

tion; yet not at all interfering with their continued testimony to a national religion (applause)—thereby expressing their conviction that, although the Dominion has no Establishment, and, as Dr. Cook said the other day, never would have one, yet for that reason the Canadian Dominion was not, therefore, an Atheistic Dominion, and was no less entitled to be regarded as a Christian nation than our own. (Applause.) The union about to be completed was to take place next month in Montreal. It was expected that 1200 members—600 ministers and as many elders—would attend; and though it might not be the largest numerically, yet in respect of thorough ministerial accomplishments and ecclesiastical organization it would be the most powerful Church in the Dominion of Canada. (Applause.) He wished very much that one of their brethren could be present to witness that great spectacle, and to wish God speed to that union. (Applause.) Mr. Burns proceeded to urge the claims of Canada on the attention of prebationers and young ministers, and concluded by expressing the great gratification which he had felt in forming one of the deputation.

British Churches and Societies.

The finances of the great Missionary Societies indicate a year of unusual interest in mission work. Fairly at the head of them all, the British and Foreign Bible Society marches forward with a step as firm as half a century ago. New conflicts are gathering around the Word, and the tidings of some new scepticism are always at the door; but the Society simply multiplies the Word more than ever, and reports that it has received over \$610,000 to that end. The Societies for Foreign Missions come next; that for the Propagation of the Gospel with £134,826, and the Church Missionary with £173,835; the Wesleyan keeps the same line with £184,039 and the Primitive Methodist follows with £46,000, while the London Missionary Society is £103,553. It would appear that, reckoning the smaller Societies, as much as five million dollars was contributed during the year for Foreign Missions, of which the Episcopal Church gave a million and a half, the Wesleyan a million and a quarter, the Independent and the various Presbyterian Churches half a million each, and the Baptist two hundred thousand. Putting it in another way, the Episcopal Church, through its Societies, large and small, gives two millions, and the nonconformists give three millions.

The Societies that operate strictly within the bounds of London are alone almost gone. The City Mission received \$230,000 for its unsectarian work among the poor, and even the Rugged School Union could

reckon up nearly \$20,000, and what is better, could point to its brigade of three hundred and fifty-eight shoeblacks rescued from the gutter, and who earned \$55,000 during the year. It gives a pleasant view of such simple charities, to find that this brigade earned, since it was commenced, as much as three quarters of a million dollars—earned in pence on the streets by lads who were picked off the street.

A fair idea also may be formed of the scale on which Home Mission work is wrought from the receipts of only two Episcopal Societies, the *Pastoral Aid* and *Additional Curates*, both conferring their aim to supplementing the staff of the regular clergy, and together enjoying an income of \$555,000.

From Scotland there are tidings of the pastoral aid furnished in another form to the ministers of the Presbyterian Church. The United Presbyterian Church now secures each of its ministers a minimum stipend of \$940, and aims at making it \$1,000. The Free Church has done even better, giving each of five hundred ministers \$965, one or two hundred more \$875, and the rest the equal dividend of \$785. The average income is, of course, above this minimum, and in the United Presbyterian Church up to \$1,200 while it must be remembered that in almost every instance the minister has a manse in addition.

The liberality of the Scottish churches seems to spurn all limits, and the total sum that each contributes swells perceptibly every year. The church last mentioned, e. g., has advanced by about \$128,000 above its contributions for 1874, and makes up a total of \$1,820,115, the largest income it has ever received, while, when it counts ten years together, the amount rises to fifteen million dollars and a half. It spent \$115,000 upon Home, and \$200,000 upon Foreign Missions, and as the expenditure had exceeded the income, donations were sent in during the Synod that sent the balance to the other side. A bequest of \$50,000 to the Foreign Mission was reported during the Synod. Lack of men was the complaint, not lack of means; and the Synod joined in fervent prayer for the reapers and sowers to go out to the fields. The review of the Hymn-book left things pretty much as they were, and after running the gauntlet of Presbyteries, the draft copy has escaped without injury. The book is finally to be issued for the Church in November, and a selection of tunes will accompany it. Laments were raised over the disappearance of many hymns by Watts, Newton, and Cowper; but relatively to the bulk of the book these honored names seem to have a fair representation. The settlement of a Representative Assembly was left over until next year, and a committee was appointed