

to prayerful diligence and each returning Christmas will add to the exceeding weight of glory that awaits His own.

#### UNIFORMITY IN PUBLIC WORSHIP.

We publish in this issue a letter from Mr. Sandford Fleming, which is to be followed by others, on the subject of Uniformity in Public Worship. This is a question that has in the past been considerably discussed, and the General Assembly has so far recognized the need of some action as to appoint a Committee to take the matter into consideration. It is accordingly a living question and one in which no Presbyterian can fail to take interest. Before anything can be done there must be the freest and fullest discussion and something like unanimity reached. The Assembly will never be guilty of the folly of seeking to impose upon an unwilling church anything that savors of liturgy. Even the preparation of such, for voluntary use, would be profitless, unless supported by a reasonable majority of the membership. Hence the necessity of free discussion. We shall be glad to open our columns to brief communications on this subject—now introduced by Mr. Fleming. We emphasize the word *brief*, for space will not allow great length, and we would like to hear from a considerable number who may have thoughts to express.

#### REV. DR. REID.

It will be a matter of deep regret for the Church to learn that Rev. Dr. Reid's health is not in a satisfactory condition. Not that there is cause for alarm, but it had been hoped that the partial relief afforded at last General Assembly from the constant strain upon his health of his onerous duties, by the appointment of the Advisory Committee, would have arrested the growing infirmities of old age a little longer. No man has served the Church more faithfully nor is held in higher esteem than Rev. Dr. Reid, and when the time comes when it will be found necessary that he should withdraw entirely from his office he will be followed to his retirement by the affection and respect of many thousands of his fellow-church members. The Advisory Committee and the Finance Committee held a meeting last week, for the purpose of considering whether it was necessary to make any additional provision to those now existing for the efficient discharge of the duties devolving upon Dr. Reid's office. The conclusion arrived at was that in the meantime the work could be carried on satisfactorily by the office staff already engaged upon it, with the assistance of the Finance Committee and Dr. Reid together as the controlling authority.

#### YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES.

QUESTIONS have just been sent out to the Young Peoples Societies of the Church by the Assembly's Committee. They are forwarded through Presbyteries, and ought soon to be in the hands of the Societies, as the answers are to be returned before the 18th of February. Any Society which may be overlooked will receive a copy by applying to the Convener of its Presbytery's Committee or to the Clerk of Presbytery, where no Committee has yet been appointed. The Committee are extremely anxious to hear from every Society throughout the Church. Only thus can they supply a complete report to the Assembly next June. The Questions are few, but comprehensive, being arrayed under the five headings; Designation, membership, Meetings, Work, and Moneys. They cover the year 1895, the Committee being desirous that Societies should close their year on 31st December, as is the practice of congregations. A circular to Presbytery Convener accompanies the Questions and asks for a report of Presbyterian organizations as well as a full summary of Societies in congregations. The Com-

mittee will be glad to hear from such "Union" Societies as may choose to send a report. These reports will be used so far as they give information as to the young people of our Church. The Committee do not contemplate reports from Mission Bands already reporting to the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.

#### COLIGNY COLLEGE, OTTAWA.

The Church is to be congratulated on possessing such an Institution for the higher education of the daughters of her families. Coligny College has been a marked success as to thoroughness of teaching and also as to its general *Morale*, so that the best of our families desiring a superior education and refined culture for their daughters send them there with the fullest confidence.

The term just ended has been a most successful one, the number of day pupils and boarders being large. The next term begins on Tuesday, 7th January. We learn that there are openings for two or three resident pupils. Those desiring admission should without delay correspond with Rev. Dr. Warden, Montreal.

#### Manitoba College.

An appeal on behalf of Manitoba College sent by a warm friend of that most deserving institution, for publication last week, before the collection of last Sabbath day, reached us too late for insertion in last issue, and would not be timely this week. Attention will, however, be drawn, in an early issue, to the important work entrusted to Manitoba College, to the necessities of that work and to the exceptional claims which it has on the liberality of the Church as a whole.

#### Bad News from China.

The news from China this week will bring sorrow to many a heart in the Church. Dr. Glover and four of his fellow-missionaries are reported as dangerously ill and at the point of death. The news causes all the more anxiety in that details are wanting, the mere fact having been so far, communicated. Dr. Glover and his sister are under the direction of the Christian Alliance of New York; they are natives of Toronto and before leaving for China were connected with Central Presbyterian church in this city. The brief cablegram does not describe the trouble, but contains a request for the prayers of the Church for the sufferers, which doubtless will be widely granted.

**Lottery Tickets.** Here's a queer mixture. Down in Mexico, according to the *Mexican Herald*, the lottery is utilized as a means for securing the favor of Almighty God. That is to say, some of the Catholic clergy have introduced the scheme of selling to the faithful tickets at ten cents each in a lottery that has some marvelous prizes, among which are nothing less than masses for the souls of the dead. In one church, the other day, 7000 tickets were sold at ten cents each, netting \$700. The prizes were four principal ones, and there were twenty minor ones. The first prize was thirty masses, which the lucky winner could apply to the extraction from purgatorial torment of some relative, or, lacking that, of some friend. We fear some of our priestly friends have taken contracts for the future world in which Almighty God is made to appear as a party, but which he will decline to recognize. And masses based on the lottery principle seem to be one of them.

There are seasons when, for the moment at least, the power of the world seems to drop. A strange and awful sense of responsibility comes upon us. We long for a higher and nobler life. The vanity of the world, the worth of virtue, the goodness of God, and the peace of a trusting and devout heart are revealed to us. It is a heavenly vision open before the soul. These hours, when the soul is freed from its bonds and holds communion with truth and God, . . . are blessed hours, which, if obeyed, shall raise the soul upward to heaven.