

exception of Algoma, a Mission Presbytery and Hamilton and London, in which the reports of Mission Stations have been kept apart from those of churches and stations enjoying pastoral supply, there were 387 stations, an increase of 81 on the previous year; 30,474 sittings, 8,749 of an increase; 5,746 families, 1,355 of an increase; 2,092 single persons, 618 of an increase, and 5,818 communicants, a decrease of 25.

The communicants added during the year were 288 on their own profession, and 121 on certificate, in all 409. Those removed were 60 by death, 117 by certificate, and 47 without certificate, or a total of 224. Baptism was administered to 310 infants and 38 adults.

The number of Ruling Elders, 212, had decreased by 19, and other office-bearers, 466, by 49.

In the attendance at weekly prayer meetings, 2,137, there was a decrease of 441; in Sabbath School and Bible class, 4,036, a decrease of 320, and those engaged in Sabbath school work, 548, of 81.

Missionary associations numbered 13, an increase of 6; Women's Foreign Missionary Societies, 10, a decrease of 13; Christian Endeavor Societies, 33, a decrease of 1; Young People's Societies, 7, an increase of 4, and membership in these, 574, a decrease of 310.

There were 10 manse and 2 rented houses; 4 churches and 1 manse were built during the year.

\$26,552 were received from all sources for the supply of ordinances, and \$20,657 were raised by the stations themselves; \$948 are reported as arrears; \$3,666 were paid for Churches and manses; \$4,441 for other incidental objects, and 28,764 for all purposes strictly connected with the stations; \$28,764 were raised from all sources for them, and \$11,612 by mortgage or other securities.

The contributions to the Schemes of the Church amounted to \$1,845, of which \$107 were for colleges ordinary, special \$17; \$659 for Home Missions; \$166 for Augmentation; \$130 for French Evangelization; \$370 for Foreign Missions by the stations themselves, and \$166 by Woman's Foreign Missionary Societies; \$61 for Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund; \$48 for Widows' and Orphans' Fund; and \$49 for Assembly Fund, with \$72 not distributed.

\$44 of the amount for Schemes was raised by Sabbath School and Bible Class; \$81 by Christian Endeavor or Young People's Societies; \$22 for Home Missions Fund, by Home Mission, Christian Endeavor, Young People's and kindred societies; \$110 for Synod and Presbytery Fund; \$480 for other religious and benevolent objects, and \$31,597 for all purposes, including some amounts not distributed, for example, \$395 in Presbytery of Peterborough.

These figures are suggestive. While they prove that the Church is advancing, making progress in many directions, they also prove the need of vigilance and renewed activity in the home work. The Sabbath School, the prayer meeting and the family altar require the attention of the ministry if they are to maintain their place and influence as agencies in the Master's work.

GAMBLING AND ITS EVILS.

STRONG ground is taken by the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland against "Gambling" in a series of leaflets recently issued. The Synod of the Church gave prominence to the following resolution placed upon its records last month:

"The Synod deplores the wide prevalence of gambling, betting, and raffling; calls the attention of Sessions and ministers to the existing law against

lotteries; counsels the members to avoid any action which would either conflict with the letter or the spirit of this law, or afford countenance to the gambling spirit in any form; in particular, strongly recommends them to abstain from the practice of raffling at church or other bazaars; instructs Presbyteries to give special attention to any manifestation of the gambling spirit in their respective districts; instructs ministers, in teaching, to call attention to the evils of gambling; and agrees to print and circulate among the congregations the report of the Committee on gambling, betting, and raffling."

Canadians will sympathize with the efforts put forth by a sister church against this evil, and will watch with interest the progress of a campaign so vigorously begun. Rev. Professor Marcus Dods, D.D., in a recent magazine article lashes the habit.

He argues that the passion for gambling springs (1) from the craving for excitement and (2) from the desire to make money without toil. He then goes on to show that betting is (1) ungentlemanly, and quotes the words of the late Charles Kingsley: "Betting is wrong, because it is wrong to take your neighbor's money without giving him something in return." (2) It spoils sport,—sport itself ceases to be of interest to the man who has staked a large amount upon the issue. "Hence there gather round all our favorite pastimes crowds of ill-conditioned loafers, who have little or no knowledge of the game, and who are unable to admire play for its own sake." (3) It is foolish. "To fancy that we shall be exceptions, and win where others have lost, that we shall be the lucky ones among the thousand unlucky, is a folly to which we are liable, but it is none the less a folly." (4) It is productive of crime. "It is the unanimous verdict of chaplains and governors of prisons that the great proportion of these crimes [of theft and embezzlement] are the result of betting."

In conclusion he says—

"Betting runs directly counter to the most rudimentary ideas of what is due to society and to ourselves as members of society. For, fundamental to the idea of society is the law that every one who enjoys its advantages should contribute to its well-being. The man who wins money without producing money's worth . . . transgresses this radical law, and becomes a mere parasite on the body of the society of which he ought to be a helpful member."

STATED COLLECTIONS.

THE stated collections for the current church year, for the Schemes of the Church, in congregations in which there are no missionary associations will be made as follows by order of the General Assembly:—

1. French Evangelization, on the fourth Sabbath of July.
2. Home Missions, on the fourth Sabbath of August.
3. Colleges, on the fourth Sabbath of September.
4. Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund, third Sabbath of October.
5. Assembly Fund, on the third Sabbath of December.
6. Manitoba College, on the third Sabbath of December.
7. Augmentation Fund, third Sabbath, of January, 1899.
8. Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, third Sabbath of February, 1899.
9. Foreign Missions, second Sabbath of March, 1899.