

# The Presbyterian Record.

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## MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

WITH coy, sweet smile, St. John drew aside the subtle veil she sometimes wears to hide her beauty spots from the curious gaze of strangers, and beamed her brightest welcome to the ministers and elders as they gathered on Wednesday, the thirteenth of June, to the twentieth meeting of the General Assembly. Cordial too was the greeting from her warm hearted people, and among Assembly memories of 1894 will be kind friends, generous hospitality, and a goodly share of summer sun tempered with the delicious air from the sea.

### THE OPENING SERVICES.

St. David's Church was packed with commissioners and citizens, and the admirable opening sermon of the retiring moderator, Rev. Dr. Sedgewicke, was equally well packed with helpful thought, from the Saviour's words, "By their fruits ye shall know them." The preacher after showing that the words as used by Christ, referred to the false teachers that would come, and the test by which they were to be known, applied the text, (1) To all "religions," showing how all other systems, by their fruits, are seen to be but human, while Christianity, by the same test, proves itself Divine: (2) to the various forms of Christianity, Romish and Prelatical on the one hand, and Evangelical Protestant on the other, pointing out the beneficent results of the latter, in the education, liberty, and prosperity, of countries where they have prevailed, as compared with Mexico and Spain, and other lands where the former have held sway; and (3) to Presbyterianism, showing how its fruits speak its praise, and the responsibility which rests upon those who profess it to live worthy of the name they bear.

### CHOOSING A MODERATOR.

After the roll call came the choice of a moderator. But one name was mentioned, that of Dr. L. Mackay of Formosa, and, while simply a coincidence, it was a striking one, that on this the Jubilee year of our Foreign Mission work, the Assembly should, for the first time in its history, have as its presiding officer, a worker

from the Foreign Field, and t'were far to seek a more worthy representative of that noble band than the one chosen to the chair.

### THE NEW BOOK OF PRAISE.

The greater part of the day sessions of Thursday and Friday were occupied with the "New Hymnal." Psalms, Paraphrases, and Hymns are the Trinity of our Book of Praise. Sometimes the three are bound in one; often the Hymnal by itself.

For some years the Hymnal Committee has been at work, by direction of the Assembly, preparing a new Book of Praise. Their report was submitted and very fully considered. There were two courses proposed and each was strongly advocated. One was that the Psalter, the 150 Psalms in metre, should be retained entire in all books of praise authorized by the Assembly, and that the Hymnal to be bound with it should not contain selections from the Psalms; the other was, that the Psalter should be retained entire, and that the Hymnal should contain a number of selections from the Psalms, of such parts as are usually sung, and, in addition, six hundred and thirty hymns, which include of course selections from the paraphrases. After considering the matter very carefully the latter proposal was adopted. This plan provides that those who wish the Psalter entire may have it, and provides also that where the Hymnal is bound separately, there will be in it most of the Psalms that are in common use. The book is to be for the use of Sabbath Schools as well, so that in all its worship for old and young there shall be one book of praise. As finally approved by Assembly it is to be sent down to Presbyteries to report their views respecting it to the Hymnal Committee, on or before the first of March, 1895, with a view to its publication for submission to the next General Assembly.

### HOME MISSIONS—EAST.

No more important subject engaged the attention of the Assembly than that of Thursday evening, viz., Home Missions and Augmentation. Rev. John McMillan, o. Halifax, presented the report for the Maritime Synod. A new experi-