

THE AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Another annual gathering of the American Board of Foreign Missions was recently held at Rochester, N. Y. This city, now about the size of Toronto, has in it five large churches belonging to the Presbyterian and Congregational denominations, the aggregate capacity of which is upwards of 7000. The Brick Presbyterian Church, being the largest, was the headquarters of the Board, and from Tuesday, the 6th Oct., at 4 P. M., till Friday, 11 A. M., with only brief intervals, was crowded by at least 2,000 persons. The other Churches were opened for evening services, and for the celebration of the Lord's Supper on Thursday afternoon, when three of these spacious sanctuaries were comfortably filled with disciples of Jesus, from all parts of the land, and missionaries from afar, commemorating the grace of our Lord, and holding fellowship one with another in that sacred memorial feast.

The business of the Board, consisting chiefly of the review of the work of the Prudential Committee, and of the missions, was transacted in the presence of the vast assembly of fellow-workers with which every aisle and corner of the sanctuary was closely packed. The Corporate Members of the Board, of whom there are about 220—only 70 of whom were present, alone have the right to vote; but honorary, i.e. life members, are at liberty to take part in the discussions, and are associated with the Commissioners, in committees appointed to examine the reports in full from the several missions, as well as the Finances, and Home Administration. The reports of these committees of investigation, numbering fourteen, were this year uncommonly thorough and suggestive, embodying the characteristic facts or principles severally requiring notice. These were often accompanied by addresses from the conveners of committees, or others identified with the matters under review, as for example, the returned missionaries from the particular field. Sometimes a song of praise, or the offering of prayer gave devout expression to the fervent emotions awakened by these proceedings. Such an occasion was heartily improved upon the presentation of the financial statement, which shewed an income of \$397,079 71, being \$76,365 64 in excess of that of the previous year. The debt with which the last year closed, amounting to \$11,000, has been reduced to \$6,000. These cheering facts were felt by all to demand the raising of a new "Ebenezer."

The annual sermon was preached by Rev. Elisha L. Cleaveland, D D., of New Haven, Ct., upon the 45th to the 49th verse, inclusive, of Luke 24th. It was an earnest appeal to the Christian heart, from the grand central facts and truths of the cross of Christ, to go forth and preach this Gospel to every creature.

Wednesday morning and afternoon were occupied in receiving from Rev. Dr. Rufus Anderson, Corresponding Secretary, a narrative of his late tour through the Sandwich Islands, and a report of proposed changes in the relation of this and the Micronesian Mission to the Board. Dr. Anderson, accompanied by his wife and daughter (they travelling at private expense), visited all the mission churches of that group. His impressions were much more favourable, as to the moral and spiritual progress of these recent converts from savage heathenism, than he had anticipated. The audiences addressed by him, varied in number from 600 to 2000. On one occasion no less than 500 horses were fastened around the mission chapel. The Islanders present as respectable and pleasing an appearance, in style of dress, as any *christian*