

with great interest. A discussion took place in reference to certain overtures in regard to published writings of Professor Bruce and Dr. Robertson Smith. Rev. George G. Cameron, of St. John's Church, Glasgow, was appointed Professor of Hebrew in Aberdeen College. The subject of "Instrumental Music" came before the House by overtures from a number of Synods and Presbyteries, the majority of which favored liberty in this regard. At the outset of the discussion Dr. Begg entered a protest that in taking part in the discussion he and others were not to be held as admitting the competency of the Assembly to sanction such a sweeping innovation as that contemplated in the overtures. After a very long and keen debate it was agreed by a vote of 293 to 202 to remit the overtures to a committee with instructions to consider the grounds upon which the applications for leave to introduce instrumental music are based, and to report to next Assembly. Twenty-two overtures were presented in reference to the signing of the formula by deacons. This also was referred to a committee. The question of Disestablishment was introduced by Sir Henry Moncreiff moving that Parliament be not petitioned to alter the existing relations between Church and State except in the line of the claim of right adopted in 1842 and the protest of 1843. Principal Rainy moved in the direction of Disestablishment, out and out.

The Assembly of the Church of Scotland met a week later than usual, on the 25th of May. The Earl of Aberdeen was in attendance as Her Majesty's High Commissioner. Dr. Milligan, of Aberdeen, was elected Moderator. In connection with a report on the Schemes of the Church, the importance of increasing the circulation of the *Missionary Record* was strongly advocated. The report of the Colonial committee, given in by Dr. Gray, convener, complained of the want of sufficient funds to overtake all that the committee would like to do. The only grant made during the last year to Canada, with the exception of those to Manitoba and British Columbia, was one of £250 to Queen's College. The propriety of continuing the grants to British Columbia and Manitoba and the North-West Territories was strongly recommended. Professor Bryce, of Winnipeg, addressed the Assembly in this connection, giving his testimony as to the harmonious working of the churches, and some valuable information respecting the progress and requirements of the Church in the North-West. The expenditure of the colonial committee had been kept within its income which was stated to be about \$30,000.

The Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States, north, met at Springfield, the capital of Illinois, on the 18th of May.

The meetings were held in the State House, a magnificent building which, though unfinished, has already cost over \$3,000,000. It is a good feature in our American cousins that they do not consider any building too fine or too costly to be used for such a purpose as this. They seem rather to esteem it a privilege to offer the very best they have, even should it happen to be a theatre, as in the case of the last Presbyterian Council. The Rev. Herrick Johnson, D.D., of Chicago, was elected Moderator in contravention of the custom that has prevailed since the union of selecting the moderator alternately from former members of the Old and New School parties, and by which it is hoped that the last has been heard of names suggestive of division and alienation. The Rev. W. A. Roberts, librarian of Princeton Theological Seminary, was elected permanent Clerk in room of Dr. Cyrus Dickson, deceased. The communion was celebrated on the evening of the first day of meeting. The evening of the second day was devoted to the Sabbath-school and its relations to the Church, an indication of the importance attached in the United States to this department of Church work. It proved to be one of the most interesting sediturks of the Assembly. A long discussion took place on the best mode of administering the Home Mission Fund, the question at issue being as between a central board and leaving it to be managed by the Presbyteries. It is pleasant to hear that the Assemblies, north and south, have at length mutually agreed to enter upon fraternal relationships. The next Assembly meets at Saratoga.

Our Own Church.

REV. J. W. MACKENZIE, with his wife and children, sailed at Rimouski for London on his way to Australia and thence to the New Hebrides. He has had nearly a year at home and has interested many large gatherings of our people in the story of our New Hebrides Mission. His health has benefited by his visit to his native land. Mrs. Mackenzie took frequent opportunities of explaining Mission work among the heathen to Woman's Societies &c., and she did so with very great effect.

ORDINATIONS AND INDUCTIONS.

HALIFAX: *Chalmer's Church*:—Rev. W. S. Whittier was inducted on the 12th of June.

COW BAY: *Sydney*:—Rev. J. McDonald was inducted on the 23rd of May.

MISSOURI: *Stratford*:—The Rev. J. W. Penman was inducted on the 30th of May.

CALLS.—Rev. Thomas Duncan, of Halifax, has received a call to a congregation in Edinburgh, Scotland. Rev. H. Sinclair, of