

tion of a few colds, there has been no sickness this winter. Did I say *winter*? We had none before *March*. Ploughs were going near the city and butterflies were caught flitting about in February. We have never had it below zero—seldom below 7° above, and for weeks at a time between 30° and 50°. There was scarcely any snow before March and little since. Some months ago we had our new organ erected, which is one of the handsomest in America. It cost somewhere near \$4000. The singing is much improved, and, instead of losing any members by reason of its introduction, there is an improved attendance. The anti-organists accepted the situation in a spirit worthy of all praise. They are among the most regular and loyal of the friends of the church. Why are anti-organists elsewhere not always as wise and as Christian? Why will they persist in opposing the inevitable? For their comfort I may say that our experience of an organ is, so far, most satisfactory. Our Church Extension Committee are at work. They have not yet purchased a site, but have chosen several from which one is soon to be selected. In the city, there are by the last census about 1060 Presbyterians, but as they are somewhat scattered, we have not an average attendance of more than four hundred or five hundred. As you would learn from our published statistics, our income for all purposes last year nearly reached \$10,000, of which over \$2000 went towards the schemes of the Church. Our Sunday-school is in a state of efficiency, under the the Superintendency of Mr. George Archibald, who is an enthusiast. The school, together with a mission branch in the suburbs, has about 250 in attendance. We have almost forgotten the Union. No one ever thinks of the old separation. We have no time to get up any more quarrels, and I can hold up my congregation as a model in regard to its harmony and willingness to work together in any good work. This winter we held monthly "sociables" with advantage. They were free and easy meetings in the basement; with music, reading, and tea and cake handed round, and the manuscript newspaper, which I edited, and which was happily instrumental in hitting certain things that needed a rap, but not important enough to introduce into a sermon. Sociables properly conducted are useful. Like all

other good things they may easily be abused. Our Ladies' Zenana Society is still at work, actively as ever. They have lately organized the girls into a mission band, and each alternate Wednesday afternoon a visitor to the vestry would see a genuine little "Busy Bee," working for the little heathen. Although I have no brother Presbyterian minister nearer than Mr. Logan at Harbor Grace, my Methodist and Congregational brethren, are *brethren* indeed. We love each other as well as if we were members of one Presbytery. At the beginning of the year, we continued the union of prayer for a second week, with good results, and we have established a monthly united evangelistic service, in the churches alternately. Salvation Army folk are beginning to make quite a stir in our usually quiet city. They gather the excitable and ignorant classes, and there are a good many such here. They are doing some temporary good, but I fear, not a little harm. Their methods and buncombe I do not approve of, but I have taken counsel with Gamaliel and shall "refrain from these men and let them alone." Our cause at Bay of Islands still languishes. A few scattered families are all that are left of the flourishing station to which the late Mr. Creelman so diligently ministered. We send them a catechist in the summer, whom they treat kindly and support liberally. There are among them some true-blue sons of John Knox, and I am very sorry they are so far away, and that my hands are so tied here that I cannot pay them an occasional visit. I wish some ordained minister from Canada would take a summer run down to Bay of Islands and administer the Lord's Supper to those good people. It would be a pleasant trip for some Canadian parson in search of his health. He might get a passage on a schooner from Halifax easily.

JAPAN PRESBYTERIAN MISSIONS.—Under the title of the "United Church of Christ in Japan," three missionary organizations laboring in the empire—the American Presbyterian, the American Reformed, and the Scotch United Presbyterians—are banded together, and in November last held their third general assembly. The churches represented number forty-four, with a membership of over four thousand. The meeting was held at Tokio, sixty delegates being present, and at some of the sessions there was an audience of not far from one thousand. A native pastor was chosen moderator of the assembly.