

sion our confreres were able to devote much of their space to religious intelligence, which we are sure could not fail to be profitable to their numerous readers.

PRESBYTERIAN ASSEMBLY.

VERY great interest was felt in this gathering, particularly as it was the first great meeting since the union of the four Presbyterian bodies in the Dominion. Seven hundred ministers and elders were brought together for the first time, many of whom had never met before. There were those who were opposed to the union, who would doubtless have been glad had the sessions been less harmonious than they are reported to have been. It was well known that what has now become known as the Macdonnell Case might possibly become a rock on which the Assembly would split. No wonder that the place of meeting, Knox Church, Toronto, should be filled from day to day, and that the night sessions should be crowded. The Rev. Dr. Topp, who was chosen moderator, acted with great discretion in his onerous position. The discussions on Mr. Macdonnell's case lasted five days. Some of the foremost men in the Church delivered earnest and eloquent speeches. Every possible mode of argument was adopted, and a great number of resolutions were proposed, but at length it was resolved to give Mr. Macdonnell another year to bring his views into harmony with those of the Church on the matter in question—the duration of future punishment. At present, he hopes a time may come when God will put an end to sin and suffering, though he does not think that there is any passage of Scripture to warrant such a hope.

In other respects the meeting of the Assembly was all that could be desired. Seven ministers had died during the year. This Church is, we trust, destined to have a very successful career. The foundations are

being laid both broad and deep. There is a great improvement in respect to ministers' stipends, and inductions seldom take place at less than \$800 per year. Several ministers from Britain and America were received, two or three of whom were Methodists, a fact which must have surprised many.

METHODIST CHURCH.

THE three Annual Conferences now comprised in what was formerly known as the Canada Conference have all been held, and from what we could gather were all pleasant seasons, although it is obvious that the division of the one Conference into three must detract from the interest connected with these gatherings. The Church is evidently prospering. In the London Conference the increase of members, after making up all losses by deaths, removals, and defections amounts to 2,282; in the Toronto Conference, 2,006; in the Montreal Conference, 600. The number of superannuated ministers is increasing in all the Conferences, but there is no lack of labourers, as the number ordained was twenty-three, and the number received on trial in Toronto and London Conferences was thirty-two. The increase of members in the Nova Scotia Conference is 895, and in the New Brunswick Conference 1,183. The aggregate increase in the above five Conferences is 6,366. The Statistics of the Newfoundland Conference we have not yet received.

In the Sabbath Schools there is a very gratifying increase. London Conference reports 39,996 scholars, 4,797 of which are meeting in class, and 2,325 conversions in the Sunday School. In Toronto Conference there are 32,114 scholars, 3,844 of which meet in class. The latter Conference also reports 1,841 conversions among the children during the past year. The Nova Scotia Conference reports 8,531 Sunday School scholars, 961 of whom meet in class; conver-