

# REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,

FOR

PROMOTING THE RELIGIOUS INTERESTS OF  
SCOTTISH PRESBYTERIANS IN THE COLONIES.

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GIVEN IN BY

THE REV. ROBERT H. MUIR,  
CONVENER.

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**MAY 1868.**

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EDINBURGH:  
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MDCCLXVIII.



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The Rev. ROBERT H. MUIR, *Convener*.

SIMON S. LAURIE, *Secretary*.

\* *With power to add to their number.*

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### FORM of a BEQUEST or LEGACY to the Fund of the General Assembly's Committee on Colonial Churches.

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I give and bequeath the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ to the Committee of  
 the General Assembly for Promoting the Religious Interests of the  
 Scottish Presbyterians in the British Colonies, and the receipt of the  
 Convener or Treasurer of the Committee for the time being shall be a  
 sufficient discharge of the same.

TO  
THE VENERABLE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,  
THE  
REPORT OF THE COLONIAL COMMITTEE,  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY 1868.

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In inviting the Venerable the General Assembly to a review of another year's work in the wide field of their Colonial Missions, the Committee turn first to the

ISLANDS IN THE PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEANS.

At the very earliest meeting after their appointment by last General Assembly, the Colonial Committee had their attention specially called to the spiritual destitution of

NEW ZEALAND.

By personal communications with the Rev. P. Barclay, late of St Paul's Church, Napier, holding a commission from the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand to bring the spiritual wants of the Colony under the notice of the Evangelical Presbyterian Churches in Great Britain and Ireland, the Committee had placed before them the special claims of two localities as presenting important openings for Colonial Mission work. The one was Picton, Marlborough, in the Middle Island, and the other Tauranga, Province of Auckland, on the east coast of the North Island. The claims of Tauranga were further strongly urged on the favourable consideration of the Committee by the Rev. Patrick Beaton, one of the Church of Scotland's chaplains to Her Majesty's forces, who, in the discharge of his duty during the late war in New Zealand, had occasion to visit the place. He describes the town as "the centre of a large and fertile district

that will soon be occupied by British settlers, and must ultimately become the seat of a large trade;" where "there will be ample space and work for three or four Presbyterian ministers," and which "will be the most important charge, and the seat of the Presbytery." Calls, numerous signed by the Presbyterian inhabitants of Picton and Tauranga, were laid upon the table of the Committee; and proposals for the support of the ministry in both places, in connection with the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand, were made, similar to those which, with the approval of the Assembly of 1865, the Committee had entered into in the case of Taranaki, or New Plymouth. The whole circumstances of the case of New Plymouth, as at that time without precedent in the practice of the Committee, were "distinctly and prominently" submitted to the judgment of that Assembly; and the Assembly, reserving them for special consideration, ultimately agreed to "approve of the Report of the Colonial Committee on the points referred to." Fortified by a precedent thus confirmed by the venerable authority of the Supreme Court of the Church, the Committee entered with the fullest sympathy into the spiritual wants of our countrymen in connection with the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand, and to the extent of their ability have contributed to supply these wants. To Picton they sent the Rev. A. C. Soutar, and the Rev. George Morriss to Tauranga, both of whom ere this time, the Committee trust, "by the good hand of God upon them," have arrived at the scenes of their important labours.

From NEW PLYMOUTH the Committee receive gratifying intelligence of the work done there by the Rev. R. F. Macnicol. Stimulated by "a conviction of the growing importance of the field in which he has been placed," Mr Macnicol is "co-operating with his people to the utmost of his power, in securing to the Presbyterians of New Plymouth the permanent enjoyment of the privileges of their own Church." Owing to the disastrous effects of the native war, the province is labouring under great commercial difficulties; and in consequence, the congregation, though an excellent one for the place, is not able yet to dispense with the aid which the Colonial Committee have had pleasure in affording to the self-denying and earnest labours of Mr Macnicol.

Our congregation at WELLINGTON, under the faithful ministry of the Rev. James Stirling Muir, continues to prosper. To

assist in the liquidation of some debt on the new church, the Committee have voted £100; and it is gratifying to know, that an undertaking for our friends in Wellington so arduous and important, has been brought to a successful termination. They now worship in a commodious church, built of wood, to provide against the effect of earthquakes. They have acquired, in exchange for part of the church site, some additional land in the country, which, it is hoped, may be let on favourable terms; and when the great commercial depression under which the colony has been suffering shall have passed away, the congregation of St Andrews, Wellington, will begin to reap all the fruits of the sacrifices they have made. Meanwhile, the Colonial Committee are ready to continue the aid which circumstances may require; and heartily sympathising with Mr Muir and his people in their thankfulness to God, who hitherto hath helped them, cordially commend them, and all our brethren, fellow-labourers with them in New Zealand, to the prayers of the Church.

No change having taken place in the relations of the Committee to the Presbyterian churches of AUSTRALIA, noticed at the close of last year's Report, they pass to

#### CEYLON.

The Rev. Charles Merson, M.A., has resumed his duty in St Andrews, COLOMBO; and the Rev. R. Hogg, who, in Mr Merson's absence on leave (as also in similar circumstances previously at GALLE), performed the duties of acting chaplain, has in the meantime returned home.

All the other ministers and missionaries are filling their several posts, and are able for their duty, with, the Committee deeply regret to say, one exception. Recent intelligence from JAFFNA, from the Rev. Robert Paterson, gives too much reason to fear that his devotion to the anxious work of his most useful ministry, has been beyond his strength. Repeated attacks of serious illness have laid him aside. At the very moment when he was beginning to enjoy some of the fruits of his conscientious labours in manifest tokens of their success, the Master has been pleased to call His servant "apart" to "rest awhile." May the providence be abundantly blessed to both minister and people!

The Colonial Committee have never failed to fully sympathise with the feeling in Ceylon of the want of ministers connected

with the colony by birth, able to preach in the different languages spoken in the island. Their hopes for the supply of that want, have, consequently, for some years been following with the deepest interest the course of study for the ministry of two young men, descendants of Dutch settlers in Ceylon,—one of them at the University of Edinburgh, and the other in our Missionary Institution at Madras. And now, with the greatest thankfulness, the Committee have to announce the accomplishment of their hopes, by the licensing and ordination in this country of the Rev. John D. Van der Straaten, M.A. and B.D. of the University of Edinburgh, and by the licensing at Madras of the Rev. Wilfd. Chs. Van der Wall, as a preacher of the Gospel.

Of Mr Van der Straaten, the Colonial Committee can speak from personal acquaintance with him; and they do so with assurance that the hopes inspired by his successful University career, shall not be disappointed in the career of ministerial duty to which he has been called in his native country. The Wolfendahl congregation at Colombo, of which the Rev. Alexander Young, M.A., is minister, have chosen Mr Van der Straaten as assistant. And the Colonial Committee had much pleasure in offering all the aid in their power to carry out the arrangement.

Of Mr Van der Wall the Committee have received, through the Rev. Augustus Clifford Bell of Madras, and from one of their own number, the Rev. G. W. Sprott of Chapel of Garioch, late of Ceylon, who both personally knew him, the most satisfactory intelligence. After being under Mr Sprott in Ceylon as a catechist, and receiving “daily instruction for a lengthened time,” Mr Van der Wall having gone to Madras, passed through a course of study with a view to the ministry under the superintendence of the Presbytery there, and was licensed by them. He has since returned to his native country, and by the Presbytery of Ceylon has been assigned a post of labour at MATURA, where, in the meantime, the Committee have readily agreed to assist in sustaining his mission.

From the Central Province the Colonial Committee have to communicate the most gratifying report of the constant labours of our missionaries in the Kandian coffee districts—the Rev. Gerard Middleton at Haputale, the Rev. H. L. Mitchell at Gampolla, and the Rev. Joseph Burnett at Matalle.

Mr Middleton has during the past year added a sixth to the



districts he visits. About a half of the residents in this new district are Presbyterians. They expressed the wish that he would visit them frequently; but "as the district is at least *seventy* miles" from Haputale, *frequent* visits to them are impossible. Mr Middleton adds, "It is much to be regretted that there is no clergyman nearer this district, as it is a rapidly increasing one, and ought to have more regular services."

In such circumstances, so urgently demanding additional labourers in these extensive coffee plantations, it has been the occasion of extreme regret and anxiety to the Colonial Committee to learn that the Kandy Church Extension Society, suffering from the effects of an almost unprecedented commercial crisis in Ceylon, had been so crippled in its resources as not to be able even to meet its liabilities. By the report of the Society for 1866, and a special appeal forwarded to them, the Colonial Committee were made aware of this painful state of things; and by the combined representations of the Society and the Presbytery, the Committee were earnestly entreated to give a grant in aid to tide the friends of church extension in Ceylon over their present difficulty.

After the fullest and most anxious consideration of all the circumstances, the Committee resolved to grant the sum of £200.\*

It is gratifying to know, that already signs appear of returning prosperity to the Kandy Church Extension Society. By intelligence received as this Report is passing through the press, the Committee learn that the deficiency in the Society's funds to meet their expenditure is entirely due to the falling off in the subscriptions for 1866, "as last year's collections were enough to meet the liabilities of that year, irrespective of the large grant from the Colonial Committee. There is thus every reason to hope, that in future such extraordinary aid will not be required."

From GAMPOLLA Mr Mitchell reports as to the Tamil School, that since February 1867, it "has been carried on by the parents of the children, independently of the aid which had been previously given towards it by planters in surrounding districts. The possibility of such an arrangement as this shows how needful such a school in the place was felt to be when once begun. It must be also gratifying to those, who, for three years, gave handsome contributions towards its support, to know that some of the boys are already filling useful situations in life through knowledge

\* See Supplementary Appendix to this Report, page 30.

here acquired." Another school has been opened at Navalapittia, with encouraging prospects of similar success; and only the demands necessary for the maintenance of the ministry, or the building of churches in the face of the recent severe commercial depression, have prevented schools being opened in other places. Mr Middleton, for example, says, writing from Haputale, where there is no Government school within twenty miles of it, and where he feels assured a school would do much good, "If the Colonial Committee were to hold out any hopes of aid to us, I think something might be done." The Colonial Committee are deeply alive to the importance of such efforts, but the hopes of aid they can hold out of course depend entirely upon the liberality with which the Church supplies the means to do so.

Before leaving Ceylon, the Committee have only further to express the deep regret with which they at length received the following reply to their memorial on the salaries of the chaplains of the Church of Scotland, from her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies :—

DOWNING STREET, 18th March 1868.

Sir,—With reference to the Memorial of the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland, dated the 27th December 1866, supporting the application made to Her Majesty's Government by the Chaplains of that Church in Ceylon—in common with other public servants of the Colony for increase of salary—I am directed by the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos to inform you, that the Governor of Ceylon has been instructed that Her Majesty's Government are unable to accede to the applications referred to, for increase of salary.—I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,  
C. B. ADDERLEY.

Rev. ROBERT MUIR, Edinburgh.

#### THE MAURITIUS,

as is well known, has been the scene of one of the most destructive calamities that ever desolated any place.

A virulent remittent fever—"much the same in character as the deadly coast fever of Madagascar"—raged with the most fatal effect. And the disastrous consequences of the visitation will be long felt. In six months, forty thousand people perished; and many thousands more, who were a year before "in comparatively easy circumstances, are now in impaired health, and struggling with poverty."

By the mail from the Mauritius, which arrived ten days ago, the

Rev. George M'Irvine writes, "The ravages from the epidemic fever last year are continuing to make very sad progress among our population. Of late, our congregation has been seriously visited. Mr Macgregor, whose decease is noted in the *Gazette* sent you, was a much esteemed office-bearer in our church. Dr Johnston, one of the elders, whose departure for Europe is also noticed today, will be universally missed and regretted. He is a godly man, and his devotedness to the poor sufferers from the fever has been beyond all praise. The hurricane which swept over our island on the 11th and 12th of March, has been very dreadful in its work of destruction to life and property. The scene presented to the eye all over the country during the past week is very heart-rending. All this, coupled with the sadness of the fever calamity, is depressing indeed to every one here. But though distressed, we are not utterly cast down. We still hope in God. You will be glad to hear that whilst numbers of churches and substantial buildings have been swept off their foundations, St Andrew's church and manse weathered the storm well, and are intact. They were costly buildings, but it is now proved that the money was not expended in vain. I cannot say that the fever is likely to abate before April or May. Mr Wilson is now quite recovered from the attack he had last month."

To our brethren in the Mauritius, the Committee are assured the General Assembly will extend their fullest sympathy. It must be to this Venerable House a matter of thankfulness, that, preserved amidst so deadly an epidemic, Mr M'Irvine and Mr Wilson have been enabled to take their part in the exhausting labours of relieving the sick and starving multitudes.

#### THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

By the kind assistance of the Falkland Company, the Colonial Committee have opened communication with the little colony of Scotch people in those remote islands; and as some expression of kindly interest in their spiritual welfare, have sent them out a supply of Bibles and of the Prayers for Social and Family Worship.

#### SOUTH AMERICAN CONTINENT.

##### ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

From the Rev. James Smith, of BUENOS AYRES, the Committee have received another gratifying expression of the cordial sym-

pathy of his congregation with the Colonial Mission work of the Church of Scotland, in an annual collection amounting to £14, 5s. 2d. It will be matter of sincere congratulation to the General Assembly, to learn that the work in the hands of all our brethren in the Argentine Republic is reported on most encouragingly. The congregation in Buenos Ayres "continues to prosper." The Rev. F. Gebbie, at QUELMES, "maintains the good opinion formed of him on his arrival, and is extending his labours to meet the increasing wants of our countrymen. He is now engaged in erecting a small church at one of his preaching stations." At CHASCOMUS, the Rev. F. Ferguson is encouraged by tokens that the Lord is blessing his work. And the Mission in the hands of the Rev. Mr M'Neil, extending over a "district which must at least be 300 miles in length," is deservedly supported by the warm attachment of the people, though the ability of many of them to do much to maintain the Mission has been, during the past year, somewhat impaired. Mr Smith adds, "Were it not for two members of my congregation Mr Thomas Drysdale and Mr James W. Bell, I would have been unable either to start or maintain Mr M'Neil in BANDA ORIENTAL. They have property on the other side of the river, and in the interests of the spiritual welfare of the people situated upon that property, contribute £100 each towards Mr M'Neil's salary."

#### BRITISH GUIANA.

Consequent upon the promotion of the Rev. D. Maitland to the parish of St Mark's, the office of missionary of the Presbyterian Society of British Guiana became vacant, and the Colonial Committee being requested by the Society to send out a successor to Mr Maitland, appointed the Rev. James Nimmo to that office. Soon after Mr Nimmo's arrival in Demerara, the arrangements connected with the retirement of the Rev. Alex. Ferguson from St Luke's having been completed, the Secretary of State, in conformity with the recommendation of the Colonial Committee, authorized the induction of Mr Nimmo to the vacant parish. Besides these movements, it only remains for the Committee to notice that the Rev. James Huskie of St Clement's, and, more recently, the Rev. Thomas Slater of St Andrew's, George Town, have returned home on furlough.

On matters of vital importance to the prosperity, if not the very

existence of the Church of Scotland in British Guiana, which formed the subject of anxious consideration by the Venerable Assembly last year, the Colonial Committee are able to report with less authority than they hoped to do. Official documents they expected to have to lay upon the table of the Assembly have not arrived. The recent return home, however, of the Rev. Mr Slater has put the Committee in possession of the unofficial information, that on the 11th of March last, steps were taken by the ministers and elders of the Church of Scotland in Demerara and Berbice to form themselves into one Presbytery, to be named THE PRESBYTERY OF BRITISH GUIANA, in terms of the recommendation of last General Assembly; and that "there is every probability that the executive will cordially co-operate with the representatives of the Church in the colony in the effort now being made to organize a court of superintendence which shall challenge the respect of all the adherents of the Church, and maintain an effective discipline over its own members."

Through the same unofficial channel, the Committee learn that the result of the recent revision of the Clergy Bill for the Colony is understood to be to leave the arrangements for the maintenance of the Church of Scotland in British Guiana precisely as they were. The demand which the necessities of the case make for an increase in the number of our ministers in British Guiana is now, therefore, more than ever urgently pressed upon the liberality and zeal of the Presbyterians in the Colony, and of the members and adherents of the Church at home. The Committee trust that, in co-operation with the Presbytery of British Guiana, some arrangement may be devised to greatly increase the effective agency of our Church in a Colony where, in the view of forty thousand coolies, besides the native Indian tribes, waiting for the Gospel at her very door, so much depends upon her missionary life and fidelity.

#### ISLANDS IN THE CARIBBEAN SEA.

From GRENADA the Committee receive the report of the continued labours of the Rev. George Mitchell of St Andrews. With reference to the small grant made by the Colonial Committee, to stimulate the exertions of the people at Mount Rose to adequately provide for the expenses of Mr Mitchell's *monthly* visit to that district, the Committee regret to say they have not yet re-

ceived any intimation that that provision has been arranged ; and in absence of any plea of inability on the part of the district to do what is right in the matter, the Committee await the issue of their proposal, with some surprise at the delay in meeting their advance.

The Rev. D. M'Lean reports, from ST VINCENT, that since he last wrote nothing has occurred to call for any special notice. The Committee have received no communication from JAMAICA during the past year.

#### DOMINION OF CANADA.

Arrangements have been in progress, and are probably by this time completed, for the union of the two Synods of the Church of Scotland in the maritime provinces of the DOMINION OF CANADA. The means of communication by railways and steamboats between Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, having become easy and cheap, the greatest barrier in the way of union has been removed. And when the same facilities of travel open up intercourse with the west, the relations of the Church in the maritime provinces with the Synod of Canada, may be expected to become more intimate for effective co-operation in their common work.

#### NOVA SCOTIA.

In the return to this country, for a time at least, of the Rev. James Macdonald and the Rev. W. M. Philip, and in the transference of the Rev. A. M'Kay, M.A., from Gairloch to Alexandria, Lochiel in Glengarry, Canada, and of the Rev. D. M. Gordon, B.D., from Truro to Ottawa the capital of the Dominion, the Church in NOVA SCOTIA has lately suffered serious losses.

A new demand for help has at the same time arisen out of the abundant success of the labours of the Rev. Messrs George and Charles Grant at Halifax ; a demand which the Committee are most anxious to be able immediately to meet by sending out a suitable missionary to that Presbytery.

The Committee continue all their former grants in Nova Scotia, and are encouraged by satisfactory reports of the work which these grants sustain.

#### CAPE BRETON.

From this interesting field of Colonial missionary work the intelligence bears ample testimony to the untiring energy and

devotedness of our missionaries, the Rev. N. Brodie and the Rev. James F. Fraser, and to the courage and earnestness of their people in circumstances of peculiar trial.

At PLAISTER COVE, the families adhering to the Church of Scotland prepared to build themselves a church. During the previous winter they had supplied wood required for the building, and laboured in the erection (Mr Fraser reports) with earnestness and enthusiasm. After performing personally "much of the work required, their hopes were sadly disappointed. Early in July, when the building was nearly completed externally, it was maliciously set on fire, and entirely consumed. The value of the property destroyed was estimated at not less than 600 dollars, none of which was covered by insurance. This is a sore blow to our people there. It was not without self-denial that they contributed towards the erection of the church, and most of them are poor. All that is known as to the origin of the fire is, that it was undoubtedly the work of an incendiary, and though there are grounds for suspicion, the crime has not yet been brought home to any one." Undaunted, however, by the discouragement, "at a meeting called for the purpose of considering the matter, the congregation unanimously resolved *to begin again and erect another.*" Referring to the districts of RIVER INHABITANTS and RIVER DENNIS, Mr Fraser adds:—

"A year ago our church was an old ruin, destitute of fixed seats, pulpit, and ceiling, and was, for purposes of shelter, of no use whatever during the winter months. Early in spring the congregation set about building a new one, and have now nearly completed it. It will accommodate 250 persons, and has cost, as it stands, 1500 dollars, of which 200 dollars have been collected in other parts. Great credit is due to the younger members of the congregation for their energy in pushing on the work. By their personal labour they supplied most of the timber and other material required. The church is a handsome and well-made structure, with a tower and steeple. Considering the extreme depression of trade, the industry and energy of this congregation cannot be too highly commended. The people, as a rule, are sober and industrious. Family worship is observed by such as can read, which is by far the greater number. A deep reverence for sacred things exists among them, and I have been cheered and encouraged by evident tokens of a strong desire for spiritual growth. They are anxious for ordinances, and attend religious meetings with eagerness. . . . . On the south side of the island lie the districts of Grand River and

Lochlomond. . . . Our people, to the east of Lochlomond, have commenced to build a commodious church, in the centre of a district but very lately reclaimed from the forest. They are now preparing material, and expect to complete the outside of the building by midsummer. Near Grand River, on the south coast also, our adherents are going to work with wondrous courage, and are preparing to build a church in that locality. The field is wide, and the cry for help exceedingly urgent. May the Giver of all good hear their prayer!"

The appeal which these details enforce, the Committee leave with confidence in the hands of the Assembly and the Church.

#### PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

In their Report of last year the Committee referred to the prospect of openings in Prince Edward Island to wide and important fields of Colonial Mission work. Allusion was thus made to the fact, that, by the death of the Rev. Donald Macdonald, a ministry of singular popularity among the highlanders of Prince Edward Island had been brought to a close, and that many congregations—some of them large—gathered by the indefatigable labours of a wide itinerancy, had been left as sheep without a shepherd.

The Presbytery of Prince Edward Island met the appeal made to them by the bereaved flocks as best they could. The visit of Mr Brodie, our missionary in Cape Breton, was taken advantage of, and for part of last summer he laboured to supply the lack of service in Prince Edward Island. But more permanent arrangements to help the Presbytery were demanded by the circumstances. The Colonial Committee, therefore, resolved to send them a missionary, and the Rev. James MacColl accepted the appointment. By a recent communication from the Rev. A. Maclean of Belfast, Prince Edward Island, the Committee are assured that Mr MacColl is labouring "with encouraging acceptance among the people," and to the "cordial satisfaction" of the Presbytery.

From the Rev. A. M'William, George Town, and the Rev. G. W. Stewart of St Columba and St Andrews, the Committee continue to receive the most satisfactory intelligence of the progress of their work.

#### NEW BRUNSWICK.

The capital of this province has claimed the attention of the Colonial Committee through representations made to them by the



Rev. Dr Brooke, whose long and faithful labours in Fredericton have well deserved the respect of the Church both at home and in the colony. As the result of anxious consideration of all the circumstances, the Committee have resolved to send, and to aid in supporting, an assistant to Dr Brooke.

Both missions at PORTLAND, St John, and ROTHESAY, continue remarkably to flourish, under the blessing of God on the ministry of the Rev. George Caie. His new church, nearly completed in Portland, promises to be one of the finest churches in the province. It is most satisfactory to be assured that when finished it will be opened free of debt, and thus offer accommodation to a large number of those who are at present excluded from Gospel privileges, by their not being able to afford to connect themselves with churches deeply immersed in pecuniary difficulties.

From RICHMOND the Rev. J. Kidd reports gratifying proofs of the progress of the work he pursues with so much fidelity among his widely scattered flock.

The retirement from ST ANDREWS of the Rev. John Ross, after more than thirty years of faithful service, has led to the call of the Rev. Peter Keay to fill that charge. Mr Keay has long laboured with remarkable assiduity and success in the districts of NASHWAAK, STANLEY, and BORESTOWN. The want of a church, severely felt by Mr Keay, has been supplied in Stanley. To the perfecting of this result, one of the fruits of Mr Keay's labours, the Colonial Committee have contributed a small grant; and now they anxiously look for a missionary to carry on the work in these districts.

From the Missions in the Presbytery of Miramichi, the Rev. Frederick Home has been called to the Church of BATHURST, in the neighbouring Presbytery of Restigouche. This translation of Mr Home to Bathurst has left the Churches of BLACK RIVER and RED BANK, with eight surrounding preaching stations, without a labourer. To that destitution in Miramichi has to be added the long vacancy at TABOUSINTAC and BURNT CHURCH. These, with the surrounding settlements, contain a large number of Presbyterians, for whom the Committee have looked in vain for a suitable minister. They have now, however, in prospect the supply of Tabousintac; and will be glad if they can find a successor to Mr Home as missionary to the Presbytery of Miramichi.

The Committee receive encouraging intelligence of the earnest labours of the Rev. William Wilson at CAMPBELTON, Restigouche,

to whom, with the Rev. James Murray at DALHOUSIE, they have continued grants in aid ; besides a grant, in special circumstances, for one year to the Rev. John Wells, NEW RICHMOND.

#### CANADA.

##### QUEEN'S COLLEGE, KINGSTON.

It is but too well known that a ruinous commercial calamity has, during the past year, fallen upon our brethren of the Canadian Synod, in which Queen's College, Kingston, largely shares.\*

From the Very Rev. Principal Snodgrass, the Committee learn that in 1856 "the sum of one hundred and forty-two thousand dols., being part of the amount realized from the sale of the Government commutation debentures," was invested on behalf of the Church in the stock of a Canadian bank, which then stood high in public confidence. "The *par* value of this sum was one hundred and twenty-six thousand dollars," the dividends from which formed an important item in the half-yearly payment of ministers' stipends. This trusted bank suspended payment; and the effect of the disaster was to deprive the Temporalities' Board of the "means of paying from thirty to forty of the more recently inducted" ministers their expected allowance of one hundred dollars each on the 1st of January, "with no certain prospect of providing for future half-yearly payments." In this calamity Queen's College shares. Of College funds the bank "held in stock one hundred and thirty-two thousand dollars," yielding "an annual revenue of one thousand nine hundred and twenty dollars." It is some consolation to know that the hope is entertained, that arrangements made under legislative sanction may diminish to some extent the ultimate loss. Whatever be the issue, however, it will always be matter of congratulation and thankfulness, that, in the hour of so great need, there has been no failure in the zeal and liberality of the Canadian Branch of the Church of Scotland. Without delay an appeal for help was made to their congregations, which has been everywhere responded to in strenuous efforts to avert from the sufferers, at least the more immediate consequences of this great calamity.

In these circumstances, it will not surprise the Assembly to learn that an arrest has meanwhile been laid upon the efforts which the Board of Trustees of Queen's College were proceeding to make, to entitle them to the grant of one hundred pounds which

\* For Letter from the Board of Trustees, see Appendix.

this Venerable House last year voted towards endowing an additional Professor of Theology. The Committee are persuaded the Assembly will readily warrant them in assuring the Board of Trustees that this unavoidable delay in deserving an immediate payment of the grant shall not be allowed to impair their title to it, as soon as the Trustees are able to fulfil the conditions on which it was voted.

The Colonial Committee venture, with all respect, further to suggest to the General Assembly to consider, whether circumstances of so pressing difficulty to our brethren do not provide the occasion for offering on the part of this Church some pledge of concern and sympathy with the Church in Canada; and whether, for that purpose, the Assembly ought not now to vote the sum of one hundred pounds as a donation from the Church of Scotland to the funds of the Temporalities' Board of the Canadian Synod.

The briefest summary is all that can now be added of the last year's operations of the Committee in Canada.

In OTTAWA the Church of Scotland has lost the services of the Rev. Dr Spence, who returns to Scotland, honoured by the universal esteem of the Church in Canada, and followed by the grateful and affectionate regards of an attached congregation. He is succeeded by the Rev. D. M. Gordon, B.D., late of Truro, N.S., with every promise that by Mr Gordon the Church of Scotland will be worthily represented in the capital of the Dominion. The Committee are still anxiously endeavouring to find a fit man to begin the work of another congregation in the eastern part of the city of Ottawa.

The Rev. Neil M'Dougall, one of the Committee's Missionaries in CANADA WEST, has accepted a call to Eldon, Presbytery of Toronto, as the minister of a large congregation of Argyleshire Highlanders, enthusiastically attached to the Church of Scotland. Mr M'Dougall writes, "Gaelic ministers are in great demand, and it is much to be regretted that more of our Highland preachers do not venture across the Atlantic, where there is so much work to be done, and competent remuneration for it." From the Presbytery of LONDON, the Rev. D. MacDougall has returned, for a time at least, to Scotland.

To that important sphere of labour where Mr M'Dougall did much good service, the Committee were thankful to be able to send so competent a successor as the Rev. Niel M'Nish, they are

assured, will prove himself to be. Reports have been received from the Rev. A. Spencer, in the Presbytery of Guelph, from the Rev. R. P. Smith, in the Presbytery of Quebec, and from the Rev. Mr Cochrane, of his having been inducted to the charge of Elgin, Presbytery of Montreal.

Building grants in aid, varying in amount, have been voted to the township of Darling,—to Whitby, Sherbrooke, Leith, and Kilsyth,—to Kippen, and to Williamsburgh.

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The annexation of British Columbia to Canada is so necessary to the future of both countries, as to make it difficult to think of them otherwise than as already virtually one; or otherwise to regard our Mission in Victoria, Vancouver Island, than as a station in the farthest west of the great Canadian Dominion. The Victoria Mission has, during the past year, occupied much of the attention of the Committee and the Church. It was specially laid upon their care by the deliverance of last Assembly. Communications, too, from our brethren in Victoria called for immediate action to provide the means for the erection of their place of worship. The encouragement given by the General Assembly of 1864 to the hope of the means being provided by special efforts made at home, had pledged the Church to that course. The Committee felt they had no alternative but to proceed either to aid the church building at Victoria to the extent required out of their ordinary revenue, or to supplement their effort by an appeal to the liberality of the Church; and as the ordinary revenue of the Committee could not meet so large a demand, they proceeded to use "their best endeavours to promote the building of a church at Victoria," by inviting special subscriptions for that object. And now, with very cordial thanks to the ministers and members and friends of the Church who have responded to their appeal, the Committee have to announce that, up to this date, the sum of £675 has been received for the building of St Andrew's Church, Vancouver Island.

Representations from Victoria induced the Committee to forward to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, a Memorial supporting a petition for a grant of land similar to that made to the Church of England. The Committee regret to say the petition was unsuccessful.

In the last Report of the Rev. Thomas Somerville, he says:—"I took two journeys through a portion of the interior last summer, and was delighted to discover that our Church in Victoria has been the means of cheering in their exile, and establishing in their faith, many of our countrymen. Wherever I went they knew and welcomed me. Much good could be done if there were only another minister here; and the settlers await with much anxiety the arrival of the promised colleague. But I beg to assure the Committee that much good has already been done for the outlying portions of the Colony by the position they have already maintained. The settlers are in Victoria once every year, and they come to St Andrew's Church as to their city home, and when they return to their farms in the far off valleys, hail with delight the news of all our efforts. I hope the time will speedily come when stations will be planted in the several districts; but in the meantime the Committee, by strengthening their Church in Victoria, are promoting their cause throughout the whole of the colony, and being the means of widely diffused good."

Disappointments as yet attend all the Committee's efforts to supply the missionary assistant Mr Somerville so much needs and desires. In vain have they inserted appeals for a minister to this important station in the *Missionary Record*, where they hoped their appeals might meet the eye of some probationer or minister of the Church willing to go on this errand for the Master. The Committee now, therefore, in the presence of their Fathers and Brethren in the Venerably Assembly before whom they present themselves in this Report, once more turn to ask, Can no fit man be found for this Mission? Once more they ask, Shall the other wide fields, referred to in this Report, remain unoccupied for want of able ministers willing to enter them? Doubtless, any sort of man will not do. There are very observable peculiarities in the Colonial field which do demand that the men we send be fit men, and the fitness for such fields is of the highest order. A spiritually living ministry—a ministry of *spiritual power*—is ever loudly demanded by the necessities of all fields of Christian work alike. But the want of such a ministry in fields abroad is, alas! there too often far beyond the reach of remedies which more favourable circumstances at home may supply. If anywhere, therefore, the demand for men endowed with the most essential of all ministerial qualifications is pressed

upon us by the peculiar wants of our Colonial field with imperative urgency. In these fields nothing can be calculated upon for making up for the want of the most essential conditions of ministerial success. The labourers are there necessarily left very much alone. The advantage of intercourse with brethren, or of stated opportunities of Christian fellowship and co-operation are often denied them. Not seldom their ministry is pursued in circumstances where little stimulus to exertion is supplied by listening crowds, or the sympathy and support of a regularly organized and working congregation. Frequently they go forth where, single-handed, they have to fight up against all the powers of darkness,—to meet the rage of the heathen,—to suffer the resistance of the scarcely less heathenish aversion from the truth of so-called Christians, who, worshipping the god of this world in the marts of foreign commerce, break loose from all the wholesome restraints of home life in the old country. These are circumstances in which it is no easy matter faithfully to do the work of an evangelist. Whatever qualities he may lack for the ministry in other spheres, the man who is sent with the Gospel into such scenes, must be a spiritually living man, to whom divine things are realities,—who shall speak with the power of one who has the love of Christ and the love of souls in his heart, with the world under his feet,—whose heart is lifted heavenward in the exercises of near personal communion with the Master. The servant sent on such a ministry must, moreover, be a man of sense and tact, for dealing with the immensely varied characters he meets with,—a man, too, of ready inventiveness, to adapt his plans to unlooked for circumstances,—and copious in internal resources for a ministry often necessarily denied the advantages of leisure, and retirement, and books for study. Doubtless, it is most abundantly evident, that any sort of man will not do for the Colonial missionary work we have on hand. The fitness for such work is fitness of the highest order. No department of Christian effort, indeed, prompts more readily, in the view of its nature, the self-despairing cry, “Who is sufficient for these things!” In regard, therefore, to no fields of Christian work anywhere whitening to the harvest, is the petition, dictated by the Lord himself, more needed than in regard to the Colonial mission field,—“Pray ye the Lord of the harvest that *He* would send forth labourers into His harvest.”

The Committee have much pleasure in presenting to the Assembly the following Statement from the Treasurer in regard to

THE FUNDS.

“During the past year the expenditure has reached £5214, 9s.11d. as compared with £4824, 4s. 1d. in 1866-7. Notwithstanding this expenditure, including the large special contribution of £500 in aid of the British Columbia Mission, the Committee are able to report that their funds are on the whole in a satisfactory state, although the balance which they carry over from year to year is still much too small. The Collections considerably exceed those of 1866-67, and this notwithstanding the large special subscription in aid of the Church Building Fund in British Columbia. The following Statement gives a comparative view of the receipts of the last two years :—

	1866-7.	1867-8.
Collections, .	£3477 6 6	£3636 13 0
Other sources, .	968 14 4	1378 8 6
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total, .	£4446 0 10	£5015 1 6

The Draft Minute of the Committee suggesting certain alterations in the principle of giving aid to the Colonial Church, has received the consideration of the various Synods. Little has been done to meet the wishes of the Committee in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia ; but in Canada a Committee of Correspondence has been appointed by the Synod, authorized to communicate with the Colonial Committee on the one hand, and Colonial Presbyteries on the other, as to grants. This arrangement has been already of much service to the Colonial Committee, and it must give the Church—as it gives them—largely increased confidence that none of the means supplied by the Church at home are misapplied in the Colonies. At the same time, while acknowledging the advantage of the step taken by the Synod of Canada, the Committee hope ere long to be able to report that the Draft Minute has been adopted in its entirety, and that the contributions of the Home Church are met by similar contributions from central funds in the Colonies.”

In name and by appointment of the Committee,

ROBERT H. MUIR, *Convener.*

DALMENY MANSE, *May 1868.*

### DELIVERANCES BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE PRECEDING REPORT.

At Edinburgh, the twenty-second day of May eighteen hundred and sixty-eight,—The which day the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland being met and constituted, *inter alia*, The Assembly called for the Report of the Colonial Committee, which was given in and read by Mr Muir the Convener.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed to—

That the General Assembly renew the assurance of their unabated interest in all that concerns the religious welfare of Scottish Presbyterians in the Colonies, and of sympathy with their brethren everywhere throughout the wide field of Colonial missionary work, in all the varied experiences of another year.

The General Assembly have heard with much concern of the calamitous visitations, whether of deadly disease (as in the Mauritius), or of commercial depression and disaster (as in Canada, Ceylon, &c.), which have been the cause, for some time past, of so much suffering; and while humbling themselves with their brethren under the mighty hand of God in these afflictions, the General Assembly record their heartfelt thankfulness for deliverances, and for grace bestowed in their time of need by their Divine Head, upon the suffering members of our Colonial Churches.

With special reference to the Synod of Canada, and to Queen's College, Kingston, the Assembly approve and adopt the suggestions of the Report of the Colonial Committee; authorize the Committee to assure the Board of Trustees of Queen's College, that the unavoidable delay in deserving an immediate payment of the grant voted last year towards endowing an additional Professor of Theology, shall not be allowed to impair their title to it as soon as the Trustees are able to fulfil the conditions on which it was voted: And further, with the design of offering some expression of concern and sympathy with the Branch of the Church of Scotland in Canada under present financial difficulties, the General Assembly direct the Colonial Committee to pay the sum of £100 as a *donation* from the Church of Scotland to the funds of the Temporalities' Board of the Canadian Synod.

The General Assembly very much regret the want of official documents from British Guiana, to certify, in proper form, the carrying out of the recommendation of last General Assembly as to the constituting of one Presbytery in the colony, to be called the Presbytery of British Guiana. In the absence of official information of what the brethren have done, the General Assembly content themselves with expressing the hope that their recommendation of last year has been given effect to, and that it will result in establishing and confirming for the Presbytery of British Guiana, the most satisfactory relations at once with the Local Government and with the Church of Scotland.

The General Assembly further resolve to acknowledge, with special thanks, the contributions in answer to their appeal for aid to build St Andrew's Church, Victoria, British Columbia; and in regard to the urgent need of another labourer in that field, and of the pressing want of fit men for many other openings in the Colonies, again lay the call for Missionaries before the Ministers and Members of the Church, and entreat their prayers that fit men



may be found, and their liberal aid that adequate provision may be made to sustain their ministry.

The General Assembly agree to record their thanks to the Convener and Committee for their diligence, to re-appoint the Committee, with power to sub-commit, to add to their number, and all other usual powers.

Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, by

JOHN COOK, *Cl. Eccl. Scot.*

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At Edinburgh, the twenty-second day of May eighteen hundred and sixty-eight,—The which day the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland being met and constituted, *inter alia*, The Assembly, at the request of the Colonial Committee, gave the following Deliverance, *videlicet*—

In terms of application from the Presbytery of Pictou, communicated by the Colonial Committee, the General Assembly authorize any Presbytery of the Church to whom application may be made, to take upon trial, with a view to licence, Messrs John Campbell and Finlay R. Macdonald, students from Nova Scotia, without, as in the case of students, natives of this country, requiring them to pass through the Synod.

Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, by

JOHN COOK, *Cl. Eccl. Scot.*

## A P P E N D I X.

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### THE TRUSTEES OF QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE, KINGSTON, ONTARIO, CANADA.

To the COMMITTEE of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the CHURCH  
OF SCOTLAND for promoting the Interests of Presbyterians in  
the Colonies.

DEAR SIRs,—Educationally, the affairs of this Institution are in much the same condition as they were at the date of last Report. The number of students in attendance is not quite so large, and we regret to say that the prospect of the Church in respect of candidates for the ministry is not at all improved.

You have been already apprised of the suspension of the Commercial Bank, which has raised a serious, and, for a time, insuperable obstacle to our compliance with the General Assembly's deliverance with respect to a grant in aid of the foundation of a new Professorship in the Theological department. The annual revenue of the College, has by that unfortunate occurrence, been reduced by 1000 dollars. This loss can be met by diminishing some of our stated disbursements, and putting up with the inconveniences that will thereby be occasioned. Of itself, therefore, it would not have interfered with our plans for raising funds for the endowment of the proposed Professorship. The difficulty has been caused by the extent to which the Church has been affected by the same calamity. The income of the Synod's Temporalities' Fund—not more than capable of meeting the payments with which it is charged—has suffered to such an extent that the allowances due to between thirty and forty ministers for the current year, at the rate of 150 dollars each, had to be provided for by a special appeal to the liberality of the people. The Commission of Synod having resolved to make this appeal—and you will be glad to hear it has been eminently successful—the Committee of this Board entrusted with the carrying out of arrangements with respect to the Theological

Chair, decided, that in the circumstances it would be unwise to proceed. They accordingly deferred action, in the hope that a more favourable opportunity will by and by present itself.

We have been threatened with a much more serious calamity than the one just alluded to. An important item of revenue for some years has been derived from a grant in aid of superior education, made annually by the Government of Canada as it was prior to the 1st July last, when the Imperial Act confederating some of the provinces of British North America came into force. Our share of that grant has for some years been 5000 dollars. By the Act of Confederation, each province has, subject to a few restrictive clauses, sole jurisdiction in the matter of education. In this province of Ontario there has been a strong feeling excited against the continuance of that portion of the grant which has hitherto been enjoyed by a number of its institutions, and for the expenditure of which the government of the province is now responsible to the people. The amount annually allowed to these has been for some time 21,400 dollars. Seven institutions have been participating, four of them connected with the Roman Catholic Church receiving 7400 dollars as their share.

The feeling referred to owes its existence chiefly to the consideration given by the people to the fact, that prior to confederation, by far the larger portion of the grant by the Government of Canada went to institutions in Lower Canada—now the province of Quebec. There Protestants form a comparatively small minority of the whole population; whereas, in Ontario, they constitute a large majority. In the province of Quebec, accordingly, the subsidized institutions were mostly Roman Catholic. By many Protestants in Upper Canada, now Ontario, it began to be felt that it was unjust for them to be taxed for the support of establishments in the character of which they had no confidence, and the teaching of which they believed to be detrimental to the full enjoyment of civil and religious liberty. The representatives of that province who favoured these establishments, were, however, too numerous and too powerful to be successfully resisted in their demands, and the Protestants of Ontario being obliged to succumb, tolerated the granting of an annual subsidy to certain denominational colleges in their own province. The feeling has been strengthened by a determination that has long prevailed in this part of Canada, to make complete separation between Church and State, and between religious instruction and secular education, so far as the expenditure of public money is concerned. The giving of assistance to Institutions acknowledging a particular denominational connection, and existing under denominational control, is described as “a remaining fragment” of the connection against which this determination is directed. Accordingly, about

the beginning of the first session of the Legislature of Ontario, at the close of last year, the opponents of grants to all such institutions whatsoever, made themselves heard in loud expressions of their hostility, and at one time it seemed doubtful whether the Government would propose any grants at all, or summarily deprive the colleges of the aid which some of them, including Queen's, have enjoyed, in varying but increasing amounts, for twenty-one years. The latter course would have thrown the colleges into a state of great, if not hopeless embarrassment; and upon this consideration, after their friends, both in the House of Assembly and out of it, had used their utmost exertions to avert so serious an evil, the Government introduced the grants the same in amount as before, but placed them in the supplementary, instead of the ordinary estimates, and along with them presented a message from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, submitting the propriety of declaring that it shall not be lawful to make any such grants in future. A very interesting and animated debate occurred upon the subject, showing a difference of sentiment in the House of Assembly, which does not leave us without hope that the Government may yet take steps to provide for the continuance of public aid to institutions, the majority of which are, by all parties, admitted to be liberal in their management, and eminently useful in the services which they are rendering to the country, in the cause of higher education. We certainly prefer the adoption of some permanent scheme to our present unsatisfactory position of dependence upon the Government of the day for an annual grant, and we are prepared to accept a reasonable application of the ordinary conditions of Government support, namely, ascertained fitness for work, and the amount of work performed.

In the meantime, the grants made being for eighteen months, the period between the 1st of July last and 31st of December next, we consider ourselves bound to continue the institution on the same footing as hitherto, for at least another session. We are constrained, however, anxiously to consider the possibility of a complete deprivation of State aid, and such is the extent to which this would affect our income, that if not made up from other sources, it would oblige us to reduce the establishment to a purely Theological college. This, we feel, would be a course much to be regretted in the case of an Institution, which, for upwards of a quarter of a century, has, as is universally admitted, rendered important services to all classes of the population. Efforts will be made during the ensuing summer to promote, by public agitation and otherwise, a fair settlement of the whole question of university privileges and collegiate instruction—a question which, generally speaking, is felt to be in a very unsatisfactory state; and during

the progress of events the members of this Board will keep a watchful eye, and endeavour to exercise a direct influence upon the movements that may be made. Our deliberations at present are chiefly concerned with this subject, and our hope is that we shall be able to submit to the Synod, at its annual meeting in June, an acceptable and practicable plan of action, at once suited to the grave emergency, and becoming the position occupied by the largest colonial branch of the Venerable Parent Church.

The Trustees continue to receive from private sources numerous and substantial marks of the kindly interest which the friends of the Institution take in its prosperity. These consist chiefly of valuable donations to the library, museum, and scholarship fund.

All which is respectfully submitted, in the name and by the appointment of the Board of Trustees,

JOHN HAMILTON,  
*Chairman of the Board of Trustees of  
Queen's College at Kingston.*

QUEEN'S COLLEGE,  
25th March 1868.

## SUPPLEMENTARY APPENDIX.

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IN consequence of the allusion made by the Rev. Dr MACLEOD in his Address before the Assembly on *Thursday the 28th May*, to his Correspondence with the Colonial Committee, the Committee deem it necessary to publish the following Letters and Minutes:—

### DR MACLEOD TO THE CONVENER.

GLASGOW, October 5.

My Dear Sir,—I send you the enclosed, just received. It is for your Committee to determine whether we should go in their name to Ceylon. This will of course involve the question of expense to be defrayed by them so far as the *detour* is concerned, which would, I assume, involve our expenses in the island only.

I think such a visit would be as profitable as one to Demerara, or North America, or to the mission stations for the Jews, and not so expensive.

The India Mission have no call to send us there. It is very possible, however, that we may be prevented, from want of time, from spending a fortnight in Ceylon.

But the prospect of our going there would materially affect our plans on the Continent.

We leave on the last day of this month.—Yours, &c.,

N. MACLEOD,  
Convener of India Mission Committee.

To Rev. Mr MUIR,  
Convener of Colonial Committee.

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### THE CONVENER TO DR MACLEOD.

DALMENY MANSE, October 5, 1867.

My Dear Sir,—I can give no encouragement to the hope that the funds of the Colonial Committee can afford any grant for the expense of the *detour* to Ceylon, proposed to be made by the Deputation from the Indian Mission Committee.

In these circumstances, I have no design to propose to the Colonial Committee to trouble you with any request on their account to alter the route of your Deputation.—I am, yours, &c.,

ROBERT H. MUIR,  
Convener of Colonial Committee.

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DR MACLEOD TO THE CONVENER.

GLASGOW, October 7.

My Dear Sir,—I did not ask or expect you to give me any encouragement to hope what I never hoped for, that your Committee would pay any part of our expenses in the event of our going to Ceylon; nor did I request or expect of *you* to propose our being sent. But a wish having been expressed by Mr Merson, which is more formally expressed in the enclosed documents, that we should visit Ceylon, and as our doing so would not fall within our work as *deputies from our Indian Mission*, I felt bound in duty to bring the matter *officially*, through you as the Convener, before the Colonial Committee, who *have* to do, as I understand, with Ceylon; as in the event of their refusing to send us, the responsibility of our not visiting Ceylon would rest with your Committee, not with ours.

I beg again, therefore, that you bring the matter, if *pro forma* only, before them.—I remain, &c.,

N. MACLEOD,  
Convener of Indian Committee.

It is but right to say frankly, that should you send us, it is not at all likely we would be able to go; but I wish you to have an opportunity of deciding.

*P.S.*—Since writing the above, I notice that the Presbytery of Ceylon has written the Colonial Committee directly, and I therefore need not send a copy of their resolution; but I send you the letter received from the Moderator.

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THE CONVENER TO DR MACLEOD.

DALMENY MANSE, October 9, 1867.

My Dear Sir,—I will lay your letter before the Colonial Committee at their first meeting, when the minutes of the Presbytery of Ceylon transmitted to the Committee, will come up for consideration.—I remain, &c.,

ROBERT H. MUIR,  
Convener of Colonial Committee.

DR MACLEOD TO THE CONVENER.

GLASGOW, 12th October.

My Dear Sir,—To prevent all misunderstanding, and to enable the Deputation from the India Committee to give a distinct reply to the Ceylon Presbytery, and if called upon to state to the Church why they did not visit Ceylon, I wish your Committee, to say “yes” or “no,” to the following questions:—First, In the event of our finding time to visit Ceylon, does your Committee commission us to do so?

Secondly, If they do, will they guarantee our extra expenses?

I fear I cannot be at your meeting, or I would not further trouble you. But a clear understanding upon these points are of importance to us.—I remain, &c.,

N. MACLEOD,  
Convener of Indian Committee.

To Rev. ROBERT MUIR,  
Convener of Colonial Committee.

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EXTRACT from MINUTE of MEETING of the COLONIAL COMMITTEE  
of the CHURCH of SCOTLAND.

16th October 1867.

There was read an Extract Minute of the Presbytery of Ceylon, intimating that the Brethren of that Presbytery had communicated to the Convener of the Indian Mission Committee, their wish that the Deputation about to proceed to India from that Committee should visit Ceylon, *en route*. Letters were also read from the Rev. Dr Macleod to the Convener of the Colonial Committee, requesting him to bring the matter before the Committee, in order to their considering “the question of expense to be defrayed by them so far as the *detour* to Ceylon is concerned,”—and “to prevent all misunderstanding,” putting the matter before the Committee in the form of the following questions from the Deputation of the Indian Mission Committee, “First, In the event of our finding time to visit Ceylon, does your Committee commission us to do so?” “Secondly—If they do, will they guarantee our extra expenses?”

The Colonial Committee having considered the whole matter, find:—

1. That in terms of the proposal made by the Indian Mission Committee to the last General Assembly, and accepted by the Assembly, no part of the expenses of the proposed Deputation to India is to be defrayed from the funds of the Indian Mission, and they cannot suppose that the Assembly could sanction extra expenses connected with the visit to India being defrayed from the funds of any other Mission.