

The Report of the Church Extension Committee stated that the work had been greatly circumscribed through lack of labourers. Though efforts have been made to obtain ministers from the mother-country, the supply has hitherto been wholly inadequate.

The work of the Heathen Missions Committee embraces three departments:—

1. Mission to the Aborigines.—The Committee has no distinct mission of its own, but gives pecuniary aid to the mission carried on by the Victorian Church.

2. Mission to the Chinese.—A Chinese catechist is maintained in Sydney, who has been labouring with much zeal among his countrymen, and not without some tokens of success.

3. Mission to the natives of the New Hebrides.—Pecuniary aid is given, but the Assembly has at present no missionary of its own in these islands. The Report referred to the loss of the *Dayspring*, and to the purchase of the *Paragon* for £3000, to serve as a mission-vessel in place of the *Dayspring*.

The Sabbath-School Returns show an increase over last year of 6 schools, 44 teachers, 570 scholars, and 160 added to Bible classes.

A communication having been received from the Council of St. Andrew's College, intimating that the College had now been incorporated, and inviting the General Assembly to co-operate in carrying out the objects of the College, the General Assembly resolved as follows:—"The General Assembly having prompted the movement for establishing St. Andrew's College, having accepted the Act by which it is established, and having authorized the steps requisite for the collection of subscriptions, and for the election of Councillors, is gratified to learn that a Principal has now been elected, that the College has now been incorporated, that temporary premises have been taken, and that the Institution is open to Presbyterian youths attending the University of Sydney. The Assembly further agrees cordially to co-operate with the Council in promoting the ends for which the College has been established, and trusts that, by God's blessing, the Institution may be the means of furthering the godly upbringing of our

youth." The Assembly has also made interim arrangements for a Theological Faculty, to give the necessary instruction to candidates for the holy ministry.

The Assembly, impressed with the necessity of providing a suitable maintenance for the ministers of the Church, and believing that this can be best accomplished by instituting a General Sustentation Fund, appointed a Committee to mature a scheme, and to report to next Assembly.

Thoughts on High Themes,

BY THE LATE REV. DR. GEORGE, ONCE PROFESSOR OF MENTAL AND MORAL PHILOSOPHY, QUEEN'S COLLEGE, KINGSTON; EDITED BY REV'D. D. ROSS.

Such is the title of a small collection of sermons from the manuscripts of the late Revd. Jas. George, a man well-known personally or by reputation to many of our readers. Only two of the sermons embraced in the volume, being sermons preached on special occasions, and published at the time by request, enjoyed the advantage of being brought through the press under the supervision of the author. The rest were not intended for publication, but are given as average specimens of Dr. George's powers as a preacher.

The principle of selection was that of securing variety in the matter of the publication. A system or order of thought was fixed on by the editor, and, therefore, the topics rather than the excellence of the discourses themselves brought certain sermons into the volume.

So says the editor; and our only remark on this is, that if we are to accept his word, the people who enjoyed Dr. George's ministrations must have been accustomed to the very highest kind of religious food. For, better sermons we have seldom read. To say that we would like to see the volume everywhere in the homes of our people may be considered as merely one of the commonplace of an American reviewer. It is not meant to be so. The little well-bound, well-printed book is one we give hearty welcome to for its orthodox teaching, its mature thought, its