

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

QUIET, staid, solid, like the fine country by which it is surrounded; London, "the Forest City," gave a hearty welcome to the twenty-first General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada which held its sessions there from the evening of Wednesday the twelfth, to that of Thursday the twentieth, of June. The morning and afternoon sessions, after opening with devotional exercises, were filled with business, while the evening meetings were of a more popular kind, with stirring practical addresses upon different departments of the work of our Church; on Thursday evening, Home Missions; on Friday evening, Foreign Missions; on Monday evening, Augmentation, and French Evangelization; on Tuesday evening, Sabbath Observance, Sabbath Schools, and Temperance; while on Wednesday evening, the Manitoba School Question, continued from the afternoon, was the theme. Any one who attended merely the evening sessions would get a very good idea of all the great lines of work carried on by our Church, and the meeting of Assembly in different cities should thus prove of great educative value to the churches in those cities.

Two things were noticeable about the Assembly. One was that while its membership is one-fourth of the ministers and an equal number of elders, and each Annual Assembly is supposed to consist largely of new members, yet, so far as its practical working is concerned, it changes little from year to year. The few who do most of the speaking and conduct the business are regularly there, while the changes are chiefly among the silent members. There is thus considerable change from year to year and at the same time a large measure of continuity.

Another impression made by glancing over the gathered ministers and elders was the large proportion of bronzed, (not brassy), strong faces that for the most part filled the picture. Appollo might not have many duplicates, and Adonis fewer still, but rugged strength of character, that knew well life's battle, was evidently there in plenty.

Clerical dignity, too, plainly depended not upon length of coat or hat or face; for while the "dog collar" was common it was more for comfort than display, and short light coats and straw hats were plentiful, while the bicycles of younger brethren standing in the rear porch, during the sessions, showed that the Church is bound to keep up with the times.

At the opening services the large Church, St. Andrews, was full. Rev. Dr. Mackay of Formosa, retiring Moderator, preached upon a theme which has been the motto of his own life, the command to Israel "Go forward" Exodus 14:15.

Then came the choice of a new Moderator, and

while last year the Assembly chose a leader in Foreign Missions, this year, they chose one equally a leader in Home Missions, Rev. Dr. Robertson, Superintendent of Missions in Manitoba and the North West. As no man in our times has done a greater work in Foreign Missions than Dr. Mackay, it is not too much to say that no man can have a larger part than Dr. Robertson in moulding our great Home Mission Territory, the North West. He has greater opportunities than any successor can have, and his intense energy in seizing the opportunity can be surpassed by none.

COLLEGES.

The first morning session was largely spent, as was fitting, in devotional services, while the afternoon was given to reports from Colleges.

Presbyterian College, Halifax.

This College is now more fully equipped than ever before. The attendance too during the past session was larger than in any previous year of its long history of over three quarters of a century. There were forty-eight regular students in Theology, of whom 8 were in the graduating year, 13 in the middle year, and 27 in the first year. The Maritime Synod has reason to be proud of its institution and will continue to give it a hearty support. There is to be a summer school of Theology during the present season.

Morrin College, Quebec.

Has been taking a partial rest for a year or two, but now, strengthened by the receipt of \$120,000 from the estate of the late Senator Ross, of Quebec, it purposes going forward on a larger scale both in Arts and Theology. This College has received scarcely anything from the Church, but it aims to give service to the Church as well as to the community in which it is placed.

Presbyterian College, Montreal.

Submitted its twenty-eighth Annual Report. Eleven students graduated in April, fourteen completed their second year in Theology, and fourteen the first year; in all there were thirty-nine regular theological students, besides those taking the literary course.

Although liberal help has been given by some friends in Montreal, the income has been \$1,597 less than the year's expenditure, and \$1,303 less than the income of the preceding year. Only 138 congregations sent contributions last year. It is hoped that the number may in the future be largely increased. As a helper to Protestantism in the Province of Quebec, where help is so much needed, the College has done great good.

Queen's College, Kingston.

The fifty-fourth Annual Report, now presented, says that the number of regular students in Theology last session was thirty-three, viz., seventeen in the first year, ten in the second year, and six in the third or concluding year.