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### The Assemblies.

THE "ecclesiastical parliaments" have met and parted; the year's work has been completed and reviewed, and a programme has been mapped out for the year on which we have entered. In Scotland, England, Ireland, in the Northern and Southern States, in far off Australia, in China and Japan, Presbyterian Assemblies have taken counsel together, reviewing the past and arranging hopefully for the future. To a very large extent, the same grand themes have been discussed, the same truths held forth, the same noble Christian aspirations cherished. The substantial and virtual unity of the Presbyterian family has thus anew been demonstrated. Perhaps the most hopeful feature in connection with all the Assemblies, in the old world and in the new, and newer, is the aggressive evangelism which finds expression in missionary organization and effort. We are not able at this moment to name a Presbyterian Church of any visibility that has not its share in mission work in heathen countries, as well as in the more destitute localities at home. The horizon of the Churches is widened. The strong are feeling more and more the claims of the weak; and all acknowledge the binding obligation and supreme importance of the Master's commis-

sion, "Go ye into all the world." As the Christlike missionary spirit increases, the spirit of narrow, deadly sectarianism dies. The tendency is to forget the things that are behind and to press forward to loftier attainments. Of course there are potent forces working in the opposite direction—forces never more active or dangerous than now. The Church of God must never cease to watch and work and pray. Her arms and armour must never be unready, or rust disused. The reports on Christian life and work, on the state of religion and morals, on the progress of missions, laid before all the Assemblies, prove clearly enough that our Churches are neither sleeping nor idly indifferent.

The Assembly at Hamilton was the TWELFTH since that memorable 15th of June, 1875, when, in Montreal, in the presence of many witnesses, the Presbyterian Churches of British America became one. For the second time, the Assembly met in the fair and hospitable city of Hamilton. All who have watched the history of the Church since the Union, will gladly testify that the progress made does not disappoint our most sanguine hopes. How happily the alienations and animosities of a few years ago have vanished! How the bonds of brotherly Christian love have been strengthened! Our Home Missionary progress has been rapid beyond precedent;