

the discussion upon it had not been a little longer continued. The mind of the house seemed to be that of the ardent disciple on the Mount "Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles." But the evening was far spent, and other matters remaining on the docket, this interesting subject was dropped and the Assembly proceeded to consider

THE STATUS OF MISSIONARIES AND RETIRED MINISTERS.

This came up by overtures from the Synods of Hamilton and London, and from the Presbytery of Peterboro. The question involved was whether or not ordained missionaries and retired ministers should be considered as constituted members of the Church courts—entitled to deliberate and vote. Mr. Campbell, Montreal, deprecated any deviation from the usual practice of the parent churches, by which the membership of the Assembly would be unnecessarily enlarged, and referred to the contrary practice in the United States which had been found inconvenient and embarrassing. Mr. Wallace thought it would be a hardship if the names of retired Ministers were stricken from the Presbytery Rolls. The Moderator stated that in the old Country Ministers retiring from their charges altogether were not retained on the roll. Dr. Reid explained that the normal mode of retiring in Scotland was by the appointment of Colleagues and successors in which case the status remained unimpaired. The overtures were remitted to a special committee to report at a future sederunt.

APPLICATIONS TO RECEIVE MINISTERS.

A number of applications were read from Presbyteries to receive ministers of other churches, including one from the Presbytery of Hamilton in favour of Mr. Stevenson, a prominent minister of the Methodist Church. After devotional exercises the Assembly adjourned at 10 p.m.

SECOND DAY.—Friday.

A communication was read from representatives of the Reformed Episcopal Church in Canada extending the hand of Christian fellowship to the Assembly from this "little sister," and placing the occupancy of their pulpits on the coming Sabbath at the service of the Assembly. A letter was also read from Miss Maggie Smith, Secretary of the Toronto Women's Christian Temperance Union, directing the attention of the Assem-

bly to the importance of total abstinence and of adopting measures in that direction.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CHURCHES.

Principal Snodgrass, convener, reported the appointment of delegates to visit the Churches of Great Britain and Ireland and of the United States. He also reported on behalf of the delegates who had been appointed to represent this Church in the Conference of the Presbyterian Council held in London last summer, which he and also the Moderator had the pleasure of attending. They had found the proceedings to be of exceeding interest, both because of the nature and importance of the business transacted, and the valuable intercourse with distinguished brethren which the occasion afforded. There were sixty-four delegates in attendance. The result of their deliberations was an agreement to institute a general Alliance of Reformed Churches, to meet, ordinarily, once in three years. The first meeting had been appointed for the 4th July, 1876, but in deference to the American Churches, who are this year busied with their Centennial Celebrations, it was postponed till next year. The Canadian Church will be entitled to send twelve delegates to this council.

The Moderator took occasion to endorse what had fallen from Dr. Snodgrass in this behalf, stating his belief that this great movement would certainly tend to the welfare of the Church throughout the world, and would especially strengthen the cause of Missions by presenting to the heathen the spectacle of a united Christianity.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC.

A reference from the Presbytery of Wallace, N. S., in the form of an application from the congregation of Amherst for permission to use an organ in public worship, suddenly launched the Assembly into a very animated discussion of the whole question of instrumental music, in which the substance of nearly all the arguments that have been led *pro* and *con* on this question for many years past, were adduced. It is proper, however, to say that these arguments were well "boiled down." It was prudently taken for granted that the House was familiar with them.

Mr. Sedgwick, Tatamagouche, supported the reference, and stated that one of the Resolutions attached to the Basis of Union seemed to imply that this congregation, which was not in existence at the time of