

William H. Roberts, of Princeton, Stated Clerk. Fraternal greetings were exchanged with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, South, the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. On the evening of the second day a large and enthusiastic meeting was held in the interests of Sabbath-School work. There are 81,746 officers and teachers in the Sunday-Schools, and 643,722 scholars. The Committee on Missions to the Freedmen reported receipts for the year \$121,521. The number of ordained ministers employed in this service is 91, of whom 78 are coloured. The number of communicants 12,958, and of Sabbath-School scholars 12,058. The report on Home Missions shewed that the work is rapidly expanding. During the year there have been 1,458 Missionaries at work. The income from all sources was \$620,428. In the department of Foreign Missions it had been a year of blessing. The receipts of the Board were \$693,122 and the expenditure \$703,845, leaving a debt of \$10,000. It has in the mission field 163 American and 251 native ministers; of teachers 23 male and 281 female, who are Americans, and 786 natives. In the churches it has organized and fostered there are now 19,218 communicants and in its schools 25,914 pupils. Sabbath Observance, Temperance, Church Policy, Theological Institutions, &c., were severally discussed. The hardest nut to crack was the vexed question of "Reduced Representation." The next meeting is to be held in Cincinnati.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, South, met at Vicksburgh, Dr. Witherspoon of Louisville, Moderator. The various reports indicated steady progress in all departments. The total receipts for Home Missions were \$61,076. There are 398 ministers who are adequately and 556 who are inadequately supported, and there is need for at least 350 more ministers to take charge of 443 vacant churches and evangelistic fields. During last year 94 churches were erected, but there are still nearly 300 organized charges without a place of worship. Satisfactory reports were presented from the Theological Seminaries, in which there were in all 113 students, of whom 31 attended the Institute for training coloured ministers. A deputation from the Northern Assembly was enthusiastically received, and although the Moderator had to check the spontaneous outburst of applause at the close of their addresses, a halt in the proceedings was called and a general hand-shaking became the order of the day.

AT THE METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE held in Philadelphia in May there was a long and animated discussion on "The Licensure of Women." The Committee who were charged to consider this subject, reported by a majority of about five-sixths, that it is inexpedient to license women to preach the Gospel. Strong arguments were used on both sides; those in favour of granting the license based their

opinion on the "law of liberty," admitting that the applications for license would be extremely small. It is said that some of the best preachers in the Methodist Church are women, and that these will still preach no matter what the Conference may say or do; that sinners will be converted and churches will be built up by their agency. On the other hand St. Paul was quoted as authority that women should keep silence in the Church, and such, when it came to the vote, seems to have been the mind of the Conference.

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND. — The General Assembly met in Edinburgh on the 23rd of May, and was inaugurated with the usual imposing ceremonies. The Earl of Aterdeen again presided as Her Majesty's Lord High Commissioner. Dr Rankine, of Sorn, preached the opening sermon, after which Dr. Peter Mackenzie, of Urquhart, (1843) was elected Moderator. Dr. Phin presented the report on the Schemes of the Church, which foreshadowed certain improvements in the *Missionary Record*, which it was hoped would largely increase its circulation. The Colonial Committee was represented by Dr. Gray of Liberton, the convener. The receipts for last year were \$29,000; the expenditure, about \$500 more, included grants to the Army and Navy Committee and the Continental Chaplaincies, leaving some \$18,000 for strictly Colonial Missions in Asia, Africa, America and Australia. Delegates were present from the Australian Churches who addressed the Assembly. Rev. J. G. Paton, from the Synod of the New Hebrides, gave an interesting account of the progress of Mission work in that field. Principal King of Winnipeg, referred in happy terms to the harmonious working of the union of Presbyterians in Canada, and of the strenuous efforts of the United Church to overtake the necessities of its vast Home Mission field, and to provide for the education of its ministry, and also of the successful working of the scheme lately inaugurated for securing a minimum stipend of \$750 and a manse for every minister of the church. The Moderator, in eloquent terms, thanked the deputies for the information they had given, and assured them of the continued interest of the church in the welfare of the colonial churches. The report on Foreign Missions which spoke of success, mingled with trial and difficulties, was presented by Dr. Scott, whose resignation, as convener, was accepted with much regret.

The Free Church Assembly also met in Edinburgh on the 23rd of May. Dr. Horatius Bonar, the retiring Moderator, preached the opening sermon. Dr. Walter Ross Taylor, of Thurso, (1829) was elected Moderator, and in addressing the Court paid an eloquent tribute to the memory of Sir Henry Moncrieff, Dr. Begg, Dr. Kennedy of Dingwall, and other prominent ministers of the church who had been removed by death during the past year. Rev. Andrew Melville of Glasgow, was elected junior principal clerk, Rev. Dr. Wilson taking rank as senior