

building, built last summer by the teacher. Little willow baskets made by the boys, with flowers planted in them, hung in the windows and gave a very refined appearance to the room. The home is of stone, built on the side of a hill, three stories high in front, the second story opening on the hill at the back. The dining-room, kitchen and pantries are on the ground floor, the family rooms on the second floor and the dormitories on the third floor. The pupils have to make their own beds and sweep the floor. The beds were covered with bright, clean patch-work quilts, which are sent by the ladies of the Church."

Meeting of the Foreign Mission Committee, (W. D.)

THE Foreign Mission Committee (W. D.) met on the 2nd and 3rd January. Present:—Mr. Hamilton Cassels, Convener; Dr. Wardrope, Dr. MacLaren, Dr. MacVicar, Dr. Mungo Fraser, Dr. J. B. Fraser, Dr. A. D. MacDonald, Dr. Thompson, and Messrs. Burson, Milligan, J. A. MacDonald, Jeffrey and MacKay.

Mr. J. A. Slimmon, who has been for nine years in China, and is now attending classes in Knox College, appeared before the Committee. He wishes to be ordained and to serve under the Presbyterian Church. It was agreed to appoint Mr. Slimmon as a missionary to labor in connection with the Home Mission, on condition that his work in Knox College during this session is satisfactory, and to apply to the General Assembly to authorize any of the Presbyteries of the Church, at the request of the Foreign Mission Committee, to take the usual steps to have Mr. Slimmon ordained into the ministry.

Mr. Eshoo, a Nestorian from Persia, who is attending classes in Knox College, also appeared before the Committee, asking that he might be employed amongst his own people. Whilst the Committee was favorably impressed with Mr. Eshoo, it was decided not to employ him, inasmuch as we have no mission in Persia and are not in a condition to start a new mission.

A communication from Dr. Webster made it evident that there are serious difficulties in the way of co-operating with the Free Church of Scotland in its Jewish Mission at Tiberias. The probability now is that Dr. Webster will establish an independent mission in Haifa, at the foot of Mt. Carmel, on the great Esdraelon plain. Haifa is a town of 6,000 inhabitants, 1,500 of whom are Jews, and is the safest harbor on the Mediterranean coast. So that if that should be the settlement of this perplexing question of location, it will probably prove a satisfactory one. In the meantime, Dr. Webster has been acquainting himself with the language so that no time has been lost.

Dr. G. L. MacKay appeared before the Committee and gave an interesting account of his work, explaining certain points that have caused discussion and difference of opinion, because all the facts were not known. He, for example, made it very clear to the Committee that there is great danger in pressing the principle of self-support too far. He gave instances of congregations that were, at one time, flourishing and on the way to self-support being arrested, and in some cases the churches closed, because it was too strongly insisted upon that the people should support the preacher. He, himself acted upon the principle, that wherever there was an opening the preacher should be kept there, at the same time, urging the people to do the best they possibly could in the way of support. Again, it has been asked, what is the use of erecting a steeple upon a church as has been done at Bangkok, which seems a needless expense? The reason given was that there is a superstition,

generally prevailing, that if one building is raised even a few inches higher than others, that there is danger of disturbing the equilibrium in the spirit world, and that in order to dispel that superstition he had this steeple erected, and that it has largely accomplished the end in view. The steeple was not an expensive one, and is a perpetual testimony to the truth.

It was reported that in New Westminster, B.C., the Y. P. S. C. E. of the three churches had agreed to contribute \$200 a year towards the current expenses of a Chinese school. The young people are also, in Vancouver, taking up the same work. In Winnipeg there are seventeen Chinese under instruction, each one having a Christian teacher.

The Committee was much gratified with these reports intimating that the Christian Churches are more and more realizing their responsibility with regard to these foreigners in their midst.

Mr. M. Swartout was appointed Missionary to Alberni. Mr. Swartout is at present serving the H. M. C. at Chilliwack, and will enter upon his duties at Alberni as soon as he can find a successor in his present work, in which he is very much interested.

The overture from the Presbytery of Vancouver to the General Assembly, asking that the Foreign Missionaries laboring within the bounds of home Presbyteries, should bear the same relation to such Presbyteries as home Missionaries now sustain to their Presbyteries. Whilst the Committee finds difficulty in acceding to the request of the overture, yet they are so desirous of securing the hearty interest and co-operation of all the members of Presbyteries in the Foreign Mission work within their bounds, that it was decided to enter into such correspondence with these Presbyteries, and to make such proposals as will, it is believed, attain that desirable end.

Letters and medical certificates were received from India, which made it evident that it is necessary for Mr. Wilkie to return for a season of rest. It was accordingly agreed to invite him to come home.

A letter was received from Mr. Russell reporting his own satisfaction in being able to resume work. He had visited South India and was much impressed with what he had seen—great congregations of natives ministered to by native preachers. He felt that "India for Christ" was becoming a reality. He also stated that their own Sunday School, at Mhow, numbered on the previous Sabbath 418, and it is also his belief that the movement amongst the Mangs at Indore is a genuine work, reaching a whole section of a community.

A financial statement was submitted by Dr. Reid, showing that the expenditure up to date is in excess of the receipts to the extent of \$36,625.09. The Committee naturally felt concerned about a possible deficit at the end of the year.

It is earnestly hoped that the work which is becoming increasingly hopeful in all our fields, will not be interrupted by the want of funds.

It was decided to adopt a curriculum of study for candidates who have not had the advantage of a theological training. This especially applies to lady Missionaries who have that knowledge of the Scriptures that teachers brought up in Christian homes who have not had any systematic training, are likely to have.

The thanks of the Committee are cordially extended to the Eastern Section of the Church for the gift of two beautifully prepared maps of their two fields, Trinidad and the New Hebrides.

The Committee adjourned after two days close application to business.—R. MACKAY.

Church News.

St. Andrew's Church, Perth, has had an unusually prosperous year. The annual meeting of the congregation, held on the 8th inst., was marked by a large attendance as well as by inspiring reports. By a unanimous and standing vote it was agreed to proceed immediately to the enlargement of their church, which is too small to meet the requirements of the congregation.

Rev. John Mutch, of Toronto, conducted the anniversary services of Glen Allan Presbyterian Church on Sabbath of last week. Very large congregations were present at both services. Rev. H. Norris has been pastor here for nearly eleven years. He has done much to increase and consolidate the church in this place. Mr. Norris is an able preacher and is much beloved by his people.

Rev. John McNeill being urgently called upon by the audience at the recent Free Church missionary meeting, stated that he was more and more realizing that the foreign mission and the home mission were neither logical nor Scriptural; there was only one blood. He rejoiced that it was the purpose of Jesus Christ to redeem them by one blood, and to bring them home to one Father's house.

DURING the Week of Prayer all the ministers and their people in the Township of Onondaga united, and had times of blessing. On Wednesday evening the Presbyterian Church was filled to the door, and Episcopalians, Methodists and Baptists, with one heart and soul poured forth their fervent petitions. On Friday evening the meeting was in the English Church where the previous pastors of the respective denominations addressed a large audience from the church, and members of all the churches took part in a never-to-be-forgotten service. There is a movement on foot at present to have a united week night service during the winter in the churches alternately. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for children to dwell together in unity!"

The "Christmas Tree" for the Presbyterian S. S. of Winchester, which was held on Friday evening, Dec. 22nd, turned out to the satisfaction of all who were present. The children sang sweetly after careful training by Mrs. R. Greer. The recitations, readings and dialogues by the children reflect credit upon them and upon our excellent secretary, Miss E. S. Coons, who trained them. Neither must we forget the older ones who so willingly gave their assistance. The proceedings were enlivened by good music, vocal and instrumental.

At the close the presents from a well-laden Christmas tree were given to those for whom intended.

The chair was occupied by the pastor, Rev. A. Graham, B.A.

The Presbyterian S. S. of N. Williamsburg held their annual entertainment on Friday evening, Jan. 5th, and all present voted it good. The early part of the evening was taken up by the children, who delighted the audience with the Christmas exercise, "Telephoning Santa Claus." After the distribution of the presents to the children a programme of readings, addresses and music filled up the evening. Rev. D. G. S. Connery, M.A., was heard in his usual excellent style both in address and several readings. Rev. W. E. Murray, of the Lutheran Church, after a brief address gave a capital reading which was very well received. The pastor, Rev. A. Graham, B.A., occupied the chair during the evening and announced that (D.V.), the next annual entertainment would be held on the evening of Dec. 24th.