KIRKCALDY FREE PRESBYTERY.

This Presbytery met in St Brycedale Free Church on Wednesday—Rev. T. Kilpatrick moderator. There were also present—Rev. Messrs Logan, Walker, M'Alinda, Stalker, Fairweather, M'Millan, Agnew, Mitchell, Kerr, Lyon, A. B. Campbell, Buchan, Muirhead, Stalker, G. Campbell, and M'Ghie; and Messrs Kilgour, Hodge, Hastie, &c., elders.

THE CALL TO THE REV. JAMES STALKER.

The Rev. Mr Melville, Clerk to the Free Presbytery of Glasgow, was present, and laid on the table a call from the congregation of Free St Matthew's, in that city, in favour of the Rev. James Stalker, St Brycedale Church. The call was signed by 549 members and 91 adherents. Mr Melville was accompanied by Mr Lawrence Robertson and Mr George Philp, elders in St Matthew's. In presenting the call to the Presbytery, Mr Melville referred to the large number of signatures attached to it, and expressed the hope that it would have a successful issue.

Some conversation took place in regard to the further procedure in the call, and the 27th April was mentioned as a suitable day for a special meeting of Presbytery.

Rev. Mr Melville said they would like to have the matter settled as speedily as possible, so that there might be no undue delay.

In reply to the Moderator,

Rev. Mr Stalker, said he would not like the St Brycedale congregation to be hurried, and he thought the 27th would suit quite well.

The Presbytery accordingly appointed the 27th as the date for next meeting of Presbytery, at which the call will be taken up and disposed of, and that Mr M'Millan was appointed to make the usual edict on St Brycedale congregation on Sunday first.

OTHER BUSINESS.

Rev. A. B. Campbell read a minute of sympathy with the friends of the late Mr T. Kay, which it was resolved to record in the Presbytery records.

Rev. P. Macainsh submitted the Sustentation Fund report, which showed that over the whole Church there was a decrease for the ten months of £6012, and in the Presbytery of £94. He hoped the Deacons' Courts would be appointed to when the deficiency was made up before the end of the financial year.

Rev. Mr Buchan submitted the report on the Sabbath Schools, which he said showed a gratifying increase in each department. The figures were as follows:—

	LAST YEAR.	THIS YEAR.
Schools, ...	21	27
Teachers, ...	310	361
Scholars, ...	2847	3186
Bible Class Members,	975	932
Contributions,	£81	£93

The Presbytery elected the following elders to act on the Assembly Committees—Mr M. B. Nairn and Provost Beveridge.

The following were appointed members of the General Assembly:—Rev. Messrs Buchan, Stalker, M'Ghie, M'Millan, G. Campbell, Agnew, and Fairweather, ministers; and Messrs M. B. Nairn and ex-Provost Swan, Kirkcaldy; Thos. Henderson, Kinghorn; Jas. Hastie, Buckhaven; Mackie, Kennoway; W. Hodge, Dysart; and Jas. Thom, Wemyss, elders.

KIRKCALDY U.P. PRESBYTERY.

A meeting of this reverend court was held in the hall of Bethelfield U.P. Church on Monday—Rev. Mr Hyslop, moderator. There was a large attendance of members. The Clerk (Rev. Mr Brown, Markinch) read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were adopted. A letter was read from the managers of Bethelfield Church thanking the Presbytery for changing the date of their meeting to the Monday, and inviting the members to dine with them in the George Hotel that afternoon. The invitation was accepted by most of the members.

The Clerk intimated that he had a call from Leven U.P. Church lying on the table, which had come out in favour of Mr John Reid, M.A., as colleague and successor to the present pastor in Leven Church—Mr Hyslop.

Rev. Mr Drennan, Innerleven, who presided at the meeting of the Leven congregation on the occasion of Mr Reid's ordination, narrated the proceedure taken on the occasion, and stated that 83 voted for Mr Reid, while for Mr Whyte there were 44 votes.

Rev. Mr Drennan's action was cordially approved of.

The call was signed by 106 members and 4 adherents, while it was stated that, had the managers of the Leven Church had more time, a great many more signatures could have been got.

Rev. Dr Baxter moved that the Presbytery sustain the call, and remarked that it was very gratifying to see so many signatures attached to the call.

Rev. Mr Weir seconded, and said that he was one of the fellow-students of Mr Reid, and could therefore testify to his abilities.

Rev. Mr Hyslop, in handing over the call to Mr Reid, said it gave him great pleasure to put it into his hands. He was going to a large congregation in Leven, and he hoped he would meet with every success.

Rev. Mr Dick submitted the annual statistics of the Presbytery. We extract the following table:—

Congregation.	Members.	Mem. Communicants.	Contributions—Aggregate.	Average.
Loughborough Rd., Kirkcaldy,	375	450	£239 9	£2 10 11½
West, Leslie,	294	500	1 1	1 14 7½
Colinsburgh,	99	105	1 10	1 10 0
Crail,	103	103	2 2	1 11 8½
Muiredge, Buckhaven,	100	153	2 2	1 19 7½
Victoria Road, Kirkcaldy,	182	182	3 3	1 16 7½
Markinch,	175	246	4 4	1 8 1½
Innerleven,	109	106	2 2	1 18 0
Kennoway,	191	253	6 9	1 6 6½
Burntisland,	207	207	3 3	1 9 3
Pittenweem,	219	257	10 5	1 4 5
Kinghorn,	99	115	14 1	1 2 11½
Auchtertool,	172	172	4 0	1 1 7½
Largo,	130	148	13 7½	1 2 10½
Leslie,	227	227	5 5	1 1 1½
Trinity, Leith,	350	370	2 10	1 1 7½
Bethelfield, Kirkcaldy,	182	182	11 11	1 1 7½
Dysart,	417	445	7 4	0 18 8½
Union Church, Kirkcaldy,	427	297	12 8½	0 18 7½
Buckhaven,	675	396	19 0	0 11 7½
Totals for 1886,		5179	49413	2 3½ 4 1 9½
Totals for 1885,		5115	5987	3 7½ 1 3 4½

Rev. Dr Baxter moved, and Rev. Mr Marwick seconded, that the report be adopted, and Mr Dick thanked for his trouble in getting it up.

Rev. Mr Brown said it was interesting to note that there was an increase in the number of elders, the number of members, the number of baptisms, of baptised young persons, of Sabbath schools and of teachers, in the attendance at ministers' classes, and at prayer meetings. But there was one blot on the statistics in the falling off in contributions to the augmentation fund, in regard to which the larger congregations were chiefly to blame.

In presenting the list of supplemented congregations in the Presbytery, Mr Brown pointed out that nearly £700 was received by the Presbytery, while the aggregate sum contributed by the Presbytery was £102. He moved a resolution on the subject in which it was hoped that the Presbytery would take a more honourable position in this respect.

Rev. Mr Marwick seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

A remit was read from the Synod in regard to a proposal to have guilds or unions for young men and women in connection with each congregation.

Rev. Mr Brown said he thought the aim was good, and they might approve of it generally.

Dr Baxter said the matter had been before his session, and they approved of the idea generally. It might be especially useful in the larger centres.

Rev. Mr Marwick thought the proposed constitution was too elaborate, but with a simpler one the organisation might be found very valuable.

After further discussion, the Presbytery approved of such institutions being formed, and approved generally of the proposed constitution.

GUILTY.—The ill-effects produced by the pernicious custom of taking strong cathartics such as pills, etc., to cradicate the long accustomed and the "system is good" keep the bowels open!!" and the "system is good" regular!!" now becoming the most searching and perplexing results. In the most highly esteemed and popular aperient remedy. Beware of imitations. See "Green medicine of the day. Beware of imitations. See "Green Hop Cluster" on label and our name and address at its Hop Cluster" on label and our name and address at its Hop Bitters Company, Limited, 41, Farringdon Road, London.

ST BRYCEDALE FREE CHURCH.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of this congregation took place in the halls of the church on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings—one half of the congregation being present each evening. On Tuesday evening, the Rev. James Stalker presided, supported by the Rev. Mr Crerar, Leith; and ex Provost Swan. After tea had been served out,

The Chairman made a few remarks, in course of which he referred to the events of the past year, and especially the spiritual revival in the autumn months.

Mr James Hamilton, Clerk to the Deacon's Court, submitted the financial report, including the following comparative statement for 1886 and 1887:—

	1886.	1887.
Members, ...	866	883
Sustentation Fund, ...	£647 11 4	£582 15 5
Schemes, ...	90 1	77 19 6
Foreign Missions, ...	72 4 9	63 0 3
Church Door Collections, ...	370 7 2	422 15 8
Seat Rents, ...	273 16 7	287 12 4
Poor Fund, ...	61 0 0	61 0 0
Total Income, ...	£1,584	£1,536 19 10

Mr Hamilton closed by referring briefly to the necessity for maintaining the Sustentation Fund, on which the existence of the Free Church depended.

The adoption of the report was moved by Bailie Stocks, seconded by Bailie Douglas, and cordially agreed to.

Mr D. Barnett reported on the work among the young in the congregation, the Sabbath schools, children's church, meetings for working lads and working girls, young men's and young women's associations, literary society, &c. The report showed that in these various organisations over a thousand young people were included.

Ex-Provost Swan also made a few remarks, and the Rev. Mr Crerar, Leith, gave a very humourous and vigorous address.

During the evening, the choir sang a number of hymns, and Mrs M. Beveridge gave a solo, which was much enjoyed.

On Wednesday evening, the attendance was very much larger, the meeting was most hearty. Rev. Mr Stalker again presided, and with him on the platform were Rev. Mr Ferguson and ex-Provost Swan.

In opening the proceedings, the Chairman mentioned that during the past year three new items had been added to the organisation—a third meeting for prayer, a branch of the church guild, and an intermediate class.

Mr Hamilton, before submitting the annual report, mentioned that the membership of the church is now 883. He read the statement prefixed to the report, which referred to the commercial depression of the past year, and mentioned—Those less affected by the reverses of the time have walked to the occasion; and during the winter a quiet but resolute effort was made to set the congregation free from embarrassment by completely extinguishing the debt on the church. This effort met with a hearty response, and has been completely successful, so that we have now the satisfaction of looking at our extensive premises unburdened by any debt that has been paid for to the last penny. During the last ten years St Brycedale congregation has been contributing at the rate of £1,500 a year for building purposes. It has been a noble work in its way, and no one feels very much the poorer. After a year of rest, we ought to be able for something new; and our first duty will be to improve our position in connection with the objects mentioned above. By contributing 40 these even one-third of what we have been giving to the Sustentation Fund, £100 to the foreign mission, £100 to the schemes of the church, and have £100 over for the salary of an assistant, to aid in visiting the congregation and do mission work in the town.

Mr M. B. Nairn moved the adoption of the report, and dwelt on the necessity of a better support to the schemes of the church. He took the opportunity to say that if Mr Stalker could see his way to stay with them the congregation would be very glad indeed. (Loud applause.) He did not know what Mr Stalker needed, but he had not in St Brycedale. He could hardly wish a more extended sphere of labour, and if he should wish more ease the congregation would be very pleased to have once again his admirable lectures on the Life of Christ. (Applause.)

Mr A. R. Young, in seconding the motion, congratulated the meeting on the improved condition of the congregation's accounts.

The motion was adopted.

Mr W. Young reported on the work among the working lads of the Wynd, and, in particular, the success of a new meeting for that class, started in Linktown during the winter.

Rev. Mr Ferguson gave a stirring address on the work of the church, and urged on it to be up and to take in the welfare of the nation. The glory of a congregation ought to be—not its grand church, nor its able minister—but the work it was doing for Christ—such work as had been referred to in Mr Young's report. In reference to the call to Mr Stalker he might say that he had not put one question to Mr Stalker about it, but he would tell them that he was a Glasgow chap himself, and that he loved the dingy streets and the very smoke of the city. Mr Nairn had asked what more did Mr Stalker need? He (Mr Ferguson) was not what more did Mr Stalker need, but what did Glasgow need; and he would tell them that the seething masses of young men and young women in Glasgow needed the best talent and eloquence, and the greatest Christian zeal of the Church.

Ex-Provost Swan having made a few remarks, the benediction was pronounced.

A good programme of music was given during the evening by the church choir, led by Mr M'Laren, and solos were sung by Miss Scott, Miss Connell, and Mr C. Douglas.

Lord Bute has added another to his many munificent gifts to Cardiff by presenting the town with 83 acres of land for a public park in celebration of the Queen's Jubilee.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—In all outward complaints to evaporate a bottle of this fine old ointment once removes these annoying infirmities, and of establishing a cure. The remarkable remedies discovered by Professor Holloway will act directly accomplish this desirable result, without any of these dangers or drawbacks which attend the old method of treating ulcerative inflammations, scrofulous affections, and scorbutic eruptions. The most timid invalids may use Holloway's Ointment and Pills with the utmost safety with certain success, provided a moderate attention be bestowed on their directions and rules governing "Diet" Both the preparations soothe, heal, and purify. The one assists the other materially in effecting cures and restoring strength to the drooping exhausted nature just when she needs such succour.

On Monday a fatal accident occurred on the Bo'ness and Manuel branch line of the North British Railway. A foreman surfaceman named David Sharp was killed on the line at the permanent way, when a passenger train from Manuel for Bo'ness came up unobserved, and before Smith could get out of the way he was struck down and run over. He died in a few minutes.

FATAL FIRE AT A POLICE STATION.—Hillsborough Police Station at Sheffield, caught fire on Friday morning by a spark falling from the fire-grate falling on the bed-clothes. Mrs Watson, wife of the sergeant in charge, was in bed at the time, the sergeant being out on duty. On his return he found the house in flames, and recovered the body of his wife, but she was dead, having been suffocated by the smoke. The police station was but slightly damaged.

RUPTURES!

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FOOTBALL.

Football was played on Saturday last under the most favourable circumstances, and a large number of important matches were played. At Kennington Oval, London, the final tie for the National Cup was played between Aston Villa and West Bromwich Albion, resulting in the defeat of the Albion by 2 goals to 0. At Dumbarton the final tie for the Dumbartonshire Cup was played, the clubs engaged being the Renton and the Vale of Leven, and, after a well-contested game, resulted in a draw of 2 goals each. At Glasgow the Queen's Park beat Rangers by 4 goals to 0; 3rd L.R.V. beat Dumbarton by 2 goals to 1; St Mirren (Paisley) beat Glasgow Thistle by 3 goals to 2; and Partick Thistle beat Cowlairs by 5 goals to nothing. The game between the Hibernians were defeated by Dumbarton Athletics by 4 goals to 3; Mossend Swifts beat the Heart of Midlothian by 1 goal to 0; and the St Bernards beat Battlefield (Glasgow) by 6 goals to 1.

In this district the only match was the undecided final tie for the Kirkcaldy Junior Association Cup, which was again played on the ground of the Wanderers at Newtown Park. This time the Rovers asserted their superiority over the Albion by five goals to nothing. The game was an improvement on the previous Saturday's, but there was far too much unnecessary rough play on both sides. The Albion, as usual, had chosen to play with a strong sun at their backs, the wind at this time blowing across the field. The Albion's team was the same as that that played the week before; Sinclair, however, being shifted from centre forward to Scott's place at half-back, while the latter took the former's position. The Rovers made an alteration, Ramsay taking Lyall's place at goal. Scott kicked-off for the Albion, and for the first ten minutes each goal was assailed in turn. The Rovers now had the assistance of Sinclair, and Christie ran out to save, and Nelson getting on the ball passed over to the left, who had no difficulty in scoring the first point for the Rovers. During the remainder of this half the game was visited pretty often, although the Rovers had the best of the play, but the shooting of the forwards on both sides was very poor, being a long time before Sinclair, however, broke a grand combination. Their opponents were in very poor form, and there was a want of combined play with them. For the winners, Ramsay, at goal, did not get much to do, but Lyall did not get he did well, and was a decided improvement on Lyall. Clark and Jarvis, at back, played a grand game, but they kick the ball too often into touch when it could easily be avoided. The three half-backs worked hard all through, and kept the forwards safe. Nelson and Holborn, on the right, showed good combination, the former also having some good shots at goal. Lister, in the centre, played a grand game, but several free kicks were given against his side owing to him infringing the offside rule. Chalmers and Clark, on the left, played pretty fair, but they were slacker than the other three forwards in front of the goal, and their shooting was very poor. Clark's passing to stop his "ducking," which is rather a dangerous practice to indulge in, both for himself and his opponents. Clark's goal, on the Rovers' behalf, played a very poor game, and seemed to lose his head in the second half. His play was wretched compared to what he has shown this season, and he will require to be in far better form on the Saturday if he wants to win. Barker and Gillespie, at back, played good defence, the latter showing to most advantage. In half-back, Hannah stayed hard for the first half-hour, but after that he was next to useless. Mathie and Sinclair, however, put in some good work, but the former was rather fond of passing the ball in to check. Gossling and Wilson were the best among a poor lot of forwards, and occasionally showed some passing. Scott, in the centre, was a perfect "fizzle," and Ramsay, on the right wing, beats, there being far better men in the second eleven. The same remark applies to Hunter, as every time he got the ball he was in his element to touch or into his opponents' feet. Deuchars was also very disappointing, and has far too much of "go for the man" with him. He, however, occasionally made a fine run. Among the Albion by four goals to nothing.

The Union journeyed to Cowdenbeath to play the St Leonards in the semi-final for the Fife Junior Cup, and although they had the best of the game throughout, the match resulted in a draw, each team scoring a goal. It is understood that the match has to be replayed at Cowdenbeath, which I think is rather unfair to the Union seeing that they have been at Cowdenbeath already. If it was the case that the ground in the vicinity of Cowdenbeath was in a better condition, the club who had choice of ground in the first instance has to travel on the next occasion, and in justice to the Union the match should have been played at Kirkcaldy.

To-morrow an inter-association match will be played at Robbie's Park between the Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath Associations, and should prove a good game. Kirkcaldy's team might have been stronger, but I have no doubt they will be able to hold their own. The following are the teams chosen:—*Kirkcaldy*—Goal, Lochie; backs, Barker, captain (Albion), and Eadie (Thistle); half-backs, Mathie (Albion), Russell (Rovers), and Hepburn (Thistle); forwards—right, Gossling (Albion), and Holborn (Rovers); left, Chalmers (Rovers), and Deuchars (Albion); centre, Lister (Rovers). Colour—Navy blue. *Cowdenbeath*—Goal, Abbot (Lochies); backs, Wardrop (Union), and Savage (St Leonards); half-backs, Simpson (Wellwood), M'Kinlay (Athletic), and Law (St Leonards); forwards—right, Wilson (Lochies), and Hutchison (Leonards); left, Todd (St Leonards), and Nicholson (Lochies); centre, Black (Vale of Leven). Colour —White.

The Dead Wanderers also play their undecided 2nd Fife Cup-Tie with the 2nd Kingseat. The last match at Kingseat resulted in a draw, but I think the Wanderers should manage to score a win on their own ground to-morrow.

FORWARD.

ST LEONARDS (COWDENBEATH) *v.* UNION (KIRKCALDY).—At Cowdenbeath this semi-final tie, for the Cowdenbeath junior badges, resulted in a draw—one goal each.

BURNTISLAND THISTLE *v.* BROUGHTON SHAMROCK.—This Lothian Cup tie at Burntisland ended in a win for the Thistle by five goals to one.

BO'NESS *v.* DUNFERMLINE ATHLETIC.—These teams played off their match in the third round for the consolation cup at Bo'ness. In the first half the local team scored one goal against the wind, and put on other four in the second, 5 minutes of the second period, when Dunfermline stopped playing, leaving Bo'ness victorious by 5 goals to 0. Roe of Dunfermline was disabled in the first half by falling and dislocating his arm.

RAITH ROVERS *v.* ALBION.—These teams met to play off an undecided final tie for the Kirkcaldy Junior Association Cup. There was a large gathering of spectators. In the first half the Rovers secured one goal, while the Albion failed to score. During the other half the Rovers had it all their own way, and scored three goals, the Albion failing to notch a point. Result—Rovers, 4 goals; Albion, *nil*.

STAR OF LEVEN *v.* ROVERS (LEVEN).—As the Star failed to match for Saturday, a team was got up under the name of the above club. The Star captain won the toss, and the Rovers kicked off, and pressed the Star for a short time; but the Star broke away and completely hemmed in the Rovers, when Ashwood scored the first goal for the Star. The ball being set in motion again, it was carried back to the Rovers' goal, and a corner fell to the Star. Duncan placed the ball nicely, and Keddie headed it through, making the second goal for the Star. Half-time was called after this, and the ball being again started, the game was very evenly contested until a rush of the Star forwards enabled Ashwood to score the third goal for the Star. Time was then called, leaving the Star the winners by 3 goals to *nil*. The game was of a very friendly and pleasant nature, and not like some of the matches played here between local teams.

District Intelligence.

ABERDOUR.

FREE CHURCH.—A congregational meeting was held on Wednesday evening—Rev. Mr Brown presiding. The financial statement for the year ended 15th March was submitted by Mr Thomson, the treasurer. The membership at present is 124. The contribution to the Sustentation Fund stood at £97 14s 4d—£21 4d which is from the "Sands" Trust; last year the contribution was £90 13s 6d. Foreign Mission, £2 1s 4d; 1886, £4 11s 2d. Collections at the Church (8), £22 3s 11d. Church door collections, £69 8s 4d; 1886, £58 4s 0½d—the balance of which (£10 12s 2½d) goes to the minister, after payment of current expenses. The total income from all sources amounted to £340 0s 7d; 1886, £230 7s 7½d. The painting and cleaning of the Church last year cost £54 18s, of which £10 18s 6d was gathered at the Church door, and the rest from trust funds. The feu-duty for Church and Manse amounts to £9 5s. The congregation alone contributed £178 15s 7d for all purposes, or £1 6s 8½d per member. At the close, two gentlemen, who had formerly been elders in other congregations, were re-elected to the eldership of the congregation.

BURNTISLAND.

HARBOUR COMMISSION.—The monthly meeting of the Harbour Commission was held on Tuesday—Sir James Falshaw presiding. Fifteen feet from the construction of a new shed, 260 feet in length, ranging in amount from £2500 to £1233, were submitted, and the latter was accepted. In accordance with the recommendation of the harbour engineer, it was agreed to strengthen one of the roundheads of the dock by a system of pile fenders, and an offer to do the work for £130 10s, was accepted. To meet the requirements of the Customs authorities, it was agreed to erect a watchhouse for the accommodation of the officers, and the engineer was instructed to prepare plans and obtain offers for next meeting. The collector reported that the revenue for February amounted to £1358 16s 9½d, as against £983 1s 9½d for the same month last year. The revenue for March amounted to £2320 18s 6d, as compared with £969 16s 11½d for the same month last year.

CHAPEL.

REMEMBERING THE POOR.—Mrs Mood and Miss Lightfoot, Edinburgh (late of Chapel), being at present on a visit to Chapel House, called at many of the houses here on Wednesday and left substantial tokens of their generosity.

DYSART.

Anniversary services are to be held in the U.P. Church on Sunday when Dr Blair Dunblane is to assist Rev. Mr Guthrie, and preach forenoon and evening.

PRESENTATION.—Yesterday, while the members of the Kirkcaldy Division of the Fifeshire Constabulary were assembled at Dysart for pay, Mr William Lindsay, lately a constable in the Division, was presented with a very handsome meerschaum pipe and tobacco pouch by his late brother constables, including two ex-members of the Division, as a small mark of respect. Mr Lindsay's connection with the force extended over 14 years, 12 of which he was stationed in Dysart. He retired from the force a few weeks ago, when he was appointed Burgh Superintendent of Police, this town. In making the presentation, Inspector Hunter referred to Mr Lindsay's long connection with the force, and the respect in which he had been and was still held by his brother officers. He (Mr Hunter) might be truly said that he was quite a favourite, and in leaving the service he carries with him the good wishes of all. Mr Lindsay, in suitable terms, thanked the subscribers for their unexpected kindness in presenting him with such a valuable present, and assured them that he must, for many years to come, have his remembrance in his connection with the force, and though now parted from it, he sincerely wished its members success.

BUNFERMLINE.

Mr John Pender is, we hear, about to receive the offer of a baronetcy. Many people will ask what for? He is, and has for long been chairman of many public companies; and he made an attempt to contest the Stirling Burghs at last election. This, and his connection with the Northern Burghs is all that the public know, or ever will know, about him; and for this it is proposed to make him a baronet!

RADICAL ASSOCIATION.—A public meeting was held in the Co-operative Hall, Dunfermline, on Tuesday night, under the auspices of the Radical Association, for the purpose of protesting against the Government's Prevention of Crimes Bill. Mr D. Gorrie, solicitor, was the chief speaker, and about a dozen others took part in the discussion. The following resolution was adopted:—"That the meeting unreservedly condemns the coercion proposals of the Government as uncalled for by the state of Ireland, as absurd in the face of the evidence of Earl Cowper's Commission, as a despotic reversion of the liberty of speech, of person, and of action, as dangerous as unworthy the Legislature of a representative constitution, and as an insult to the common intelligence of the electorate of the United Kingdom." Another resolution was also passed thanking Mr Campbell-Bannerman for his opposition to the bill.

KINGLASSIE.

ECCLESIASTICISM.—Disgusted with a remit made by the Sheriff, Mr C. G. H. Kinnear, architect, Edinburgh, met with the heritors at the Parish Church on Monday for the inspection of the building, with a view to reporting as to its condition.

SOIREE.—The annual congregational and Sabbath school soiree in connection with the Parish Church, Gossiping, was held on Monday evening in the new Public School. There was a large attendance, especially of the children, and the building was quite filled. The Rev. Mr Thomson presided, and was accompanied to the platform by the Rev. Messrs Hill, Prinlaws; and Andrew, Markinch. The meeting was opened with praise and prayer, and after a hymn by the children, the Chairman gave a few introductory remarks bearing upon the work of the congregation during the past year, everything, he said, being in a flourishing condition, and the Sabbath School showing a marked improvement, both in regard to numbers and attendance. The choir then sang an anthem, and Mr Brown was called upon to report as to the condition of the congregation. The report bore that during the year ended 43 members had been admitted by certificate and 13 joined for the first time; 27 had died or been granted disjunction certificates, while 3 had died. At the summer communion, 232 members came to the table, and at the winter celebration, 203. The number of members on the roll was 413. Coming to the financial part of the report, there had been collected for all purposes, £53 7s 1½d, of which £3 10s 5d was for educational purposes. The expenditure was £44 11s 4d, leaving a balance in hand of £8 15s 9½d. Mr Brown also gave a few statistics as Registrar, from which it appeared that there were 27 births, 6 in the parish, 5 less than last year; 15 deaths, being 3 in excess of last year; and 6 marriages, showing a decrease of 4 from last year—a result which Mr Brown thought was largely due to dull times. The report was received with loud applause. A most interesting programme was next sustained during the evening. Addresses were delivered by Mr Andrew on "Why children should come to Jesus;" and by Mr Hill, who, after a few remarks as to the season of the year, which was the time for gardening, said he had nothing for them that night but a bunch of Pa. He then proceeded to scatter them about, their names being, Preparation, Prayer, Prudence, Politeness, and Pay-particular-attention, for the children, while for the teachers he had Prayer, Patience, and Point in teaching. Both addresses were full of instruction, and were edifying in their tone and effect. A magic lantern entertainment by Mr Taylor, photographer, Sinclairtown, was also a feature of the evening's proceedings. The views shown were in illustration of the stories, "Christie's Old Organ," "Jessie's First Prayer," and "Jack and the Bean Stalk." The scenes were graphically described by the Chairman and the Rev. Mr Hill, and in the first-mentioned story a few of the tunes mentioned were played on the harmonium, which served to heighten the effect and interest of the story. The choir rendered a few anthems and part songs in a manner highly creditable to the care bestowed by their leader, Mr Clark. Two little children, members of the Sunday school, Misses Helen Jane Clark and Janie Penman, gave each recitation, and another, Master Alexander Clark, gave an address containing a good deal o wisdom, these efforts of the little folks being received with well-merited applause. Mrs Thompson presided at the harmonium in her usual graceful manner. The usual votes of thanks and a verse of the National Anthem terminated the proceedings. The meeting was of a most pleasant and successful character. A service of cake was distributed to all on entering the school, and in addition, the scholars each received an orange as they left the meeting.

KINGHORN.

The shipbuilding yard at Abden again shows signs of vitality. Messrs John Scott & Company, in addition to the passenger steamer lately contracted for, have been successful in securing the contract for two barges, each 100 feet long. The Company have resolved to add to their building yard a repairing slip, and the construction is to be proceeded with immediately.

GOLF CLUB.—The Links Park has now been laid out as a golf course, under the superintendence of Mr Gorrie. Nine holes have been formed, and on Saturday, in fine weather, a large number of players from Kirkcaldy, Edinburgh, and elsewhere played over the course, and were loud in their expressions of satisfaction at the fine park. Upwards of a hundred gentlemen have already joined the club. Mr Adam M'Intyre, Kirkcaldy, has presented the first captain, and as he is well known as an experienced golfer, much is expected from his leadership. A fine silver cup has been presented by a gentleman for competition, and a handsome medal in Kinghorn, and after the first year the cup is to be played for as the club may determine. On Saturday, the match of the Teachers' Club, from Edinburgh, is to have a match over the course.

LEVEN.

MR P. M'INTYRE, agent in Loanhead for the Commercial Bank of Scotland, died rather suddenly on Saturday. Mr M'Intyre was much respected in Loanhead, and general regret is felt at his being cut off at the early age of 40. He was a native of Comrie, Perthshire, and was long in the Commercial Bank here, and was much respected in Leven.

LOCHGELLY.

FREE CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SERVICES.—The Rev. Archibald Scott, Kinross, preached in the Free Church in connection with the above on Sabbath evening from Psalms 118-15. The church was well filled.

TEMPERANCE ADDRESS.—A temperance address was delivered in the Co-operative Hall on Monday evening, by Mr Paul, Glasgow, in which the principles of Good Templarism were explained.

BURNS' DAY.—The annual festival of Burns was held on Monday—Mr Landale presiding. It was intimated that the average attendance for March was 507—an increase of 76 as compared with March 1886, and equal to 87½ per cent. of the number on the registers. Two defaulting parents were ordered for prosecution, and one case was continued. The inspector's report on the schools was submitted as follows:—

MIXED SCHOOL.—The order and discipline is very satisfactory with the exception of some want of cleanliness in the writing exercises. The results of the examinations schedules the standard results are uneven, and though collectively the pupils show fairly good attainments scarcely to be looked for in the school. The 5th standard more particularly calls for attention, the weakness in reading, including grammar as well as history and geography, conspicuously so. At the same time it should be noticed that most of the work, partly including specific subjects, is creditably done in view of the difficulties experienced from the frequent disarrangement of the premises during the year. The singing is very good. The needlework exhibited by the girls is also in both departments the industrial work is excellent.

INFANTS' SCHOOL.—The discipline and general efficiency of the mistress there very satisfactory character. The instruction of the infants is very well advanced, showing results of careful and judicious training. The 1st standard does well, though the reading of the junior section is rather backward. Arithmetic and geography in arithmetic should be discontinued. The singing is good.

The grant earned is £721 12s 10d. Deduction under 40s 6d. Grant received, £681 12s 6d.

LESLIE.

PRESENTATION.—On Wednesday evening last Mr William Stephenson was presented with a gold watch and Albert by Timpson, from his workers as a token of respect, on his leaving for another situation. Mr Robert Moodie made the presentation to which Mr William Stephenson suitably replied.

SUPPER AND PRESENTATION.—On Tuesday evening the shooting team of the Leslie Company were entertained by their Colour Sergeant, William Stephenson, to supper, on the occasion of two of their best shots (Sergt. Wm. Henderson and Private Henry Archibald) being about to emigrate to America. Lieutenant Allardice, in name of the team, presented a money gift to Sergt. Henderson, which was suitably replied to.

LET OF GRASS PARKS.—The grass parks at Leslie belonging to the said policies were exposed to let, by public roup, on Wednesday. There was a good attendance, but the bidding was dull. About one-third of the parks remained unlet, while the others were let at a reduction of from 15 to 33 per cent. under last year's prices.

VOLUNTEER COMPETITION.—The second competition of the Leslie Company for the Loudon Cup in the competition for the shooting team for the season was held on the range on Saturday. Seven rounds at 200, 500, and 600 yards were fired, when the following were found to have had the highest scores:—

	200	500	600	Total.
Corpl. Dewar, ...	23	24	24	71
Pvt. R. W. Brown, ...	21	26	25	72
Sergt. Sergt. Archibald,	23	25	26	74
Bugler Crichton, ...	19	23	25	76
Corpl. Gordon, ...	20	26	26	72
Pvt. F. W. Archibald,	27	22	23	72

DANCING ASSEMBLY.—Mr Rankine, teacher of dancing, who for the last few weeks has had classes in the Town Hall, terminated his instruction with an assembly on Friday evening. In addition to the pupils many of their parents and friends were present. The young folks went through a variety of the most fashionable dances in the most able manner, which proved the successful tuition they had undergone by Mr Rankine, which was exceedingly creditable both to teacher and taught.

SALE OF CATTLE, SHEEP, AND GRASS PARKS AT CONLAND.—This annual sale of cattle, &c., drew together a large number of cattle dealers, tenants, and others yesterday. There was apparently a good demand, and fair prices were obtained. Two-year-old stots, in good condition, brought from £4 15s to £5 7s 6d, and a few excellent two-year-old queys, £6 10s a head. Ewes varied from £1 11s 6d to £1 15s 6d. A few tons of potatoes brought £1 11s 6d per ton. The profusion of the sale the grass parks were let for the season at prices ranging from 11s 6d to 40s per acre, being a reduction of about 17 per cent. From last year. Mr R. Barclay, jr., acted as auctioneer. At the conclusion of the sale the Hon. George Waldegrave Leslie complimented Mr Barclay on the ability he had displayed in acting as auctioneer, and also referred in conducting the sale, and predicted for him a bright future.

SABBATH EVENING LECTURE.—Rev. Mr Houston, B.D., Aberdeenshire, preached in Thornton Church on Sabbath evening on "The Young Men's Guild." He chose for his text, Isaiah xl., 30 and 31. After showing at some length the various benefits which such an association as the Young Men's Guild, which had not been called into existence in opposition to the Young Men's Christian Associations, he went on to refer to its plan and principles, its profession and practice, and its prospect and future. Under the second head he gave a few statistics regarding its success. In March 1883 there were 69 branches with 2000 members, which had gradually risen in October 1886 to 361 branches, with a membership of 12,494, and at the recent Conference in Glasgow there were 450 delegates representing upwards of 13,000 members. In speaking of its prospects and future, he said it was a child of a creation of needs. It had not been formed as a crying necessity, nor was it the welcome of ecclesiastical agitation. It was rather the Church's recognition of the young men's wants, which it proposed to supply by instituting a comprehensive society. Its constitution took into account that young men had the power of self-government, and it recognised the principles that these ought to be pursued with a holy purpose. The rev. gentleman concluded an excellent lecture teeming with sound practical advice and suggestions for the success of the Guild, and by calling upon the young men to grapple with and work manfully in the large field lying before them, ready for exploration and cultivation. A collection was made in behalf of Prinlaws Church Literary Society.

MARKINCH.

In the House of Commons on Thursday Mr R. Preston Bruce presented a petition from members of Markinch Temperance Men's Christian Association for abolition of Sunday postal labour.

STILL THEY COME.—Another wheelbarrow man visited us on Saturday forenoon, who hails from Glasgow, and, like Spratke, is doing the length of the island, with an ordinary one-wheeled vehicle.

COMMUNION SABBATH.—The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed in Free Church on Sabbath, preparatory services being conducted during the evenings of previous week.

YEARLY BENEFIT SOCIETY.—The half-yearly meeting of this Society was held on Saturday evening—Mr J. Smart presiding. The secretary and treasurer submitted a joint report, showing the income up to date to be £80, £30 having been paid as funeral allowance and sick allowance.

PAROCHIAL BOARD.—The usual monthly meeting of this Board was held on Monday evening—the Honourable George Waldegrave-Leslie presiding. A few routine matters were disposed of, but none of them were of any special interest. One new applicant was admitted to the roll. Eighteen applications for