

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

(Continued from page 423.)

scholars; \$10,185 raised during the year. In the Synod of the Maritime Provinces, 3,691 teachers and officers; 30,859 scholars; collections, \$11,221. Total scholars throughout the Church, 118,841; total increase, 14,157; officers and teachers, 13,514; increase, 2,001. The adoption of the report was moved by Rev. Mr. Fotheringham, of St. John, N.B., seconded by Rev. Mr. Gracey, of Gananoque, and was duly carried by the court.

## SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

A most exhaustive and able report on Sabbath observance was presented by the able Convener, Rev. Dr. Armstrong, of Ottawa. The recommendations, which cover the entire work undertaken by this committee, are as follows: 1. That Presbyteries be instructed to appoint standing committees on Sabbath Observance, said committees to report to the Conveners of their respective Synods, and that Conveners of Synodical committees, as heretofore, report to the Assembly's committee. 2. That ministers be enjoined to preach, at least once in the year, on the due observance of the Sabbath and report to their respective Presbyteries. 3. That the Assembly approve of the alliance formed at Ottawa for "The protection and preservation of the due observance of the Lord's Day," and appoint as its representatives the members of the Sabbath Observance Committee. In the discussion which followed, it was brought out that amongst all the sinners guilty of Sabbath desecration the railway corporation tower above all the rest. It was stated that through the small town of Smith's Falls, no less than fifty trains passed on one Lord's Day last April. If the temper of the Assembly may be accurately estimated, vigorous steps will be taken by the newly formed Alliance for the protection of the Sabbath, as against the railways and others who employ labour on the Lord's Day. The adoption of the report was ably moved by Rev. Dr. James, of Walkerton, seconded by Rev. Dr. Forest, Principal of Dalhousie College, Halifax.

## VARIOUS REPORTS PRESENTED.

At the Thursday morning's sederunt Rev. James Fleck presented the report on the reception of students. The following gentlemen were duly received: Roderick McLeod, Charles Cameron, M.A., Robert Drennan, Norman McKay, A. J. Moore, W. M. Kay, E. R. Hatt, D. C. Hosack, L.L.B., F. C. Simpson, Richard Pyke, John Garrioch. To study two years—Robert Atkinson (on condition that his papers are correct), W. K. Muir, D. H. Sutherland.

Rev. Thomas Sedgwick reported on the reception of ministers. The following are the names: Rev. J. M. Wilson, Rev. Mr. Morton, Rev. J. C. Mousseau, Rev. J. L. Mourean, M.A., Rev. L. R. Gloag, Rev. Charles Stephen, Rev. Hugh Rose Rae, Rev. A. E. N. Snelling, Rev. A. E. McGregor. Two applications were withdrawn.

Rev. George Bruce reported from the Committee on the Supply of Vacancies. The recommendations were practically the same as those passed in 1886 on the Committee of Distribution of Probationers.

Rev. Dr. Campbell and Dr. Reid presented the report of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund of the Western section. The assets of this fund amounted to \$114,243.20. Rev. Dr. Patterson presented the report of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund (Eastern section). The assets of this fund amounted to \$72,000.

Rev. D. J. Macdonnell presented the report of the Hymnal Committee. Rev. Dr. Campbell presented the report of the Committee on Lotteries. The same gentleman presented a report on the *Record*. Both reports were adopted. Rev. Dr. Moore presented a report on the expenses of commissioners to the General Assembly. Rev. Dr. Campbell reported the address to her Majesty the Queen. His Honour Judge Stevens reported the address to his Excellency the Governor-General.

## RETIRING MINISTERS.

Rev. Dr. Armstrong presented the report on the retirement of ministers, as follows: Rev. Alexander Smith, Rev. J. B. Duncan, Rev. George Brown, Rev. Neil McDiarmid, Rev. Joseph F. Eaken, Rev. J. Fraser, Rev. William Matheson, Rev. Alexander Cameron, Rev. Peter Ferguson, Rev. Dr. McCulloch, Rev. Solomon Mylne, Rev. Dr. Smellie, Rev. Dr. McLeod. The last four named ministers are placed on the roll and received under certain conditions the position of pastor emeritus.

## OVERTURES.

Mr. Cumberland presented an overture on Church architecture, which was favourably received. He stated that many churches were being built in rural districts without any well defined plan, and which both, from an artistic and utilitarian standpoint, were failures. We could not have a picture gallery in every locality, but we could have neat and suitable churches, built on the lines of architectural symmetry and harmony, and these would have an educational value to our people. The poet has well said: "A thing of beauty is a joy forever." This most effective speech resulted in a committee being appointed with Mr. Cumberland as Convener, which will doubtless inaugurate a new era in church building, combining economy with beauty.

Rev. D. M. Gordon presented an overture from ministers in the North-West ancient female education in the North-West. The overture contemplates the establishment of schools for higher education to meet the influence of the conventual system of the Church of Rome.

Permission was granted the Presbytery of Montreal to ordain Dr. McClure as a ruling elder. This gentleman goes out as a medical missionary to China. Rev. Dr. Patterson read the report of the Historical Society. Rev. Dr. Reid

presented the report of the Finance Committee, Western section. The total receipts for Church Schemes in 1887-88 were \$175,718. Rev. P. Morrison presented the report of the Finance Committee, Eastern section. There is a balance on hand at the close of the year. Total receipts for 1887-88, \$51,783.49.

## RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The report of the Committee on Religious Instruction in Schools was presented by Rev. Thomas MacAdam, of Strathroy. The report, which was most complete, was adopted, and the Assembly resolved as follows: The Assembly expresses its unabated conviction of the importance of religious instruction as an integral part of Public school education, appoint a committee to watch over legislation on the subject in the different Provinces, and endeavour where practicable, to influence it in the direction of the expressed view of this Church, to co-operate for this end with any similar committee of other branches of the Church, and to report to the next General Assembly. The committee was appointed with Principal Grant and T. MacAdam, joint Conveners.

Rev. Dr. Jardine reported, through Dr. Reid, the progress made towards the Nisbet College at Prince Albert. His efforts have been crowned with success. Upwards of \$80,000 has been freely given to the contemplated object. The report of Rev. Dr. MacVicar, of the Trafalgar Institute was presented and adopted. The report on the licensing of students was duly received.

On motion of Mr. Hamilton Cassels thanks were tendered to the citizens of Halifax for their hospitality, to the trustees and pastor of St. Matthew's Church, to the railways, to the Lieutenant-Governor, etc., etc., for the kindness shown the Assembly.

At quarter past six p.m. the Assembly adjourned to meet in St. Andrew's Church West, Toronto, the second Wednesday of June, 1889, at half-past seven p.m.

## NOTES.

It was agreed unanimously to invite the Pan-Presbyterian Council to meet in Toronto in 1889.

The Halifax friends arranged for a Saturday afternoon excursion on the bay and a visit to the flagship *Bellerophon*.

The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society gave a reception to the delegates in the Ladies' College on Saturday evening.

At the invitation of Mr. James Thompson, a number of ladies and gentlemen attended a reception at Maple Grove on Tuesday afternoon.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Assembly in St. Andrew's Church, King Street West, Toronto, (Mr. Macdonnell's), on the second Wednesday of June, 1889.

Rev. Dr. Lathern, Dr. Alliston and Rev. Mr. Rogers, as a deputation from the Nova Scotia Conference of the Methodist Church, addressed words of fraternal greeting to the Assembly.

Intimation having been made by Dr. Burns of the death of the Emperor of Germany, the Moderator led in prayer, commending the bereaved Imperial Family and the afflicted nation to the God of all comfort and consolation.

The Rev. Professor Scrimger, Rev. D. M. Gordon and Rev. Mr. Murray, ministers, with Hon. D. C. Fraser, Judge Stevens and Mr. Paul, elders, were appointed to convey the greetings of the Assembly to the Methodist Conference in Session in the city of Halifax.

An overture from the Quebec Presbytery was read, desiring that steps should be taken to have the French Evangelization Society conducted on more economical principles. Mr. Tanner was heard in its support, and moved that the overture be transmitted to a committee to confer with the members present of the French Evangelization Board, and bring up a report to the Assembly. After discussion it was agreed by a large majority vote to send the overture to the French Evangelization Board for consideration.

The General Assembly was entertained at Government House on Wednesday evening by his Honour, Lieut.-Governor Ritchie. The Nova Scotia Conference of the Methodist Church was also invited to meet the Assembly, together with a large number of citizens and military. The reception was a fine affair, and one of the social events of the Assembly. It was the closing reception at Government House to be given by Lieut.-Governor Ritchie, who, immediately on the close of his term, goes to Europe.

WHERE TO SPEND YOUR VACATION.—In 1870, the little town of Port Stanley was rendered notable by the erection and opening of the Fraser House. During each succeeding year this resort has grown in general popularity. Port Stanley is situated on the North shore of Lake Erie nine miles from St. Thomas, and can easily be reached by the G.T.R. C.P.R. and M.C.R. R's. The hotel is situated 150 feet above the Lake, commanding a magnificent view of woodland, shore and lake—is surrounded by a lawn of fifty acres. The air is cool, and night delightful. Bathing, boating, driving, Lawn Tennis, Croquet, etc., etc., are always available. The House is in all respects first class and justly popular. Mr. W. A. Fraser, the manager, is deserving of great credit for his untiring zeal in looking after the comforts of his guests.

In France 3,000 criminals have been examined by M. Marembet. He finds that of the vagrant class seventy-nine per cent. were drunkards, of assassins fifty per cent., incendiaries fifty-seven, and robbers seventy-one. Of 100 criminal youths sixty-four were already drunkards.

THE Punjab mission of the Church of Scotland has enjoyed a very prosperous year, no fewer than 680 having been added to the membership by baptism. The total membership is now close on 1,400 and in the schools 1,600 heathen boys and 200 girls are being taught the Scriptures.

## Choice Literature.

## THE SPELL OF ASHTAROTH.

BY DUFFIELD OSBORNE.

By constant contemplation of his growing passion (for it was vain now to deny to himself that it was such) the shadows of religious fear and race attachments and antipathies had grown fainter; while Miriam, as a sentiment or even a reproach, had vanished utterly. His whole mind was now firmly set on the path marked out. Though he outraged every feeling, religious and patriotic, though he stripped every foredeemed virtue from his heart, yet the mysterious eyes of the Chaldean, as he now knew her to be, sufficed for all. Her image was seated on the thrones of constancy, virtue, patriotism—aye, and of God—and the former occupants might search for other resting-places.

The questions that now absorbed him and drew the haggard lines of trouble in his face were practical, not moral. He had not as yet spoken directly to Elissa of his passion, though he felt she could hardly be ignorant of the nature of his sentiments. Men do not do such acts as his, so fraught with self-transformation and frightful peril, without stronger motives than mere pity or passing interest. But, on the other hand, of her feelings toward him he knew nothing, nor was he as yet fully settled that, were they the most favourable possible, he would do more than escort her to a place of safety and then return to take his place in the ranks of his people. To take her to a place of safety was his fixed determination in any event, so there was no need at present to conjure up the grim questions of desertion and apostasy. The time, also, for the attempt was settled in his mind. It would not be safe to move until the return of Ozias and his followers, nor would it do to delay flight one moment after the return.

So pondering, Adriel hurried on toward the ruins, unconscious that keener eyes were watching him and younger feet were tracking his footsteps. Fortune, however, smiled on his exploit where Caution had failed to do her duty.

Though he had moved with rapid strides across the plain and though his form had been often lost to his pursuer in the thick shadows of the palms, yet, despite his fear of discovery, the boy had, by an occasional short run, managed to keep track of his quarry, while his wonder and sorrow momentarily increased at the, to him, evident signs of the affliction they had all so feared. And now he saw the form of Adriel mounting the ruined wall and then plunging down into the city.

Abiathar ran forward, but when he reached the summit of the fallen masonry he saw no sign of him he sought. Several streets seemed to start from just beyond the point where the man had entered, and there was no sign to disclose which one he had taken. In vain the boy forgot his caution, and, mounting to the highest point of the ruin, sought to gaze over the piles of debris that were scattered beyond. Nothing was visible save the moonlight playing on fallen block and column, nothing audible save the howling of wolf and snarling of dog, as they still struggled over their loathsome repast.

Once Abiathar plunged down into the broadest street and ran at full speed some distance up its encumbered roadway. Then the vainness of his search came back upon him, added to a superstitious dread of his surroundings and a wholesome terror of the beasts of prey, and, turning, he set his face again toward the camp, with downcast eyes and sorrowing heart.

Meanwhile Adriel, unconscious of the fact that he had shaken off his pursuer, as he was unconscious that he had been pursued, moved swiftly on until he reached his point of destination.

Everything seemed as he had left it with the hut and its occupant; the one was apparently as impassive as the other to the horror, danger and solitude that surrounded them.

Adriel entered and seated himself without a word upon a low stone which had evidently served the former owner as a stool. For many moments the silence continued unbroken. At last the girl spoke.

"My lord is weary? Peradventure he would rest? He is welcome to such couch as his servant hath to offer him."

He started at the sound of her voice, and then, coming close to her and taking her hand in his, he said:

"Elissa, I have striven ere this to speak to thee of what is in my heart, and there has been that within me which fought it back. Now the time has come and I can be silent no longer. Thou must have known, girl, that no common motive could have driven one of my race into such a course as I have followed. We are well spoken of as pitiless to our enemies; and now I am come to say unto thee that I am here to go much farther in the path I have chosen. I am here to say that when the moment comes, it must ere long, I am fixed in mind to go forth bearing thee with me, to leave my people, and to defy my God; nay, to draw sword against them if the worst may come. I know well that the God of Israel has marked out this whole land for an heritage to His people, and has commanded them to sweep its inhabitants from the face of the earth; but I know, too, that there are other lands than this. These are cities by the great sea of which I have heard—cities the wealth and power of which it is hard to conceive—and there is, too, that Babylon of which thou hast spoken. Peradventure it will go hard with us if there be not some refuge where the children of the desert shall not come. Thither, then, dearest, shall we journey, and live under the protection of thy gods, that thy Ashtaroth may bless our loves and give us protection against the Jehovah of Israel."

He finished, and, reaching out, strove gently to draw her toward him; but she held back. Slipping her hands from his, she stood drawn up to the height of her slender figure, and made him answer:

"My lord does honour to his servant in that he hath spoken to her as he hath. It is even more than the bene-