

THE FREE CHURCH ASSEMBLY.

The year of Jubilee is come," so sang the Free Church of Scotland as her commissioners gathered on the 18th of May, from hielan heather and lowland dale to the meeting of the General Assembly in Edinboro'.

Under two headings might its work be grouped, general and special, the ordinary work of the year and the celebration of the Jubilee.

The venerable moderator, Dr. Blaikie, preached the opening sermon from the text, God "gave unto Him a name that is above every name," and showed that the disruption of fifty years ago, and the subsequent history of the Free Church, was but the testimony of that church to the truth of the text.

But two names, said the Moderator, are to be found on the roll of this Assembly that were to be found "on the original roll of the members of the Assembly of 1843." One of them was the Speaker.

Dr. Walter C. Smith was chosen Moderator for the current year, and, on taking the chair, gave an opening address, not of a few minutes, as with us, but more than an hour in length. In the Scottish Assemblies the Moderator to be, has the assurance of knowing what is coming, as he is chosen beforehand, while on this side the water, two or three are often kept on the tenter hooks of suspense, i.e., if they care for the office, until the moment of election.

FINANCE, &c.

Though faith cannot be measured by figures, yet, just as the hands of a clock are an index of within, so the giving of a church is usually a fair index of its spiritual life. More especially is this the case when the giving is for the good of others. Measured by this test, the Free Church has had a good year. The total income for the past year was £645,837, an increase of £23,772 or over one hundred thousand dollars more than the previous year; the membership is 347,341.

PUBLICATIONS.

The report showed that the circulation of the *Free Church Monthly* is 81,400 copies, and that of their *Children's Record*, 76,000. How we would like to reach those figures with our *RECORD* and *Children's Record*! Shall it be done? It can be done. It rests with our people. The monthly issue of our *RECORD* is as yet but 50,000, and that of the *Children's Record* 21,000, while the paying circulation, though steadily growing year by year, is a few hundreds less than even these figures.

UNION

of the Free and U. P. Churches is again in the air; and though negotiations begun twenty years ago fell through, there are still hopes that in their failure they helped to prepare the way, and

that now both churches are more fitted for that consummation devoutly to be wished, and that ere long these two grand churches which separate have had such a glorious history, and which have nothing to keep them parted but a name, shall "see and flow together," and as one, shall have a future still grander than the past.

THE JUBILEE.

One day was given up wholly to Jubilee joy. Delegates and deputies from other churches in Britain, from the Continent, and from far over the seas, more than sixty in all, were there bringing their benedictions. Among the felicitations was a letter from Mr. Gladstone, speaking in the highest terms of the Church and its work, and wishing it God speed. Our own delegation consisted of Rev. Dr. A. B. Mackay, Rev. John Crombie, and Rev. Dr. Middlemas, who all gave excellent addresses and were heard with deep interest. While there were deputies present from the Presbyterian Churches of England and Ireland, and from the U. P. Church of Scotland, there were none from the Kirk, but there was a very cordial and brotherly message from the Assembly of the Church of Scotland which was then in session, scarce more than a hundred yards away, rejoicing that God's blessing had been so richly bestowed upon the Free Church and praying for its continued and increasing good. This is as it should be. Their good men realize that that great event which fifty years ago seemed fraught with calamity to the Church of Scotland in taking from her so much of that which was good within her; and to those who came out, in stripping them of church and manse and home; was in reality a blessing to them both, and through them to Scotland.

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND ASSEMBLY.

WITH the usual vice-regal pomp, with a reception at Holyrood by Her Majesty's High Commissioner, the Marquis of Breadalbane, with booming of guns from the castle, and the state procession to St. Giles Cathedral, this historic Assembly began its sittings on the 18th May.

Dr. Charteris, the retiring moderator, preached the opening sermon, after which Dr. Marshall Lang, of the Barony Church, Glasgow, was chosen Moderator for the current year.

STATISTICS AND FINANCE.

The total contributions of the Church for the past year were £360,587, a decrease of £15,482, on the previous year. The total number of communicants, 604,984, an increase of 5,453.

The Home Mission report showed £9,000, about \$44,000 given for that work last year, much to the regret of the committee that had hoped for twice that amount. They have 78 mission stations, 4 less than last year, and 75 mission churches.