

## Our "Blue Book" for 1887.

THE "MINUTES,"—the "Acts and Proceedings of the thirteenth General Assembly,"—are now in the hands of our ministers and elders,—and form a weighty volume of about 400 pages. The amount of reading in these pages is very great, and the information concerning the affairs of our church, in all departments of her work, most valuable. The volume begins with the Minutes of the Assembly, during the eighteen sederunts held at Winnipeg. That so much solid work could have been performed by the Assembly in eight days, is a proof that no time was spent in idleness,—and that there must have been steady attention to business. Never were men kept more closely to the work before them, than the Winnipeg Assembly. The attendance was surprisingly large—270 members; of these 124 were elders. The following Presbyteries sent all the members elected, viz., Winnipeg, Rock Lake, and Brandon. Many Presbyteries sent nearly all their representatives. At no Assembly have we had a larger proportion of elders. We can testify that at no Assembly were ministers and elders more loyally attentive to the work before them. The record of the actual daily proceedings occupies 68 pages of the "Blue Book." Much of the hardest work is done in committee, and of this nothing appears on the printed page, except the results. The subjects treated during those eight days were very varied, and mostly of general interest. The Home Missionary operations of the church, extend from Newfoundland to Vancouver Island,—and all this work passed under the review of the Assembly. Our Foreign Missions now embrace large fields far apart, and these were also fully reviewed. Our colleges number six, and these were reported upon. Statistics were studied. The state of religion, the cause of temperance, Sabbath observance, religion in our public schools, Widows and orphans of ministers, Aged and Infirm Ministers, Ladies' Colleges, and many other topics were duly attended to.

The "Blue Book" will, we trust, be very carefully and thoroughly perused by all our ministers and elders. We have now thirteen of these volumes, containing some 4,000 pages of the best materials for the history of

our church. By turning up the statistical tables we may see how each congregation is doing its part, from year to year, in sustaining its own local operations, and in aiding the general enterprises of the church. By turning to the appropriate reports we can see how all our funds have been expended, and judge the harvest that is being gathered from the seed we are sowing. It is well to study the history of the church in other places and ages; but it is especially desirable that we should be intimately acquainted with the way in which the work of the Lord is being carried forward in our own day and in our own land. To this end, read the "RECORD" of the church and the "Acts and Proceeding of the General Assembly."

## Remember all!

ALL the congregations within our bounds should remember all the schemes of the Church. We have been working towards this desirable end for a number of years; and very gratifying progress has been made. If you study the table of statistics you will find that each year shows an increase in the number of congregations contributing to all the schemes. But the blanks are still numerous enough to keep us very humble. There are still a few congregations that give very little to any object. They live to themselves and have never learned from the words of the Lord Jesus that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." As Presbyterians, we are in duty bound to pay regard to the requests of the Presbytery, the Synod, and the Assembly. The collections, or contributions to the Funds, are a Standing Order. The collections recur at regular intervals, and should be taken up in all congregations and preaching stations,—excepting those in which contributions are regularly gathered in in some other way. The collections may be very small: but a very small sum is vastly better than none at all. Keep in line! Show your interest in the work of the Church; and thus you will encourage others, instead of weakening their hands. Fill up those ugly blanks in our statistical returns. "At it; all at it; always at it," is the Methodist motto, and it is well