

Young People's Societies.

THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE'S "PLAN OF STUDY."

CONDUCTED BY REV. R. D. FRASER, CONVENER.

The Monthly Topics for 1897 consist of a general survey, and are adapted to all the various sorts of young people's societies. The second weekly meeting of the month is to be devoted to them; and attention is drawn to the fact that a specially prepared Topic Card for Presbyterian Y.P.S.C.E.'s is for sale by the *Endeavor Herald Co.*, Toronto, at 60c. per hundred. It is issued by arrangement with the Assembly's Committee, and embraces the Monthly Topics of the Plan of Study.

Topic for week beginning September 12th.

MANY STREAMS, ONE RIVER; THE STORY OF THE UNIONS AND THE PRESENT STRENGTH OF THE CHURCH.

Eph. 4: 1-16.

LITERATURE.

The article by Principal Grant and Professor Gregg's "Short History of the Presbyterian Church in Canada," gives in brief form all the information necessary for the clear tracing of the various streams which go to make up the great river. Those who have a turn for figures may refer also to Dr. R. Torrance's voluminous statistical reports presented year by year to the General Assembly and to be found in the Minutes of Assembly.

Much information of an interesting sort may be found in the Life of Rev. Dr. James McGregor, By Rev. George Patterson, D.D.; Life of Rev. Dr. Geddie, by same author; Rev. Dr. R. F. Burns' life of his father, Robert Burns, D.D.; Mr. James Croil's Life of Rev. Dr. Matheson; Miss Marchar's life of her father, Rev. Dr. Machar, of Kingston; Rev. Dr. Smellie's Life of Rev. Dr. Hague; Rev. D. J. Macdonnell's Life, just published, and *The Man and the Book*, being Life of Rev. John Ross, of Brucefield, just published.

POINTS FOR THE PROGRAMME.

The teaching of Scripture as to Unity.

A descriptive paper on each of the seven Unions.

The gains of Union as shown in the deepening and development of the spiritual life.

In wider brotherliness;

In economy of forces;

In the extension of the Church in the Home and Foreign fields;

In the standing of our Church among the other Canadian Churches;
Descriptions and reminiscences by ministers or elders who have had part in the Unions.

PARAGRAPHS.

Some Missionary Dates.

The following figures from Prof. Gregg's "Short History," show the beginnings of several departments of our church work.

1841. French Mission, by Church of Scotland Synod.

1846. Mission to New Hebrides, by the Synod of Nova Scotia.

1848. Buxton Mission in Western Peninsula, among negro slaves escaped from the United States, by Free Church of Canada.

1851. Mission to Red River, by Free Church.

1856. Mission to India, by the Free Church of Canada.

1856. Indian Orphanage Mission, by the Church of Scotland Synod in Canada.

1859. Mission to Jews, by Church of Scotland Synod.

1861. Mission to British Columbia.

1863. Kankakee College, adopted by Canada Presbyterian Church.

1866. Mission to Cree Indians.

1868. Mission to Lumbermen, by Church of Scotland Synod in Canada.

1868. Mission to Trinidad.

1871. Mission to Formosa.

1873. Lady Missionaries sent to India.

1875. Beginning of General French Evangelization Scheme.

1876. Mission to Central India.

1876. Woman's Foreign Missionary Society organized.

1884. Mission to Demarara.

1887. Mission to Honan, China.

1891. Missionary to Chinese in British Columbia appointed.

1891. Missionary to Jews in Palestine appointed.

1894. Missionary appointed to Chinese in Montreal and Eastern Canada.

THE UNION OF 1875.

This final Union was consummated on the 15th June, 1875, in Victoria Hall, in the city of Montreal, in the presence of an immense concourse of people. The four negotiating churches met separately early in the day, and concluded their business. They then repaired to the appointed meeting place to consummate the Union. "The proceedings," says Prof. Gregg, in his Short History, "were commenced by the singing of part of the Hundredth Psalm, given out by Rev. Geo. M. Grant, now Principal Grant, moderator of the Synod of the Maritime Provinces, and the reading of portions of Scripture by Rev. Principal Snodgrass, moderator of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church in Can-