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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The report that the Right Hon. John Morley has joined the Roman Catholic Church has gained credit **Mr John Morley's** on account of no denial having yet **Reported Con-** been made. When taking leave of **version.** Mr. Gladstone, it is said that Mr. Morley prayed to God for his recovery, a fact commented upon at the time as showing that Mr. Morley's atheism was either weakened or cast aside. Those who have known Mr. Morley intimately know that for many years he has been earnestly seeking light in questions of faith, having found scepticism an empty husk, and should the report of his accession to Romanism prove true, his case will be a signal example of the insufficiency of reason in the realm of the spiritual.

While Assembly echoes are in order note may be taken of the praise bestowed upon Rev. Dr. Torrance for his admirable handling of the business of **A Model** the court. On every hand it is **Moderator.** acknowledged that he made a capital presiding officer, showing tact and skill in the discharge of the onerous duties falling to his position as Moderator. Equally satisfactory was his graceful bearing on the occasions when social functions, such as the McGill Reception, demanded his services. It was felt that he worthily represented the Church, always rising to the occasion whatever it might be. We have no doubt the Moderator will find many opportunities for the exercise of his genial gifts during his term and that when the time comes to lay down his office the verdict of the

Assembly then in Session will be that of the one now closed, that the best interests of the Church has been well served by him.

The growth of the Western Field was evidenced by the many questions therefrom before the Assembly, and **Growth of Western** by the time afforded for their discus- **Interests.** sion. More than one question of importance to the Church at large was disposed of according to the views of the Western Commissioners. The Assembly accepted their leading with little or no hesitation where a few years ago there might be reluctance or further enquiry into the merits. It must be said that the Western contingent made itself distinctly felt and impressed itself on the conclusions arrived at by the Assembly in a very marked manner. The West will continue to bulk largely in the Church Councils and it is satisfactory to know that some of the brightest minds and ablest men in the Church are in the West and are rapidly coming to the front.

Although discussed in a thin house the proposal to form a fund for the payment of Commissioners' **Commissioners'** expenses while attending the **Travelling Expenses.** Assembly met with a promising reception and may be regarded as having taken a definite step in advance. In connection with this question is the further one to reduce the representation from one in six to one in four. The Presbyteries will pass upon the subject and will report to the next General Assembly when probably the Church will be prepared to take action. In the meantime members of Presbyteries should give the question their practical consideration, as one affecting the efficiency of the Assembly, and possibly the present functions exercised by the Synods. The distances to Assembly are so long and the expense so great that reduced representation seems to be a necessary condition to the raising of a fund for defraying the expenses of Commissioners. But such payment seems to be necessary in order to secure attendance from the distant parts of the country.

A visitor to the Assembly expressed himself in the press as impressed with the good business order **Conducting the** maintained, which he said compared more **Business of the** favorably with that usually to be **Assembly** observed in the Dominion House of Commons. The opinion is well-founded and may be regarded as a compliment, for we are often reminded by our candid friends that ministers have but little of business or business methods, and that Presbytery meetings often disclose the fact. But the General Assembly affords an example of method and procedure worthy of the highest deliberative body in the land. Indeed deliberative and legislative bodies owe much to Presbyterianism in the matters of system and organization—more than may be readily traceable on the surface, but which has had undoubted connection with them. The same writer observed also a tendency