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The General Assembly of 1892 has come and gone, and it was, on the whole, a good one, worthy of the men who composed it and of the high object for which they met. Strong, earnest men, feeling strongly and earnestly on important matters, sometimes differed in opinion and spoke their differences strongly and earnestly, but the instances in which debate, weighted by a little too much human nature, lowered in any measure its lofty level, might almost be counted on the thumbs of one hand.

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One or two very simple changes would very materially improve the Assembly; *e.g.*, if, instead of the long, tedious roll call, which is always imperfect, as many members do not arrive until after the night of opening, commissioners were required to hand in cards or tickets with their names, the work would be much more satisfactory and complete. Then the objection to the present method lies not so much in the time it takes, as the place it occupies. Coming as it does late on the night of opening, when there is usually a large popular gathering, it makes the protracted evening a weariness to them, and occurring at the beginning is liable to leave a wrong impression, which may affect their attendance on all the other evening popular meetings of the court. While the Assembly is for its members and for the church, it should, meeting as it does in the larger centres, aim to deepen an interest in its various schemes by making its evening meetings as popular and interesting as can be done. Will not some good brother who is fond of overtures send up to the Assembly a requiem for the time honored but needless roll call.

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A reform of far greater value would be to limit speakers to time. When the court has but an hour or two to give to the consideration of a matter, and there are many who could profitably

help in the discussion of it, time is worse than wasted if some good brother takes the most of that time to himself. It would be an excellent training for the speakers themselves. It would lead them to begin at once with what they have to say, to say it in the fewest words, and to stop when they have done; it would make the sessions a delight to the large majority that have to do the listening; and the added light flashed from different quarters would illuminate many a subject that has now to be passed upon with not too intelligent a grasp of its meaning. If those who have reports to present or large subjects to introduce, were given fifteen or twenty minutes, and all others five, or, if need be, ten minutes, and longer only by special permission, the value and usefulness of the Assembly to its members and to the church would be vastly increased.

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In the discussion regarding the transference of some of the Assembly's work to the Synods, prominence was given to the fact that the latter have very little to do, and, in the judgment of some, their existence is almost useless, unless a change be made. There is one aspect of the case, however, that must not be forgotten. The meetings of Synod fill a place in church life that is liable to be neglected. In Presbyteries and in General Assembly, the time is so fully occupied with the business side of our work, that there is often little time for considering its higher aspects, and this want has often been felt and deplored. The Synods of the more central part of the church have not much business to do, but their conversion into religious conferences, as has been done in the meetings recently held will make them of even greater profit to the ministers and elders who attend. So successful and helpful have they proved that committees have been appointed to make arrangements for similar conferences at the meetings next year.