

STATE OF RELIGION—UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

The Clerk read a list of Questions for next year appended to the Report on the State of Religion ; as also an Overture from the Presbytery of Montreal to adopt a different basis for proposing questions on the State of Religion, and submitting a Scheme for the purpose adopted by the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa. On motion of Dr. A. B. Mackay, seconded by Mr. A. Simpson, the Assembly approved generally of the Scheme submitted in the Overture as a basis for the Report on the State of Religion for next year, as follows :—

Sessions are requested to furnish as full and definite information as possible on the following points :—

First.—The work done by elders and deacons in visiting their districts, conducting prayer meetings and teaching the young.

Second.—The course of instruction pursued in Sunday Schools and Bible Classes, the extent to which the Shorter Catechism is used, and the additions made to the membership of the Church from among the young.

Third.—The means employed to inform congregations, and especially the young, regarding the missionary and other work of the Church, and to cultivate their liberality in supporting the same.

Fourth.—The discharge of parental duties and the cultivation of family religion.

Fifth.—The services rendered by associations of the women of the Church and other organizations.

Sixth.—The employment of special agencies and the results ; efforts made to reach the careless and non-church-goers, the intemperate, etc. ; humane and benevolent works.

Seventh.—Causes which operate against spiritual progress and the development of Christian character.

Eighth.—Other information respecting the spiritual condition of the congregation.

GIFT OF BOOKS—MESSRS. T. J. MORTON AND D. MORRICE.

Mr. J. Nichols intimated to the General Assembly the gift for each minister of the Church of a copy of Lilley's Prize Essay on the Sabbath, the donor being Mr. T. J. Morton, London, England, Mr. D. Morrice paying postage to Canada. On motion of Mr. R. Murray, seconded by Principal MacVicar, the General Assembly agreed to express its appreciation of the valuable gift of books by Mr. Morton, and of the kindness of Mr. Morrice in providing for their transmission to ministers.

STUDENTS' APPLICATIONS—REPORT.

Mr. Thomas Sedgwick, Convener of the Committee, presented and read the Report of the Committee to which was referred the applications of various kinds from Presbyteries on behalf of students. The report was received ; its several recommendations considered *seriatim*, and the disposals following made in terms thereof :—

Presbytery of Lunenburg and Shelburne.—That the application of the Presbytery of Lunenburg and Shelburne, on behalf of Mr. Joseph H. Kirk, be granted thus far, that he be allowed to enter upon the affiliated course in Dalhousie University and the Presbyterian College, Halifax, making the whole course five years instead of six.

Wallace.—That the application from the Presbytery of Wallace, on behalf of Mr. R. G. Vans, be granted, and that leave be given to said Presbytery to take Mr. Vans on trials for license.

Halifax.—That the application from the Presbytery of Halifax for leave to ordain the student-catechists sent to Labrador be granted, in so far as the one at present in the field is concerned, leave being given to license and ordain Mr. Simon Fraser ; but that he complete his Theological course before being eligible for a call.