

**COMMISSIONS.**—*Revs. Messrs. Patterson and Frizzell*, of Toronto, were appointed a deputation to represent the Presbyterian Church in Canada at the Jubilee meeting of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland. *Dr. Warden* and *Rev. D. J. Macdonnell* were appointed to proceed to Prince Albert, N.W.T., to enquire into the condition of the academy and other matters connected with the church which want looking after.

**CLOSE OF THE ASSEMBLY.**—The business being finished, the Moderator briefly addressed the Assembly. Part of the 122nd Psalm was then sung:—

Pray that Jerusalem may have  
Peace and felicity;  
As their ~~that~~ love thee and thy peace  
Have still prosperity &c.

Prayer was then offered by the Moderator after which the Assembly was dissolved and another appointed to meet in the city of Kingston, and within St. Andrew's Church there, on the second Wednesday in June, 1891.

## HIGHER RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

The friends of higher religious instruction no doubt read with pleasure the report which the committee were able to lay before the General Assembly and noted the flattering reception which it obtained from that venerable court. The Assembly has done all it can for us in passing the following resolution:—

"That the work of the committee be recommended to the liberality of our Sabbath Schools, and that a collection be invited towards the expenses of the scheme of higher religious instruction on a day to be named by the committee."

The Committee has acted upon this authority and has designated *the last Sabbath of September* (th 28th), requesting that on that day the Syllabus be brought once more under the notice of the scholars, and candidates be encouraged to enter their names for next examination, and also that a collection be taken up towards defraying the expenses of the scheme. A copy of the report for last year will be sent in good time to every minister and superintendent. The Assembly declined to set apart, authoritatively, a "Children's Day," but there could be no objection to churches and Sabbath-schools holding such services on September 28th as might be deemed by them to edification. It certainly cannot be inappropriate that on that day parents and congregations generally should be reminded of their duty to the

young and of the importance of thorough efficiency in the Sabbath-school, and that all should "with one accord in one place" invoke the Divine blessing. Many in our congregation would esteem it a privilege to assist our work if it was explained to them and an opportunity of contributing afforded.

The diplomas are ready and will shortly be filled up and signed. A sub-committee is engaged in selecting books for the prize winners, and another is entrusted with the choice of a design for the medal. The die will then have to be cut and the medals struck and engraved with name of medallist and department, but we hope to have them distributed for presentation by the end of September. Should any minister or Sabbath school superintendent wish a blank copy of the diploma for framing, as a stimulus to his school, I shall be happy to send it at cost price, ten cents.

T. F. FOTHERINGHAM,  
Convener.

## State of Religion.

THE following summary of the report is taken from the *Toronto Globe*, and gives a faithful resumé of its more salient points:—

The Committee sends out a formidable-looking list of questions, upon the answers to which they base their report. The Committee makes no general summary, but gives extracts from the statements of synods regarding the several questions. It is impossible, owing to the number of questions and the different state of affairs in different districts shown by the answers, to give more than a general summary. The first series of questions relates to religion in the family. The testimony shows that on the whole parents fulfil fairly well their duty in the matter of home instruction in Scripture truth, in the use of the catechism and in family worship. Regarding the last, the Committee speaks of "an improving state of things." As a rule the children attend church with their parents. In regard to the fulfilment of "the solemn vows parents have taken upon them at the baptism of their children," the answers show a far from satisfactory state of things, though this may be because the congregations have found it difficult to answer the question categorically in the affirmative, and thus leave an unfairly unfavorable opinion. Regarding the state of religion in the congregation, reports show that the ministers are diligent and faithful, and generally the elders carry on their work systematically and earnestly. The sessions in most cases ascertained the number of families observing family worship,