

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES.

This Assembly met this year at St. Louis. The great subject of debate this year was that of the consolidation of a number of their Boards. Hitherto their Church work has been conducted by various Boards, each with secretaries and officers, and each looking for a contribution from the several congregations. Last year it was proposed by some to consolidate the work and to unite under the conduct of one Board several departments of work. A Committee on Consolidation was accordingly appointed. At the late Assembly both a majority and a minority Report were presented, and the subject was discussed at great length. The result was, that with the exception of uniting the Sustentation Committee with the Board of Home Missions, the Boards remain as they were, and the Committee on Benevolence and Finance appointed last year, whose object was to receive all the contributions of the Church, and appropriate them according to the necessities of each object, was discontinued. A Formula, proposed for receiving members into the Church, was considered, but finally postponed indefinitely. The shadow of Ritualism was discovered in the proposed movement, and many were unwilling to give any favour at present to new forms of any kind. There was a long and somewhat excited discussion on the question of women's right to speak and pray at prayer meetings. The Committee on Bills and Overtures recommended that the question which was submitted in an overture from a Presbytery—"Does the Assembly mean to enjoin that in the regular weekly prayer meetings of the Church no woman shall speak or lead in prayer?" should be answered, "Yes, except in emergencies to be decided by pastor or session." But the Assembly ultimately came to the conclusion—"That the Assembly express no opinion as to the Scriptural view of women's right to speak or pray at a social prayer meeting, but commits the whole subject to the discretion of the pastors and elders of the churches." The question of women's preaching was not before the Assembly. The reports of the various Boards on Home and Foreign Missions, &c., were encouraging and interesting. The subject of theological seminaries brought up a troublesome discussion, arising from a proposal not to sanction the appointment of Dr. R. W. Patterson as a Professor in the Seminary at the North-West. This proposal was in consequence of Dr. Patterson's pronounced views in favour of Prof. Swing. The right of veto in regard to the appointment was not, however, exercised by the Assembly. The subject of temperance occupied for some time the attention of the Assembly. Deputies from various Churches, including those from the Free Church of Scotland and from the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, addressed the Assembly.

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

The General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in North America met in Monmouth Ill., on the 27th May. Delegates were appointed to attend the next meeting of the Associate Reformed Synod (South), to confer on co-operation or organic union with that Synod. The receipts for the past year were, for Foreign Missions, \$65,653.48; Home Missions, \$41,111.25; Freedmen's Mission, \$1,032.28; Church Extension, \$22,040.50; Education, \$5,976.14; Ministerial Relief, \$2,999.85; General Assembly, \$2,593.64; total, \$144,407.14. The members of the Church were cautioned against being connected with the newly established order of Patrons of Husbandry, as being a secret society. The right of women to read, speak and pray at religious meetings was recognized. The Assembly passed a resolution in favour of the women's temperance movement.