. MATHIESON then briefly addressed the House, and, after adverting to some of the peculiarities of the position of the Church in the Colonies, said he might more appropriately bring these under the notice of the Church through the Committee than through the Assembly. He then concluded by expressing his thanks to the Committee and its Convener for the zeal they had manifested in attending to the supply of the spiritual wants of their expatriated fellow-countrymen in America, and to the Assembly for the succession of Deputations which had been sent out to the Canadian Church in its time of weakness.

Mr. McNAIR next addressed the Assembly. He commenced by mentioning a few facts to show the ecclesiastical wants of the adherents of the Church of Scotland in America. In Canada the number of the population adhering to the Church of Scotland were about 160,000, and the number of the clergymen was about 60. In Nova Scotia the number of adherents numbered 20,000,

and for these were only four ordained clergymen. In Prince Edward's Island there were about 9800 adherents, and at this moment they had not a single clergyman labouring amongst them recognised or employed by the Church of Scotland. As a specimen of the number of vacancies he might specify one Presbytery, the Presbytery of Hamilton, in which there were six vacant charges, that had at one time been supplied by ordained clergymen. In New Brunswick there were some half-dozen similar vacant charges. An impression seemed to be abroad that, owing to the instability of things in America, a man was safer to have his home on this side of the Atlantic, and that a surer and larger return for his labours, at least in a pecuniary point of view, was to be had in Scotland than in America. In many cases this was true, but not to such an extent as was often supposed. In Canada, for example, the ministers each receive annually from the Clergy Reserve Fund a sum of L.100 currency in addition to what was subscribed by their congregations, which might vary from L.50 to L.300 or L.400.

Dr. HILL, in moving the adoption of the Report, regretted to find that this year there was a falling-off in the amount which the Committee had been accustomed to receive, and concluded by suggesting that the thanks of the Assembly should be conveyed to the Convener, Principal Macfarlan, through the medium of a special letter from the Moderator.

Mr. H. RRUCE, advocate, seconded the motion.

Dr. ROBERTSON said he had heard with much satisfaction the statements made to the effect, that an increasing interest was being felt in the cultivation of the Colonial Vineyard. He should be glad to receive those statements as setting forth simple and well founded facts; but, he would ask, where are the proofs of this increasing interest? In looking to the Report he found that, for supplying the spiritual wants of their Colonies, which occupied so considerable a portion of the globe, the whole of the contributions made by the Established Church of Scotland during the last twelve months amounted to a trifle above L.2000. During the same period they had sent out about six clergymen, and this was all the evidence they had given of the growing interest in the spiritual welfare of the Colonies! It became the Assembly to be yet more earnest than they had hitherto been in seeing that greater exertions were made for the cultivation of this most interesting field. He was aware that they had other Missionary Schemes having claims upon the Christian benevolence of their people; but, taking all these Schemes together, the sum contributed by this Church for the purpose of diffusing the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST did not exceed L.20,000 or L30,000. In the Hebrew commonwealth it was settled by Divine appointment that not less than one-tenth part of the substance of each individual should be devoted to the maintenance of the Jewish ritual. And in the earlier times of our own dispensation the converts to the Christian religion, declared that, if this portion were required of the Jews, unquestionably Christians should be more zealous in the propagation of their faith; and accordingly for a long time it was characteristic of the Christian Church that one-fifth of the incomes of the Christian people was devoted to the propagation of their common faith. He did not think, therefore, that they could reasonably or truly congratulate themselves on the state of things evidenced by the Report now read; and it was unquestionably the duty of this House to see whether they could not devise more efficient measures for stirring up the liberality of the Christian people in furtherance of so glorious an object. But not more as Christians than as patriots were they called to greater exertions in this most interesting cause. He should like that some of their political economists, while speculating upon the value of opening-up steam communication with different parts of the world, and on the value of laying down railroads in different parts of our Colonies, would only exercise themselves (if their arithmetic went so far) in computing what would be the value to the British Empire of a fully educated Christian people.

occupying the extensive Colonies that now own her Majesty's sway. (Hear, hear.) He ventured to say that, if some ships and railroads yielded some 5 or 10 per cent., twenty years would not pass over our heads until every pound, expended in the manner he had indicated, would yield even cent. per cent. Let them not conceive that, as a people, they were not interested economically in the moral and Christian cultivation of their fellow-countrymen in the British Colonies. It had sometimes been said by the political economists, or socialists rather, that, because the Atlantic came between Great Britain and Canada, Canada must sometime follow the example of the United States, and the Empire must be dismembered. But there were two mighty things that had very seriously interfered with these calculations of late. They had of late years got a bridge over the Atlantic by means of steam, and they had by means of the same element of power almost annihilated distance by land, and he would not wonder if some here present would live to see the day when her Most Gracious Majesty, who had shown herself not averse to maritime tours, might appear among her subjects in Montreal and Quebec, and gladden their hearts and render enthusiastic their loyalty by her presence. (Applause.) He could not, therefore, look forward to the dismemberment of the British Empire as an event at all probable. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. Hill's motion having been unanimously agreed to,

The MODERATOR conveyed to Dr. Clark, and through him to the Committee, the cordial thanks of the Assembly for their zeal and diligence during the past year. Turning to the Assembly, he said, "There is one other circumstance to which I would beg leave in all humility to direct the attention of the House. There is a peculiarity about this Scheme. The venerable founder of it is spared by God amongst us in considerable vigour of body for his advanced years, and in enjoyment of unimpaired faculties of mind. He is also spared, as I am sure you will all allow, in the enjoyments of the honours of a long, and useful, and most meritorious ministry. My respected friend, Dr. Hill, in the course of his address to you suggested, though he did not make it part of the motion, that I should be authorised in your name and by special letter to convey to him the wishes of the Assembly for the comfort of his declining years, our congratulations that he is spared amongst us, and our prayers that he may be still spared for some years to come, and that, when the Lord's time comes to him, he may have peace and comfort from the Lord in a dying hour. Is it the mind of the House that I should be so authorised?" The proposal was received with general applause.

CASE OF THE PREBYTERY OF DEMERARA.

The appeal of this Presbytery against the decision of the Committee on Bills was then taken up.

Mr. SMEATON, on behalf of the Presbytery, said he was sorry to say that he could not consistently with the written instructions take it upon himself to withdraw the petition and relative documents, or substitute any petition in their place. He begged most respectfully to leave the case in the hands of the Venerable Assembly, assuring them again that this Presbytery were most desirous for peace and reconciliation, and that they were ready to make apology for any unbecoming expressions which they might have used; and in particular in the words of their own memorial, if they had offended in word, they desired now to express their sincere sorrow for it, and they would be most ready to express it again, when informed wherein they had given offence.

Dr. PIRIE moved that Dr. Clark be heard on the subject in his own behalf.

Dr. CLARK said, if he was the man described in these documents, he was unfit to be a minister of this Church, far less Vice-Convener of the Colonial Committee. The charges against him in these papers of having suppressed documents necessary to the judgement of the Assembly had

been three times already brought before them and dismissed; and he should like to know how often any man was to be tried for the same charge? This matter first came before the Assembly in 1845, and in 1846 the Presbytery had the benefit of the most eminent counsel to defend them; but it turned out that all the decisions of the Colonial Committee in the matter were confirmed by the Assembly; and it turned out further that these parties made an apology for their conduct, and the correspondence was renewed. After all that, they came back to their original charge against the Colonial Committee; on which the Assembly commanded that Committee to hold no further correspondence with them until they showed a better disposition. Dr. Clark then read several extracts from the documents to show the nature of the pretended apology now made. "If we have used unbecoming or offensive language, we freely and absolutely retract the same, while we beg it to be clearly understood that we retract not one single statement of fact, or one single iota of the charges brought against the Colonial Committee." He asked if that was an apology? He for one saw no penitence or sorrow conveyed in these documents at all. The documents also were full of inconsistencies and contrary statements. In one document, the minutes of the Presbytery, the Committee were charged with being the ruin of the Colonial Church; while in a letter to Earl Grey, praying him to command Principal Lee or Dr. Robertson to answer certain communications they had made, they said "little evil has resulted." Dr. Clark concluded by saying that there was not a minister or member of the Church of Scotland more anxious than he was to avoid everything like offence; and, long as he had been a minister of this Church, he knew few with whom he had ever quarrelled; and he owed it to himself, to his family, and to the Church, to say that he was not aware of anything that had in the course of these proceedings occurred to stain his character. (Hear, hear.) He had nothing to leave his family but a good reputation, and by the help of God he would endeavour to do that.

Mr. CASSELL, W. S., moved that the Assembly sustain the appeal and reverse the finding of the Committee on Bills, and that the memorial and relative documents be sent to the Colonial Committee for their consideration with the view, if possible, of renewing friendly intercourse with that Presbytery.

Dr. PAULL renewed his motion of Saturday, that the Assembly dismiss the appeal, and ratify the finding of the Committee. He said he did not consider the door was shut for the Presbytery of Demerara renewing its connection with the Church of Scotland, but there stood on the Assembly's record an express order that this Committee was to hold no further communication with them until they showed a different spirit from what they had hitherto showed, and a different spirit from what appeared in these documents, the transmission of which had been rejected, and very properly rejected, by the Committee on Bills.

Mr. R. H. STEVENSON seconded the motion of Dr. PAULL. He held that circumstances were unchanged since the matter was last adjudicated on; and even, though the documents had been withdrawn now by the agent, that would not be enough for him, for it would be no evidence whatever of the penitence of those parties living at a distance.

The motion of Mr. Cassels fell to the ground, not being seconded, and that of Dr. PAULL was carried.

APPEALS FROM THE SYNOD OF PERTH.

The Assembly then took up two appeals from a decision of the Presbytery of Perth, sustained by the Synod of Perth and Stirling, by which they declared that they had no jurisdiction over the proceedings of the General Session of Perth. The General Session, which acts as administrators of the Poor Fund in Perth, having voted a sum of money to the Rev. Mr. Murdoch as half of the expenses incurred by him in defending the Session and the Presbytery of Perth in a recent case in the General Assembly, Mr. James Scott, elder,

protested, and complained to the Presbytery. The Presbytery found they had no jurisdiction over the General Session in the matter referred to. The Rev. Mr. Liston, of Redgorton, appealed to the Synod, and from thence to the Assembly, as to the ground of judgement; while Mr. James Scott and others appealed against the judgement on the ground that it was incompetent and indefensible to apply the Poor's Fund to the payment of such expenses. Both appeals were dismissed. The Assembly adjourned at 6 o'clock till 8.

EVENING SEDERUNT.

The Assembly met again at eight o'clock, Principal Lee, and afterwards the Moderator, in the Chair.

THE WHITSOME CASE.

The Assembly then took up the Whitsome case. The part of the case first disposed of was an appeal by the Rev. Mr. Robertson against the decision of the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale, refusing to allow him to be heard by counsel at their bar. The Rev. Kenneth M. Phin appeared for the Synod, and A.S. Cook, Esq., for the appellant.

Parties were heard at length on the question whether Mr. Robertson, having voted as a judge in his own case in the Presbytery, was now entitled to appear by counsel as a party at the bar. A lengthened debate then took place, in which Dr. Robertson moved that the appeal from the decision of the Synod, refusing to hear Mr. Robertson by counsel, be sustained; while it was moved by Dr. Pirie, that the judgement of the Synod be affirmed. The Assembly divided, when Dr. Robertson's motion was carried by 93 to 77.

Parties were then called in on the merits of the case, the Synod consenting to be held as served at the bar, with the petition of the Rev. Mr. Robertson, praying for the reversal of their decision to proceed against him by libel.

The Assembly then adjourned at a quarter to one till twelve next day.

TUESDAY, MAY 25.

The Assembly met this afternoon at 12 o'clock, the Venerable the Moderator in the Chair, and, having constituted sederunt, the minutes of last meeting were read and approved of.

The Rev. Professor ROBERTSON mentioned that the difficulty of getting information regarding the order of business was such that it could not be considered by many to be most desirable, that every member should have the order of business served up to him with his breakfast rolls. (Laughter.) He considered that this could be effected by means of a small committee, and that every member who gave his address might get a printed notice of the business sent him every morning. There would be a trifling expense attending this, but he should undertake that the committee to be appointed would find the ways and means. Dr. ROBERTSON'S proposition being agreed to, he nominated his committee.

GORBALS PARISH CHURCH, GLASGOW.

The House having called upon the Rev. Dr. Hill to state the reference from the Presbytery of Glasgow in this matter, he proceeded to say that this was one of the most deplorable cases ever brought before the General Assembly. It was that of a parish church from which the minister, elders, and congregation had been ejected, and were now worshipping in a schoolroom.

(The principal facts of the case have been noticed in our pages already.)

The minister of Gorbals was instructed to call a meeting of the heritors; and conferences took place both with the Town Council of Glasgow and renters of Gorbals, all of whom were implicated in the transaction in a way unnecessary for him (Dr. Hill) to detail. Steps were adopted for preventing the sale of the church by suspension and interdiction. Dr. Leishman and another minister were authorised to proceed to Edinburgh and fee council. It was resolved that an Action of Reduction should be raised; and the whole

matter referred to the ensuing General Assembly. They now therefore submitted this important case to that Venerable Body for their advice and assistance, which he hoped they would not separate without giving. He had attended with a portion of the heritors, who were very numerous, amounting to 150, (but three had been present in the instance referred to) on the magistrates of Glasgow, who were indeed most anxious to prevent so unseemly a thing as the sale of a parish church, and offered to undertake half the debt, if the heritors would undertake the other. Before any addition to the debt was made, the whole matter might thus have been adjusted. It was a very handsome offer on the part of the magistrates. But the church was suffered to remain shut; no ordinances were administered in it; and a sale had been carried through in the face of all opposition. Intimation had been served on the auctioneer, or party engaged in this proceeding, but he went on. [It was stated about the Bur that the church had been purchased by the Free Church for £2,800, but that they were kept out by the existence of the suspension and interdict, and that the edifice remains closed.]

The Rev. Professor ROBERTSON proposed that the Assembly should appoint a small committee to put themselves in communication with Dr. Hill and the Commissioners from Glasgow.

Rev. Principals Lee and Dewar; Rev. Dr. Robertson, Thomas Leburn, David Smith, Henry Cheyne, and Hugh Bruce, Esqrs, were named a committee.

SCHEMES OF THE CHURCH.

The Rev. Dr. SIMPSON, of Kirknewton, brought forward the Report of the Joint Committee of the Schemes, composed of the Conveners and two Members from each Scheme. It referred, 1st, to the *Missionary Record*, which was stated to possess a distinctive character, inasmuch as the largest portion of its contents related to the operation of the Schemes. The introduction of leading articles had been, besides, to a great extent carried out, and other improvements suggested, which, it was hoped, would be acted upon, especially in regard to the publication of monthly lists of the periodical contributions to the Schemes. Estimates having been taken for the publication, those of the former publishers had been found to be lowest, and had been again accepted. Thus, while all their objects were obtained, a saving of £100 a year had been effected; and a great improvement consisted in the adoption of the *Record* form, which was a return to the former shape of the *Record*; 2dly, the Report referred to the accommodation for the business of the Schemes. Year after year there had been a constant increase of business, and a manifest inconvenience resulting from the want of proper accommodation. The Committee now reported their success in obviating this. They had purchased the property, No. 22, Queen Street, and the purchase and alterations would be completed within the sum authorized to be expended for the purpose.

The Rev. Dr. PRIE complimented the Conveners for having performed their duties with zeal and assiduity, and concluded by moving approval of the Report, thanks to the Joint-Committee, and their re-appointment.

The Rev. Dr. PAUL seconded this motion.

OVERTURES ANENT THE MANAGEMENT OF THE SCHEMES.

The CLERK (Dr. Simpson) read overtures from the Presbyteries of Dunbarton, Dunse, and Selkirk, setting forth the importance of economy, and demanding an inquiry into the management of the Schemes of the Church with a view to their economy and efficiency.

The Rev. Principal LEE moved *simpliciter* that the Assembly pass to the next business.

Mr. WALTER COOK, W. S., thought, that, as a deep interest in the Schemes existed in all parts of the country, it was of importance that those who thought there was not sufficient attention paid to the expenditure, should be heard.

Sir J. H. D. ELPHINSTONE, Bart, had perfect

confidence in the management of the Schemes, and moved that the overtures be dismissed.

The Rev. Dr. PRIE objected to any measure so strong as that which the hon. bart. had proposed. If permitted, he would substitute that the overtures be remitted to the Joint Committee of the Schemes.

Mr. HUGH BRUCE agreed with Mr. Cook that an imputation, injurious to the Schemes, would go forth unless these Presbyteries made an explanation. He would be glad if they could propose arrangements which would lead to efficiency or economy. But it was not for them to throw out the suggestion, that the Schemes were not properly managed, with ut saying in what respect.

The Rev. Dr. RALPH had been in communication many times during the last year with the Conveners of at least two of the Schemes; and he would say in presence of that House, in behalf of those admirable men, that he had never seen more indefatigable attention, or a greater desire on the part of individuals to improve the resources at their command. He had, however, been exposed to animadversions in the newspapers, and yet not a voice was heard in support of the overtures. Were they not to interpret this into a very great injury to their plans?

The Rev. Dr. ROBERTSON said, that he believed the members of the Presbyteries, who had sent up the overtures, had sincerely at heart the prosperity of the Schemes. He had not a word to say on behalf of himself or his brethren concerned in the management of the Schemes. But he put it to the commissioners of those Presbyteries, what effect it would have on the Schemes of the Church themselves, if the agitation were kept up, and, when they ought to have been afforded the opportunity of meeting parties in full discussion, they were virtually deprived of it. The commissioners should come manfully forward and declare the grounds on which these overtures were sent up. He spoke not at all as if there attached any obloquy to those connected with the management of the Schemes; but as if those gentlemen were equally interested in the proper management of the Schemes with themselves; and he said, that, unless they thus explained their motives, they would inflict on those Schemes a mortal stab. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. Mr. MUIR, of Dalmeny, had all along felt that the Schemes had been managed with the utmost regard to economy; and that all connected with them desired to reduce the expenses to the utmost possible figure. He did not sympathize with the feeling for reduction which had been expressed there and elsewhere. It was a most unhappy thing that year after year suspicions should be expressed, and that general statements should be made, calculated to produce such an alienation of feeling towards the Schemes that this year they had been landed in a deficiency of Funds. Steps should be taken to put a clear end to it. He was inclined to think that the matter might be remitted to the Joint Committee, who, he was sure, would do nothing inconsistent with their duty in dealing with it.

Rev. Dr. PRIE referred to a document which, he said, bore on the face of it, that large sums had been expended for the Schemes, where it would be desirable to get some account of the money so expended. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. Mr. DUNN, of Cardross, had supported one of the overtures in the Presbytery to which he belonged, not for want of confidence in the zeal and judgement of those having the management of the Schemes. Against these he had never heard a whisper in his congregation. But it had been generally stated that several Presbyteries and Synods elsewhere had been agitated on the subject, and he knew that, if doubts existed, the sooner they were put down the better. It did appear that the expenditure was extravagant, if not in proportion to the work done, at least to the results of the work done. He thought a deduction might be made in the number of their paid agents, and that the efficiency of the *Record* might be maintained at less cost. He had learned, however, more fully since coming to Town what

had been done by a former committee in reference to the matter, and he had found that the system could not be altered at present. He saw the evil that might be done by continuing the agitation, and was very sorry he had any part in it. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. HENRY CHEYNE, W. S., said, since ever he had been connected with the Schemes there had been a constant effort to make an enquiry and diminish the expenditure. Since last Assembly they had considerably reduced the expense, and there was even now a proposition before the Joint Committee to reduce it still farther. The Joint Committee were ready to communicate frank and complete information to any committee of the House. Very lately in fact there had been an inquiry instituted, from which it appeared that something short of £860 per annum was paid for management amongst six Schemes, including a vast amount of outlays for copying, &c. How far this expenditure might be lowered by a greater degree of centralization, it had been the undoubted result of exact inquiry, that, however conducive to efficiency, such centralization would cause larger expenditure. They could not have a more centralised management than at present without more expenditure; and, if a committee were appointed, he would be able to satisfy them of this from a document, which he held in his hand, containing details which he was unwilling to inflict upon the patience of the house. (Read, read.) Well then, continued Mr. Cheyne, since it seems proper to the House, it may be mentioned that—

In the Education Scheme the expense of management is £350. The Secretary of the Educational Committee is, however, the only official, connected with any of the Schemes, whose sole services are purchased. He has to conduct all the official correspondence; to issue nine different circulars and schedules of inquiry; to write about 900 letters, of which 500 are booked: to attend to the admissions and examination-papers of the students in the normal seminaries of Edinburgh and Glasgow; to assist at the closing examinations; to attend to the boarding department, in which there are always from 25 to 28 students resident. He has the duty of checking, collecting, and taking charge of subscriptions, granting about 721 orders connected therewith; the inspection of schools, of which there were last year inspected 58, occupying a period of nine weeks; the attending on committees and conveners, and supplying the matter for the *Missionary Record*; reporting the results of inquiries to committees, and, when matters of importance occur, framing memorials, sometimes extending to 30 p. 8vo.

In the Home Mission the clerk's salary is £485. The Secretary has to conduct the business of the Scheme generally, collect contributions, write orders, obtain them signed and counter-signed: to take steps regarding the annual collection and the securing of due returns, and meeting with the missionaries and promoters of the Scheme. He has the writing of 800 letters, most of which are booked, and of 340 p.p. of original composition, and nearly 600 p.p. of other writing.

The Endowment Scheme costs £128 for official services, generally of the same character as those of the Home Mission, and on the average of the last three years the Secretary has been individually, occupied one and a-half hours every day, has written 360 letters and 300 p.p. of original composition.

The India Scheme costs £63, and much the same duties are attached.

The Jews Scheme £50, in which the Secretary and Treasurer have a large amount of work; and

The Colonial £120 for Secretary and Clerks, where there are 300 letters booked, £6000 of money to manage, and 300 p.p. of original composition.

In conclusion, however, Mr. Cheyne submitted, that centralising the management could not be conducive to economising the items of expenditure. The amazing amount of labour undergone by the various Conveners was little less, it was a great deal more than Secretaries and Officials.

By some not less than 800 letters were written yearly. It had been well observed, that, were they to multiply the numbers of letters sent by each of them to every Convener by the number of ministers in the church, they would then see that they called forth an amount of labour enough to overpower any man. But they had only one object, and that was to secure the greatest amount of economy in the management compatible with efficiency. Unless they were prepared, therefore, to see the collections dwindle away, he hoped that those, who thought they could improve the efficiency of the Schemes, would come forward with some practical plan to show how at once greater efficiency could be given to the Schemes, and at less cost. The administration of £60,000 would cost no more than that of £20,000; and he undertook that an increase of subscriptions would be attended with no increase of expenditure in the management. (Hear, hear.)

Sheriff RUTHERFORD (Roxburghshire), was now satisfied, that, if anything were required, it was to increase the salaries. The statement they had just heard should be made public. It would show every individual that the officials were not more than sufficiently paid; and individuals might now therefore be led to increase their subscriptions, which they might have been restricting under the idea that the money was not properly expended. He moved that the statement be printed and circulated.

Rev. Mr. WADDELL, of Stow, wished to see the officials adequately remunerated for their work; but that the whole time of those functionaries should be given to their duties. This was the great object of the overture from the Synod with which he was connected, and he thought it well entitled to the notice of the House.

Rev. Mr. FISHER, of Flisk, had no fault to find with the expenditure. It was little enough; but a great deal more labour might be done in stirring up Presbyteries, in stirring up the people, and encouraging missionaries, those devoted men who had done so much to promote the cause of the Church. They, country ministers, were not so much accustomed to speak in public as to admit of their making an appearance on this question; but they were willing to come forward and give their opinions. They had nothing to urge against the venerable fathers, the Conveners; but something might come out of it; men of God might be found in Edinburgh to give their whole time to this cause. Let them not get one merely to look after pounds, shillings, and pence; but, as something had been said on a previous evening about taking a leaf out of the book of the Roman Catholics and others, let them get us a head, a devoted minister, who would occupy his whole time with each Scheme, and, if not, let them give encouragement to young men who would do so.

The Rev. Dr. ROBERTSON was glad that shape and form had now been given to those undefined things that had been circulating about the country intangibly. He begged leave to offer a few observations directed more particularly to what had fallen from Dr. Pirie. He begged to recal his attention to a statement he had made. He proposed to bring forward this year what he said he had brought forward last year. He (Dr. Robertson) did not remember what it was to which Dr. Pirie alluded; but he had said more than this; he had said that up and down the country, it was not to be concealed, mutterings were going that the Schemes were not well managed.

The Rev. Dr. PIRIE, who seeing the turn the debate was taking, had advanced to the Table, here explained that he had said it was felt that the sum expended might be laid out more efficiently.

The Rev. Dr. ROBERTSON resumed by saying that his Rev. friend had materially changed the import of the observations he was about to make, but it was just those icy chilly breathings that came across them that did so much harm, and it was not for himself or their respected conveners that he spoke, but for the Schemes. They were

managed with rigid and well-supported economy. His friend at the Table had correctly stated that the Joint Committee was composed of the conveners and two members of each committee. It had been sitting for two or three years, and had been doing everything to reduce the expenditure; and several of their officials continued with these Schemes, not, however, he was sorry to say, because they were adequately remunerated, but purely for love of the Church of Scotland. Until, however, this want of confidence could be done away with, it was impossible the Schemes of the Church could prosper. It laid its icy hand upon every exertion, however great, which was made by those who managed the Schemes, and, if not checked, would continue until at last the Schemes of the Church would dwindle down to a state of comparative insignificance; and he must say, rather than see them dragging out a lingering half-existence, he would be well pleased that they should be entirely relinquished for two or three years, trusting that a proper understanding would be come to between the Ministers and Elders of the Church, and that they would once again rise from their ashes in far more than their pristine glory. He did not say how this confidence was to be restored; but, if a committee was to be appointed, it must be an independent committee, and not one consisting of those who had been doing their utmost during the last two or three years, but whose doings remained under this chilling distrust. What he wished was, that a plan for the future management of the Schemes should be made out, and that it should be laid before a committee of independent men, who were acquainted with business, and most unquestionably if such committee declare the plan, that may be proposed, more likely to be more efficient than that which the Joint-Committee have been attempting to follow, if the Assembly would only trust them, the Joint-Committee would be rejoiced to try to carry the plan into effect. If this plan should have the effect of restoring confidence, then he was safe to say that the present would be the most important discussion in which the Assembly would have been engaged. Give them only the cordial confidence of the Church, and he could safely say that the revenue would be doubled, nay quadrupled, in the course of a few years. Mr. Cheyne had alluded to the labours of many friends of the Church in this cause; but he had not alluded to the labours of another class of men to whom the Church were much indebted, to the able assistance of such men as Mr. Cheyne himself, Mr. Smith, Mr. Isaac Bailey, and Mr. Walter Cook. He was aware that the labours of those gentlemen were very great, they being in the habit of devoting a number of hours daily to the business of these Schemes without any remuneration whatever.

A motion of Sir J. D. Elphinstone was eventually agreed to with some modification. It stood as follows: That, although the Assembly have full confidence in the Joint-Committee for the management of the Schemes, yet for the satisfaction of the Church they agree to appoint a committee to examine into the management of these Schemes, and to consider any suggestion or statements that may be made to them in relation to this subject, and to report to the Assembly before the close of the proceedings.

SERMONS BEFORE THE LORD HIGH COMMISSIONER.

The Assembly appointed the following supplies of sermons before the Lord High Commissioner on Sabbath first:—

Forenoon—Mr. Stevenson, of Dalry.

Afternoon—Dr. Ritchie, of Longforgan.

EVENING SEDERUNT.

BALMAGHIE CASE.

The Assembly were occupied till 8 A. M. with closed doors on the case of the Rev. Dr. William Freeland, minister of the parish of Balmaghie, which came up by appeal from the judgement of the Synod of Galloway and Presbytery of Dumfries, finding two of the charges, arising out of a

mala fama in a libel containing various such charges and others of falsehood, proven against him. The Assembly after various suggestions deferred sentence in regard to the portion of the libel found proven till next sederunt.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26

The Assembly met to-day at twelve o'clock, the Rev. Dr. Forbes, Moderator.

CASE OF DR. FREELAND.

The Assembly proceeded to pass sentence on the Rev. Dr. Freeland.

Dr. HILL said he held the offence, proved against Dr. Freeland to be no light one, and that he had shown himself to be unworthy of the position of a minister of Christ. He was disposed at one time to propose suspension from judicial functions till next General Assembly; but on further reflection he felt himself quite prepared to proceed to the last extremity. (Hear, hear.) He thought by doing so they should not only do credit to themselves, but show that they were determined, wherever there appeared to be a rotten branch in the great tree of the Church, that the hand of the Assembly should at once be stretched out to cut it off.

Principal LEE said it occurred to him that mere suspension from judicial functions would in this case be next to no punishment at all. No man could say how deep the penitence of the pure man might be; but the preaching of the Word of the Gospel from lips which had uttered such licentious speeches could not be listened to by any congregation with that deep reverence which was likely to produce a salutary effect. The crime proved disqualified in his deliberate judgement any person from continuing to exercise the office of the Holy Ministry, and he moved that the General Assembly proceed to depose Dr. Freeland from that office.

Dr. HILL seconded the motion.

No counter-motion having been made, the motion of Principal Lee became the deliverance of the Assembly. After prayer by Principal Dewar, the Moderator accordingly deposed the Rev. William Freeland from the office of the Holy Ministry.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Dr. CRAIK, Glasgow, gave in the Report of the Committee on Sabbath Schools. Returns had been sent in from 617 parishes or congregations, in which there were 195 schools connected with this Church. The number of S. S. teachers connected with these schools was 4627, the number of pupils enrolled was 63,179, while the average attendance was 53,790. The Missionary college attendance was 1,324, 13a. Lectures in 136 of these schools was 1,324, 13a. 6d. There were libraries in 229 parishes, containing on the whole 71,531 volumes. Much valuable information as to the state of S. schools in Edinburgh and Glasgow had been supplied by the reports of the S. S. Associations in these cities. From the reports of the Edinburgh S. S. Association it appeared that within the city of Edinburgh for the four quarters previous to September, 1851, taking the average of these periods, the number of teachers was 812, and of scholars 2985, including schools connected with 36 parishes and congregations. In the landward portion of the Presbytery, including nine parishes and congregations, the average numbers of teachers was reported to be 27, and of scholars 362. The total number of schools reported by the Glasgow Association was 112, of teachers, male and female, 932, and of scholars 8920. The Report then entered into a lengthened disquisition as to the principles on which Sabbath schools should be conducted, and the objects of religious training which they ought ever to have in view.

Dr. ROBERTSON moved the adoption of the Report, which, he said, was one of the most interesting he had ever listened to, and one characterized by the lucid development of some of the highest principles of Christian philosophy. This report referred to a movement which, little as it might be thought of, was, he believed, one of the

mightiest organisms for good that were now developing themselves in our land. He rejoiced to see that those Sabbath schools, originally planted in Glasgow and Edinburgh by a society of young men, had been improved so much that he was not sure that he could point to any institution in our country in which the right principles of Religious Education were so fully developed. He liked those organisms which, beginning from little, continued to wax and wax onward in their course; and in this particular case that organism has been so far developed that not only were these young men and women engaged teaching in the Sabbath Schools, but they were weekly or fortnightly meeting together for the purpose of imploring the blessing of God on their labours, comparing notes on their past experience, applying their whole minds to the investigation of those principles on which those admirable institutions could be rendered more efficient. He congratulated the House on the statistics that had been read; and it was delightful to contemplate so many seminaries of Christian education rising up in all parts of the country. He knew of no improvement, either of a religious or economical character, which would be of such vast consequence to the best interests of the country.—At times they might think their lot had been cast in a difficult age, and that they had formidable difficulties to contend with. Yes, but they had in this small and silent movement an evidence that men's minds were no longer dead and stagnant, as they were about the end of last century; and he had that confidence in the eternal majesty of Truth that, if it were but put before the public mind, it was not a matter of choice or of policy, but of absolute certainty, that the public mind must be imbued with it, and that they must go forward in their national career prospering and to prosper. With all the difficulties of our times, he felt persuaded that they were the very best times that the world had ever seen. They were pregnant with the largest amount of hope, and they were the times in which Christian men might do the most for the advancement of their country and their common Christianity. The Moderator conveyed the thanks of the Assembly to Dr. Craik, and through him to the Committee.

EDUCATION.

Dr. Cook, St. Andrews, gave in the Report of the Committee of the General Assembly for increasing the means of Education in Scotland, particularly in the Highlands and Islands.

This Report was comprised under the five following heads, *Assembly Schools, Normal Schools, Funds, Privy Council Grants, and Presbyterian Returns.* Of these we propose to give an abstract in our next. Meanwhile our space restricts us to the concluding sentences of the Report, and the remarks of Dr. Maculloch, Greenock, and Dr. MacLeod, Morven, in respectively moving and seconding its adoption.

In concluding their Report the Committee congratulated the Assembly on the continued proof that was given of the highly beneficial results that had arisen from the Education Scheme, and on the evident efficiency of the schools which were maintained upon it, and which in many cases, particularly in the Highlands, formed a very strong bond of attachment between the people of the district and the National Church. A sum of about £20,000 was yearly raised from voluntary contributions, in various ways, in support of schools connected with the Church of Scotland; but it was too well known that there were many localities throughout our country, in which, while there was the greatest need, there was total or almost total want of ability to raise the funds that would be necessary for the additional schools that were required. For these the Committee pleaded, and for the successive

generations of thousand of children who were thus left to grow in ignorance and in destitution of the means of instruction.

Dr. MACCULLOCH said it was certainly most cheering to be informed of the increasing attendance at the schools, the advancing attainments of the scholars, the continued efficiency of our normal seminaries, and the mutual good understanding which appeared to subsist between the Assembly's Committee and the Committee of Privy Council. He wished to refer, however, to the salaries of the teachers. Adding together the salary, the school fees, and the Government allowance, the whole emoluments of even the best qualified of their teachers did not at present seem to exceed even £50 a-year, while those of the vast majority of them were under £30. Was this, he would ask, an adequate income for the men who were intrusted with the upbringing of the youth of our land? (Hear, hear.) Was this a sufficient sum to induce men of cultivated faculties to encounter the drudgery and anxiety of school tuition, and that in many districts of the country where they must necessarily be exiled from the countervailing advantages of books and educated society? In order, then, to retain the services of those of their present teachers who were best qualified, and to secure a permanent succession of men similarly qualified, it was highly important, very indispensable, that, if at all practicable, larger salaries should be granted in future. (Hear, hear.) Another point, worthy of the attention of the Assembly, was the proposal to extend the scope of tuition in their schools combining industrial with general instruction. In the Report agricultural instruction was especially named as the great want of the Highlands, but industrial training generally was of immense importance to the children of the poor; and if, by means of the Supplementary Fund sufficiently increased, they could only succeed in introducing industrial training into each of their schools, they could scarcely fail by God's blessing, before half a century passed away, to elevate to a great extent the social and physical condition of the Highlanders, and to cure them of that aversion to steady industry which had too long been their characteristic. In all the elementary schools of Scotland far too much attention had hitherto been paid to mere book-reading. But what the children of the poor needed, first of all to be taught, was moral principle, and what they most needed, next to moral principle, was the love and habit of work. (Hear, hear.) Nor could there be any doubt of the entire practicability of teaching the latter in day-schools, industrial training, when introduced into schools in this and other countries, having been followed by the most beneficial results. The only other point on which he would touch was the state of their funds. As regarded the Government allowances, the Report appeared to him to be highly satisfactory. These allowances had been liberal, and, as the conditions, on which they were granted, seemed to be in perfect accordance with the system of training pursued in their normal schools, it was next to certain, that, if they kept their training schools in their present state of efficiency, the Government allowances would year after year increase in amount. The minutes of the Privy Council in regard to Education seemed to be framed on the principle of a wise adaptation to the educational wants of this country, and he hoped nothing would arise to prevent the Assembly's Committee from co-operating with the Government in this important matter. He would call attention to one most gratifying circumstance alluded to in the Report, the fact that no less a sum than £20,000 was every year raised by voluntary contributions, irrespectively of this Committee and its operations, but yet in support of schools connected with the Church of Scotland. This was a circumstance which showed that Scotland had yet among her sons those who would not let die her proud distinction of being the best educated country in the world. It furnished an example also of patriotism and liberality which, if universally followed in our parishes and con-

gregations, would soon cover our land with schools and schoolmasters, and spare our legislators the trouble of devising and framing any more impracticable bills on the subject of Education. (Applause.) The only subject of regret was, that the funds directly raised by the Committee were not so large as they ought to be; but he was persuaded that the members of this Church only required to have the state of the funds brought before them to be induced to come forward to their help. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. MACLEOD was very happy to indulge the hope that they could all cordially join in sustaining the Report, and requesting the Moderator to convey their thanks to the excellent Convener, and through him to the Committee, as to whose fidelity and energy in the discharge of the business committed to them there could be no doubt. (Hear, hear.) Dr. Macleod then bore testimony to the high state of efficiency which characterised the Assembly's schools, and concluded by suggesting that it might be worth the Convener's while to visit as many of them personally as might consist with his convenience.

The motion having been unanimously agreed to,

The MODERATOR in appropriate language conveyed to Dr. Cook, and through him to the Committee, the thanks of the Assembly for their valuable and untiring labours.

PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS AND SCHOOLMASTERS.

Dr. COOK then submitted the Report on this subject.

Mr. Pringle, of Whybank, moved the adoption of the Report, a vote of thanks to the Convener and Committee for their diligence and exertions, and their re-appointment with instructions to communicate without delay with her Majesty's Government with a view to obtaining such a legislative enactment as will meet, to as great an extent as possible, the requirements of the country and the general views stated in the memorial referred to in the Report.—We quote the remarks of the *Edinburgh Evening Post* on the Report and the subsequent debate.

"In the Report of the Committee upon Parish Schools a very ample detail was given of their proceedings in following out their instructions last year, 'to consider what means may be adopted to improve the condition and raise the endowments of the Parochial Schoolmasters.' This document is of a very important character, and states fully the views of the Committee on the different points under deliberation, both as to the better provision of schoolmasters, and as to the extension of the system by increasing the number of Parochial Schools. The Committee, advertent to the great diminution in their salaries that will occur next year from the reduction in the price of grain, recommended 'that the amount of salary paid by heritors should not in future be less in money than at present; and that the sum then contributed by the heritors over and above the value in 1843 of the minimum of 1½ chalders of meal should be met by an equal grant to the schoolmaster out of a public fund permanently appointed by Parliament for the purpose.' They likewise propose that a retiring allowance should be provided for incapacitated schoolmasters 'to be paid out of the public fund, under warrant of the Court of Teinds.' Many other valuable suggestions are thrown out in the Report, well deserving the attention of the Government and the country. The debate that followed acquired an unexpected interest from the liberal views of Dr. Robertson, and the great concern he manifested to avoid giving offence to Dissenters in organizing and conducting any plan of National Education. His doubts about obtaining any permanent fund from Parliament for the augmentation of schoolmasters' salaries exclusively did not meet with the sympathy or ap-

probation of the Assembly, who seemed to regard the views of the rev. and learned professor as a virtual surrender of the jurisdiction of the Church of Scotland in the matter of Education, and this feeling was strongly evoked by the fate of his motion, which was rejected by a majority of 150 to 7. The House thus deprecated in the most marked manner any abandonment of the rights and claims of the Established Church, which is in fact the great instructors of the community, educating in her schools more of the people than all other denominations put together."

THURSDAY, M 27.

The Assembly met to-day at twelve o'clock, the Moderator presiding.

HOME MISSION.

Dr SIMPSON laid before the Assembly the Report of the Home Mission Committee, of which the following is a very brief abstract:—

The collections made by 890 congregations in the year ending 15th April, 1851, amounted to £2053 11d.; while those received from 883 parishes and chapel districts for the past year, amount to only £2768, 0s. 7d.—thus showing a diminution of only eight in the number of congregations, but a falling off to the extent of nearly £300 in the amount contributed. The decrease in the branches of the ordinary revenue is almost of equal amount; so that the whole deficiency is little short of £.600, while the excess of expenditure in the past over the former year is nearly £.1000; and the outgoings for the financial year ended 15th April last, exceed its income by upwards of £800. This financial position of matters demands the very serious attention of the Assembly; for, unless some, remedial measure be devised, and speedily applied, the most disastrous and deplorable results are inevitable.

CHURCH EXTENSION.

As mentioned in their Report to the last Assembly, two applications had not then been disposed of, the one toward the re-building of the chapel at Newbyth in the parish of King Edward, and the other towards erection of a new chapel at Mossgreen, parish of Dalgetty. The additional information and evidence required in these two cases having been furnished, it was agreed, after due consideration, to vote the sum of £.200 towards the cost of erection of each of the buildings. It is due to Mr. Mercer Henderson, of Fordell, proprietor of the lands, on part of which the chapel of Mossgreen is built, to state, that he not only gave gratuitously the ground on which the chapel is erected, and which is of sufficient extent to afford sites for a manse and a burying-ground, but also made large contributions of building materials.

Three additional applications have been made during the past year. The first was for assistance towards the cost of enlarging the chapel at New Pittligo in the parish of Tyrie. The whole circumstances were carefully considered, and, the Committee being deeply impressed with the generous offer made by Sir John Forbes, and the great importance of the object which he sought to secure, it was agreed to vote the sum of £.300 towards the cost of the necessary additions to and enlargement of the chapel. The necessary proceedings for the erection of the new parish are to be immediately instituted in the Court of Teinds.

The second application was made by the Rev. Mr. Stevenson of Dalry. The Committee being satisfied that the parties locally concerned had made the most strenuous and laudable exertions to meet the wants of the parishioners generally, and that the chapel recently acquired was essentially necessary for the suitable accommodation of the largely increased and growing population of the town of Dalry, it was agreed to vote the sum of £.150.

The third and last application was for assistance towards the erection of a new place of worship proposed to be built at Innellan in the west-

ern district of the Dunoon portion of the extensive united parishes of Dunoon and Kilmun. The application has been favourably received, and additional information and evidence have been called for in order to its being further considered and disposed of.

AIDING UNENDOWED CHURCHES; AND EMPLOYMENT OF PROBATIONERS AS MISSIONARIES.

During the year, ending 15th April last, grants have been voted in aid of 50 unendowed churches to the amount of £2240, and towards the support of 30 mission stations to the amount of £.2145—making together £4385—a sum exceeding by £1532, 10s. the amount voted during the immediately preceding year, and exceeding by a still larger amount the sums given for these purposes in previous years.

Besides the grants specified in the lists referred to, sums were previously voted, and are now in course of payment in aid of 9 unendowed churches, and towards the support of 20 missionary stations; so that 118 places of worship are now aided out of the funds of the Scheme.

The Committee heartily rejoice in the successful operations of the Endowment Scheme. Among other benefits secured by its operations, the funds of the Home Mission have been relieved of the assistance required for the support of the chapels of Houndwood in the parish of Colddingham, "Savoch in the parish of Deer," and St. Andrew's Church, Dunfermline, which have been erected into parishes *quoad sacra*.

The usual returns procured from all the places of worship in receipt of aid out of the funds of the Scheme exclusively establish the gradual and steady prosperity which continues to attend the whole. A few instances may be cited.

At Milton, in the Barony parish of Glasgow, the communicants have increased from 127 to 252; and the congregation from 250 to 500. In the South Church, Kirriemuir, the communicants have increased by 35, and now number 195; and the congregation has increased to 500. At Ladyloan Church, Arbroath, there are 88 additional communicants, the total number being now 328; and the congregation 560. At Pathhead, Dysart, the communicants have increased from 193 to 227; and the congregation now exceeds 600. In Chapelshade Church, Dundee, the communicants have increased from 310 to 401; and the congregation is now 700. At Fullerton, Dundonald, the communicants have increased from 112 to 153; and in the North Church, Dunfermline, there are 30 additional communicants; and in each case there has been a corresponding increase in the number of the congregation. The communicants in Holborn Street Church, Aberdeen, have increased from 190 to 220; and in John Knox's Church, from 372 to 395; and in the former there is a congregation of 460; and in the latter, of 700. In Gilcomston Church, Aberdeen, the communicants have increased from 655 to 730; and there is now a congregation of 1000. In St. Mark's Church, Glasgow, the communicants have increased from 143 to 214; and the congregation, from 256 to 360. In Lauriston Church, there has been an addition of 143 communicants, the total number being now 363; and the congregation 700. And in St. Peter's Church, the communicants have increased from 479 to 560; and the congregation numbers 860. At the missionary station of Lunastaning, in the parish of Nesting, which was opened about two years ago, there is a congregation of 400; and at the last dispensation of the Sacrament by the parish minister, 210 communicated. At the missionary station in the south parish of South Ronaldshay, the congregation numbers 370; and the Sacrament was lately dispensed to 246 communicants. In each of the chapels of Bannockburn in the parish of St. Ninians, and at Ulteneytown, in the parish of Wick, which were only lately re-opened, there is a congregation of about 200, which is steadily and progressively increasing.

And at the station at Mossgreen, in the parish of Dalgetty, which was only formed a few months ago, and to which reference is made un-

der the Church Extension branch of the Scheme, there is already a congregation of 240.

Principal LEE, in moving the adoption of the Report, regretted exceedingly that there had been so much slackness on the part of many parishes and congregations in contributing to this most useful Scheme. He trusted, however, that the funds of the Scheme would soon be placed in a satisfactory condition, for he was sure that there was no one who was well affected to the Church of Scotland that would hide his hand in his bosom when called upon to contribute, as liberally as his circumstances would permit, to the upbuilding of their Zion, and the diffusion of that knowledge which made wise unto salvation among the ignorant and neglected. (Applause.)

Mr. EDDINGTON had great pleasure in bearing the motion. The Report, he said, from its brevity with which it had necessarily been drawn up, could give only a very inadequate idea of the important benefits which this Scheme had conferred on the country. They were apt to look too much at the large collections in city churches as being sufficiently ample to relieve them from the necessity of making any great exertions; but he begged them to recollect that it was not mainly to the large collections from the city churches that they had to look for the ultimate success of the Scheme. Its validity depended chiefly upon the number of small collections which were sent up from the numerous country churches.

(To be concluded in our next.)

DEATH, INDUCTIONS, &c.

DEATH OF THE REV. MR CLARK, OF INVERNESS. — On Saturday morning week intelligence reached Inverness that the Rev. Mr Clark, of the West Church, was dead. The notable position he has held in this quarter for a long period, and the lively feelings entertained towards him by many members of the community belonging to all ranks and classes, rendered this announcement a cause of much concern. The event extinguished all severity of opinion even among those who have been accustomed to reprehend parts of his conduct; and the universal acknowledgement was, that a man had been removed, whose place, taking him all in all, it will be difficult indeed to fill. Mr Clark was a native of Inverness. He was born in 1797. Upon the appointment of the Rev. Thomas Fraser to the first ministerial charge here he was presented to the third charge which Mr Frazer had vacated, and in March 1822 was ordained one of the ministers of Inverness. It will thus be seen that he exercised the Sacred Calling here for the long period of thirty years. The district first assigned to him on the west side of the river he always retained. In general the life of a minister presents but few of those stirring scenes which animate the career of other men; but the events in Mr Clark's history were less simple than in most cases. His days did not glide past in the quiet of an unbroken solitude and the performance of an unvarying routine of duty, or varied only by the changing circumstances of his parishioners. He was ever on the alert, and lived constantly in the midst of bustle and excitement. His health gave way last autumn. We believe that he never wholly recovered from an attack of indispotion which he had some time ago when last in London. Towards the close of last year he went to the West coast in order to attend a communion, and, driving home in the chill of an autumnal evening, he caught cold. A general debility supervened. He continued to preach regularly, however, though obviously very ill. A month ago he went to Rothesay in quest of benefit and invigoration from a change of air. He preached three times on the Sabbath previous, and took an affectionate farewell of his hearers. During the first week he seemed to remit somewhat, and favourable expectations were entertained. But these were speedily dashed by a relapse. On Tuesday last Dr Huie from Edinburgh visited him, and communicated his impression that the

ease was hopeless. He was carried on board the steamer next day, sailed up to Glasgow, tarried there overnight, and calmly expired on the succeeding morning at half-past seven in the presence of Mrs. Clark. His remains were conveyed to Aberdeen, and brought thence on Saturday by a hearse. That Dr. Clark possessed great moral energy and intellectual power, there can be no doubt. He had also knowledge, acuteness, and temper. These qualities made him formidable in debate. He was a skilful reasoner, and he had a quickness in applying his reason, which entitled him to a higher praise than that of a more logician. What detracted from his powers was, that he often waxed prolix, and occasionally appeared over-ostentatious. Two traits in his character deserve to be especially noted—his benevolence and placableness. He was a very extensive alms-giver, and many of the poor he was much beloved. It is a settled conviction with some, that, when third minister, the emoluments of that office being somewhat stinted, he dispensed one-half of his income in charity. And he never betrayed animosity towards opponents. Amid all the angry discussions in which he was engaged, he was never known to exhibit that littleness of mind which prompts one to vent ill-will towards an individual, or allow difference of sentiment to affect private friendship.—Abridged from the Inverness Advertiser.

THE SCOTCH CHAPEL ROYAL.—The Rev. James Paull, D. D., late Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, is to be appointed one of the royal chaplains for Scotland in the room of Dr. Mearns deceased.—*Morning Herald.*

The Presbytery of St. Andrews met in the parish church of Kemback, and proceeded to the ordination of the Rev. Alexander M'Laren to the church and parish of Kemback.

CLERICAL PRESENTATIONS.—The Queen has presented the Rev. Colin Mackenzie to the church and parish of Contin in the Presbytery of Dingwall, and county of Ross, vacant by the death of the Rev. Charles Downie; also the Rev. John Sinclair to the church and parish of Muckairn in the Presbytery of Lorn, vacant by the transportation of the Rev. Donald McFarlane to the united parishes of Killean and Kilkenny.

AUCHINBLAE.—At a numerous meeting of the parishioners of Fordoun on the 3d May, the Rev. Dr. Buchan was presented with a pulpit gown and cassock and a silver tray. The Chairman of the meeting, Mr. Arnott (one of the heritors), in presenting the testimonial to Dr. Buchan, explained that the parishioners had been led to make the presentation from the admirable manner in which he had discharged all the duties of the ministry since his settlement in the parish in January 1846, his great attention to the aged, the afflicted, and the dying, and his labours of love in regard to the upholding of the Sabbath schools in the parish, which are now attended by upwards of 300 children. The Chairman also alluded to the fact that Dr. B. had been mainly instrumental in accomplishing the erection of a monument in the churchyard to the memory of George Wishart, the martyr.—*Montrose Review.*

ABBEY PARISH OF PAISLEY.—The call and concurrence in favour of the Rev. Andrew Wilson, of Falkland, presentee to the first charge in this parish, has been signed by 981 persons, including 56 of the heritors. Among the latter are the Earl and Countess of Glasgow, the Marquis of Abercorn, Lord Blantyre, Sir John Maxwell, Bart., Sir M. Shaw Stewart, Bart., Mr. Spiers of Elderslie, Mr. Houston of Johnstone Castle, and the great bulk of the other landed proprietors, embracing nine-tenths of the valued heritage of the parish. The ancient valuation in Scots money of those heritors who are represented on the call is £9785 10s. 10d., while the valuation of two heritors who have signed the objections is £14 3s. 4d. 446 communicants, and 303 adherents of the Church (exclusive of 35 of the heritors who are also connected with the Establishment) and 130

parishioners who are Dissenters, have appended their signatures.

TRON CHURCH.—On Monday, the 10th May, the Rev. Alexander Cosens, who for several years has acted as assistant to the Rev. Dr. Brunton in the pulpit and parochial duties of the parish, and has now been appointed minister of the united parishes of Fossaway and Tullibole, was presented with a testimonial of plate by several members of the congregation in token of their esteem and appreciation of the efficient manner in which he has discharged the duties of assistant.

ORDINATION.—The ordination of the Rev. Alexander Cosens to be minister of the parish of Fossaway and Tullibole took place on Thursday, the 13th May, in the parish church. It was filled by a large and respectable audience. The Rev. P. Glog, assistant and successor in the parish of Dunning, preached, and delivered suitable addresses to minister and people. After the service Mr. Cosens received a most cordial welcome from every member of the congregation. In the afternoon a company, comprising the minister and kirk-session, many of the heritors and parishioners, the Rev. Dr. Hunter, of the Tron Church, Edinburgh, the Rev. Dr. Paul, of the West Church, the Presbytery of Auchterarder, the Rev. Messrs Campbell, of Luss, Peters, of Kinross, Ross, of Cleish, and others, dined at Mrs. Murray's of the Rumbling Bridge Inn—Robert Scott Moncrieff, Esq., of Fossaway, being chairman, and Mr. Ker of Middlebank and Thawmill, croupier. On Sabbath last Mr. Cosens was introduced to his new charge by the Rev. Dr. Hunter, of the Tron Church, and both gentlemen preached excellent discourses to numerous and attentive audiences. This settlement has been most harmonious, and promises to be of much advantage to the Church of Scotland in that parish.—*Edinburgh Evening Post.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

LAY ASSOCIATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.—Yesterday evening a public meeting was held in the Assembly Hall at seven o'clock. The treasurer read the Report to the association for the year. It appeared that to the Education Scheme there had been appropriated by subscribers £465, 19s. 7d., by the Acting Committee, £210—in all, £675, 19s. 17d.; to the Foreign Missionary Scheme, by the subscribers, £485, 4s. 10d., by the Acting Committee, £145—in all, £630, 4s. 10d.; to the Home Missionary Scheme, by subscribers, £866, 5s. 5d., by the Committee, £140—in all, £1006, 5s. 5d.; to the Parochial Schools, by the subscribers, £265, 2s. 2d., by the Committee, £94—in all, £359, 15s. 2d.; to the Conversion of the Jews, by the subscribers, £250, 3s. 8d., by the Committee, £61, 8s. 11d.—in all, £312, 12s. 7d. To all the Schemes there had been appropriated, by the subscribers, £1788, 8s. 8d., by the Committee, £652, 8s. 11d.—in all, £2440, 17s. 7d. The meeting was then addressed on the various schemes by the Rev. Mr. McCulloch, of Denny, the Rev. Mr. Brown, of St. Bernard's, the Rev. Mr. Baird, missionary from Canada, and by the Rev. Robert Stevenson, Dalrying.

ELDERS' DAUGHTERS' ASSOCIATION.—The third Annual Meeting was held at the office of the Schemes of the Church of Scotland, on Friday the 21st May, which was numerously attended. The following clergymen and gentlemen were among those present:—The Rev. Dr. Cook of St. Andrews; Dr. Craik, of Glasgow; Dr. Hunter; Dr. Crawford; Robert Wright, of Dalkeith; Andrew Wilson, of Falkland; James C. Fowler, of Ratho; James Hope, Esq.; Peter Anderson, Esq.; John Gordan, Esq.; Claude Muirhead, Esq.; Dr. Johnson, &c. On the motion of Dr. Craik, the Rev. Dr. Cook took the Chair. After an impressive prayer the Chairman addressed the meeting. He intimated that the

share of the funds of the Association formerly voted to the Education Committee had been the means of adding to the number of its Females Schools, and he hoped that through its means the number might be still further increased. The Report of the Committee having been read by the secretary, the Rev. Robert Wright, in moving its adoption, a very elegant picture of the state of morality amongst the lower classes in Scotland two centuries ago, compared with what it is in the present day, the contrast drawn being very much to the disadvantage of the days in which we live. This he considered to be owing to the means and education and Bible instruction having become inadequate to the population. Every effort, therefore, that was made to supply this deficiency was worthy of support. The adoption of the Report was seconded by James Hope Esq., and carried. The Rev. Andrew Wilson, of Falkland, moved the following resolution—that £65 be paid to the Education Committee, and £45 to the Ladies' Association in support of Gaelic Schools, to be employed in promoting female industrial education: which was seconded by Claude Muirhead, Esq., and unanimously adopted.

SCHEMES OF THE FREE CHURCH, MAY, 1852.—

Mr. JAFFRAY, the agent of the Church, rose to make a report on the state of the Funds. He said if the statement which he was now to make was not altogether similar in character to the statements of former years, it was still such as gave no good ground for being discouraged. For the Home Mission Scheme and the Highland Mission Scheme the contributions for last year were in all £5774 10s. 8d. From the various stations in connection with the Home Mission, and Church Extension Fund, and the Committee on the Highlands, the contributions amounted to £1883—making the whole available funds, £7657 15s. 10d. The Education Scheme (exclusive of the Government grant for normal schools) had received in contributions, £4355 9s. 4d.; the College Endowment Fund, £978 19s. 7d.; College Building Fund, £1666; the Bursary Fund, £515 2s. 10d.; The Foreign Missions Scheme, £4560 14s. 3d.; from Associations, £2103 19s. 4d.; from miscellaneous contributions, £4246 19s. 4d.; Missionary Buildings, £1680 2s. 1d.; Colonial Scheme, £3968 14s. 8d.; Jews' Conversion, £4436 1s. 1d.; Church Building Scheme, £1489 15s. 6d.; Glasgow Church Extension Scheme, £2552 16s. 5d.; total, £53,876 4s. 8d. The sum received last year, if all the items were included, was, in all, £61,776. In this sum, however, there were large special contributions, so that the true deficiency could not be stated at a larger sum than £1727 2s. 5d. It would be gratifying to the Assembly to learn that this year the offerings from congregations had increased over the amount of last year to the extent of £855 5s. 1d. There was, however, a decrease this year on the revenue of several Schemes, the objects of which were dear to every member of this House; there was a decrease on the Colonial Church Fund to the extent of £230, as compared with the previous year; there was also a decrease on the Jews' Conversion fund to the extent of £491 13s. 10d.; on the Church Building Fund to the extent of £1203 13s. 10d.; on the Education Fund to the extent of £1191 12s. There was an increase, however, in several departments. On the Foreign Missions (looking merely to the congregational collections) there was an increase of £763 18s. 7d. On the whole, he did not see that there was any cause for being cast down or discouraged. Mr. Jaffray then referred to the proposed new church at Gibraltar, for the erection of which the committee had in hand £737. The Glasgow Ladies' Association had collected £153 14s. 6d.; the Ladies' Association for Educating Females in India, £1375 15s. 4d.; the Glasgow Ladies' Association in connection with Caffraria, £227; and he had no doubt that the Ladies' Association for Educating Jewish Females were persevering in their work of faith and labour of love. In the Funds contributed by private associations there was this year a diminution of £95 6s. 5d.

NUNNERIES.—A loyal address to Her Majesty from females of Stranraer in favour of having all nunneries in the kingdom open to the inspection of the Civil Law has been despatched to the Earl of Shaftesbury for presentation. 1300 names are admitted.

LADY EGLINTON AND POPERY.—The *Tablet*, the *Telegraph*, and the *Nation*, unite in launching one common anathema against Lady Eglinton, who has declined subscribing to the funds of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, or patronising its bazaar, which amounts to the same thing.—*Dublin Evening Herald*.

EXTRAORDINARY MUNIFICENCE.—At the Annual meeting of the London Missionary Society, the Rev. Mr. James announced that on the preceding evening a note of £500 had been put in the plate after Dr. Beaumont's sermon in support of the Society, and that another gentleman had promised a guinea a-day.

OUT-DOOR PREACHING.—A meeting of ministers and others was held in the Religious Institution House, Edinburgh, for the purpose of making arrangements for a general system of street-preaching on the Sabbath evenings during the summer months. The Lord Provost was called to the Chair; and it was moved and unanimously carried that the scheme be entered upon; and a committee was appointed to give effect to the resolution.

PRIZE POEM ON THE SABBATH.—A prize of L.25 was some time ago offered for the best poem on the Sabbath, to be competed for by students of Divinity of the Established, Free, and United Presbyterian Churches, the adjudicators being a clergyman of each denomination. The prize has been unanimously awarded to Mr. Daniel Gorrie, Kettle, student of Divinity of the U. P. Church. Two years ago Mr. Gorrie gained the prize for a poem on Ossian in the Rhetoric class in the Edinburgh College.

THE Rev. Dr. Hanna, senior minister of Rosemary Street, Presbyterian congregation, Belfast, and one of the joint Professors of Divinity in the General Assembly's College, died on Friday evening last at the residence of his son-in-law, the Rev. Dr. Denham, Londonderry. Dr. Hanna was the oldest minister of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, being at his decease upwards of eighty years of age. The Rev. Mr. Macnaughtan, late of the Free High Church, Paisley, was recently translated to Rosemary Street congregation as Dr. Hanna's assistant and successor; consequently the Rev. gentleman will succeed to the full emoluments of the congregation. We believe that Dr. Hanna, biographer, and son-in-law of Dr. Chalmers, is a son of the deceased.

SYNOD OF THE (FREE) PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA.—This body closed its sittings in Kingston on Tuesday. The attendance of ministers (of whom there are now eighty on the roll) was larger than usual. We understand that several interesting and important matters were brought before the Synod: among others, the subject of revivals occupied a prominent place, and a committee was appointed to prepare and issue a pastoral address on the subject. An interesting report was read on the subject of the Sabbath, and measures were devised for endeavouring to secure its better observance. The friends of the coloured population were exceedingly gratified at the Report of the Buxton mission, which was most satisfactory. On the subject of Temperance, the Synod agreed to petition the Legislature for the enactment of a law for the total suppression of the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage.—The grievances, to which the inhabitants of the Lower Provinces are subjected in consequence of the numerous holidays recognized by Law, were brought before the Synod, and it was agreed to petition the Legislature on the subject. The Synod also agreed to petition the Legislature for the revival of the Marriage Law, and especially of that part of it which subjects Presbyterian and other Christian ministers to the necessity of ap-

plying to the Quarter Sessions for the privilege, a condition from which the ministers of the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church are exempt. The Report of the Ministers' Widows and Orphans' Fund was highly satisfactory: it appears that donations to the extent of about £2,000 have already been paid to the Fund, from which annuities of £30 to £40 will be paid to the families of deceased ministers who have paid the annual rate of £2. After an appropriate address by the Moderator, Mr. Wightman, the Synod adjourned to meet next year in Hamilton on the second Wednesday of June.—The proceedings of the Synod were most harmonious, there having been only one question, and that on a matter of form, on which a vote was taken.—*Kingston News*.

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR—THE REV. DR. TAYLOR.—This court met in Boston Church, Cupar. The attendance was unusually large, it being understood that the main business was to hear the decision which the Rev. Dr. Taylor, of Auchtermuchty, was to make anent the cordial and unanimous call which he had received from the Canadian Synod to become their Professor of Theology. Mr. Harley, on the part of the congregation, stated that there was the most ardent and unanimous wish that the Doctor should continue to be their minister. But they knew that he would act strictly according to his conviction of duty, and that weightier reasons than they could have produced would be anxiously pondered by himself. If he should see it to be his duty to accept the call, the Auchtermuchty congregation would feel keenly that they had lost a most able and devoted pastor. They would ever cherish a hallowed remembrance of him and his valuable ministrations, and would follow him to the new sphere of his labour, not only with their best wishes for his comfort and happiness, but also with many fervent prayers for his usefulness. The Rev. Dr. Taylor said it would be wretched affectation in him then to pretend that he was at a loss what step to take in reference to the call from the Canadian Synod. There was only one course at that stage open to him, that of accepting the call and of asking the Presbytery to dissolve the connexion between him and his congregation. A man who had laboured for a quarter of a century in one congregation, and enjoyed comfort and happiness from their uniform kindness, if he were possessed just of common sensibilities, could not quit that congregation, could not quit his native land and relatives, without a pang. The Presbytery, whilst concurring in the decision to which Dr. Taylor had come, expressed their sense of the high value of Dr. Taylor's services as a minister, a member of the Presbytery, and a member of society, and their deep regret that they were henceforth to lose such services. All the members of Presbytery in succession expressed their opinion of the eminent qualifications of the Doctor to be a Professor of Theology, and their profound sorrow that the connection between him and them was now to be broken off. In addition to the testimonial which has been projected by the Auchtermuchty public at large, a movement originating with, but not confined to, the Presbytery, has been begun, to present the Rev. Doctor with an expression of their admiration and their best wishes.

POETRY.

GOD IN ALL THINGS.

When Samuel heard in still midnight
A voice amid God's presence bright,
He rose and said on bended knee,
"Speak, Lord, Thy servant heareth Thee."

Even such a voice I too may hear,
Even such a light my soul may cheer;
For Scripture words by God are given,
And conscience is a ray from Heaven.

All that I learn can tell of God;
The Bible best, 'tis His own Word;
But men and books, each star and flower,
Can tell me of Him more and more.

Within, without, above, around,
I'll listen for the holy sound;
And still my ardent prayer shall be,
"Speak, for Thy servant heareth Thee."
Miss MARTINEAU.

FRENCH MISSION FUND.

Contributions since last month:
Toronto, per Rev. John Barclay.....£4 0 0
Esqueving, do. do. 3 0 0
Kitley, per Rev. D. Evans..... 1 0 0
HUGH ALLAN, Treasurer.

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Congregational Collection, Quebec, Rev. Dr. Cook, £20; do. West Gwillimbury, Rev. A. Ross, £1 7s. 9d.
JOHN GREENSHIELDS, Treasurer.

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Montreal, June 20, 1852.

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