

of sending this matter down to Presbyteries who might, possibly, decide to deprive them of the right to use hymn books altogether. And he thought the inconvenience of using a variety of hymn books had been exaggerated. Would it not be better, in view of so much pressing business before the Assembly, to leave this matter alone for the present. He therefore moved, seconded by Mr. Croil: "that the overtures be dismissed."

THE DEBATE.

There were now three distinct motions before the house: (1) to take immediate action in the direction of the overtures; (2) to remit the whole question to Presbyteries and Sessions; (3) to allow things to remain *in statu quo*. The best part of two days was occupied in the discussion, a very large number of the members,—Elders as well as Ministers,—taking part in it. It was indeed the debate of the Assembly, and elicited no small display of learning and eloquence.

Dr. Ross led the opposition. But before he had the opportunity of delivering his opening speech, it had come to be a foregone conclusion that the advocates of the hymn book constituted an overwhelming majority. He nevertheless went into the discussion with his wonted enthusiasm and even eloquence. He was supported at great length by Mr. Andrew Wilson, (Kingston), Mr. James Thompson, of West River, N.S., and Mr. John Charlton, M.P., of Lynedoch, Messrs. D. J. Macdonnell, Thomas Selge-
wick, A. McL. Sinclair, J. A. F. McBain, R. Campbell, Montreal, D. McCrae, and Elders A. J. McKenzie, W. Adamson, J. B. Fairbairn, and others, expressed themselves in favour of Mr. Laing's motion—

Remitting the matter to a Committee with instructions to prepare a deliverance which may give effect to the prayer of the overtures in their general tenor.

At the close of this very long debate, the following Committee was appointed to prepare a hymn-book to be sent down to Presbyteries for their approval;—Dr. Jenkins and Dr. Gregg, joint conveners: Dr. James, Professor Mowat, Revs. D. McCrae, J. S. Black, D. J. Macdonnell, John Thompson, (Ayr), R. Murray, and Mr. W. B. McMurich. Dr. Robb and several other members entered their dissent.

COMPLIMENTARY EXCURSION.

Many of the members of the Assembly availed themselves of an invitation kindly extended by the young men of Knox Church (Rev. Dr. James'), to enjoy a sail on the Bay. Excellent arrangements had been made for this entertainment, which were

happily carried out. The fine steamer "Prince Arthur" was chartered for the occasion, and although her "sea going" qualities were not severely tested,—the water being as smooth as a mill-pond,—we had that feeling of perfect confidence in the vessel and its officers and crew which tends to remove the misgivings which sometimes attend crowded excursions. All went merrily as a marriage bell; and as we moved over the glassy sea, the loud refrain of "psalms and hymns and spiritual songs" woke up the echoes of Burlington Bay, leaving no doubt that as yet, at all events, the General Assembly had not interposed its authority against the use of "uninspired hymns."

SABBATH.

It was a relief to have one whole day in the seven set apart for the public and private exercises of God's worship, by a holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days. In accordance with its invariable custom, the General Assembly made special provision only for the supply of the pulpits in the church, which for the time being, it claims to have "a propriety in." Accordingly, the Rev. Dr. McKnight, of Halifax, and the Rev. Patrick McFarlan McLeod, of Knox Church, Stratford, were appointed to conduct the services in the Central Church. At the same time, by private arrangements, the pulpits of most of the other churches were occupied by members of the Assembly. Principals Grant and MacVicar respectively preached in the McNab St. Church. In St. Paul's, Dr. Grant and Rev. D. J. Macdonnell. Knox Church was supplied by Rev. Thomas Duncan and Dr. MacVicar, and St. John's by Dr. Bain, of Perth, and Mr. Burton, of Belleville. The Moderator, Dr. Topp, ex-Moderator, and the Clerks of Assembly had seats provided for them on the platform of the Central Church, where we may be permitted to say, the services at both diets were of a highly interesting and instructive character; and so doubtless they were in all the churches. And in all the churches there were special services during the afternoon for the benefit of the children of the Sabbath Schools which were highly appreciated by the juvenile members of the Church. A number of the ministers also attended the service held in the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association at a late hour in the evening, when stirring addresses were given by Rev. J. W. Mitchell, of Mitchell, and Mr. Wallace, of Toronto. It was a day to be remembered by the people of Hamilton and their guests, and