

IV. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF QUEENSLAND.

There are 3 Presbyteries, 24 Charges, and 20 Ministers. The General Assembly meets the first Monday of May. There are Committees for Sabbath-schools (2,410 scholars), Home Mission and Church Extension, Sustentation, Training Young Men for the Ministry, and the Support of Aged and Infirm Ministers. The Presbyterian population of the colony is reckoned at 22,000. The whole contributions for the year are about £9,000.

Two things claim especial interest in this Church. One is, its earnest efforts to obtain a devoted and qualified ministry. It set on foot a Divinity Hall, and the first contributions showed an admirable spirit. The first contribution, amounting to £5, was "from a Christian mother, with promise of earnest prayer for success." The second contribution, which amounted to £2 was from another "mother interested in the godly instruction of our young men." The third was a bag containing 500 sovereigns, from one who greatly approved of the object, and who had vowed to the Lord a tenth of his increase, and now began cheerfully the payment of his vow; and this was followed by other princely gifts, until the sum in hand amounted to £1,270. Besides these gifts a sum of £876 9s. 5d., was given for laying the foundation of a Theological Library. From various other quarters, money came in with little or no solicitation—one contributing £25; another a thank-offering of £5 from himself and pious wife, together with "the dedication of a son to the holy ministry, provided the Head of the Church shall accept the offering, and grant the boy the gracious gifts necessary to a good and faithful minister of the Word."

V. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TASMANIA.

Tasmania was occupied as a penal settlement in 1804. The first Presbyterian minister arrived at Hobart Town in 1822-23. In 1835 there was constituted the Presbytery of Van Diemen's Land, and the Scotch Church was placed on an equality with the English. In 1845 an attempt was made by the Bishop of the English Church in Van Dieman's Land to obtain authority over all the inhabitants, but the Presbyterians succeeded in checking this, and in getting a rule recognised limiting the power of the English bishop in these colonies to the superintendence of their own clergy.

The Presbyterian Church has not been equally prosperous in this as in other colonies, and there is still a division in the ranks. The Presbytery of Tasmania and the Free Presbytery of Tasmania indicate the division. There are 17 Charges in all, and 13 Ministers.