

The Business Department closed the year with net profits amounting to \$31,140.83, of which two-thirds, or \$20,764.22, were passed over to the Sabbath-school and Missionary Department, in accordance with the order of the General Assembly. There has been a decrease in net profits from those of last year of \$5,653.51. This has been largely, if not altogether, due to the great expense involved in the publication of the three editions of the Hymnal, etc.

In the Missionary Department our missionaries organized during the past year 1,030 new Sabbath-schools. The number of re-organizations reported was 363.

AFTERNOON.

Rev. Dr. Matchmore presented the report of the Committee of Conference with the Theological Seminaries, appointed by the General Assembly of 1895.

The result of the various conferences with, and an examination of the official replies of the seminaries, and especially in view of the reasons set forth in the replies of Auburn and San Francisco, compel the committee to again call the attention of these seminaries and the Church to the explanation and interpretation of the recommendations of 1894, made by the Assembly in 1895, and especially to the first resolution of the report of 1895, adopted by the General Assembly.

This report was signed by Dr. Matchmore as chairman, in behalf of the entire committee. It was a unanimous report. He also presented a "supplementary report of Rev. Geo. D. Baker, D.D., not adopted by the committee."

Special reports were also presented on special subjects referred by the Assembly.

THURSDAY.

The report of the Standing Committee on Systematic Beneficence was presented by Rev. Henry G. Smith, chairman.

The Special Committee's report has been prepared and presented by Rev. W. H. Hubbard, acting in the place of Rev. R. S. Green, D. D.

The definite line of work of this committee, as outlined by previous General Assemblies, is:

1. To secure a contribution from every church for every Board.
2. To influence every member of every church to contribute to every Board.
3. To lead God's people worshipfully to give Him a generous percentage of their income in recognition of His just claim upon their all.

This movement throughout the Church is well organized, their being a special committee in every synod and in every presbytery.

Rev. Henry G. Smith then emphasized in an admirable speech that the responsibility for the development and success of the proposed plan, rests mainly with the presbyterial committees which are organized already in every presbytery in the Church.

Dr. Moore, of Montana, said this is the committee whose work lies nearest the foundations of the work of the Church. One great cause of embarrassment is the fact that small churches do not feel their responsibility to all the Boards of the Church.

The report and resolutions were adopted.

CHURCH ERECTION.

The report on Church Erection was made by the chairman, Rev. W. F. Junkin, D. D.

The Board has received during the year 223 applications, of which 181 have been for grants or loans for church buildings and forty-seven for aid in the erection of mansees.

The number of churches aided in one way or another reaches 224, and the aggregate amount appropriated, \$135,312.63.

The aggregate of receipts in all departments was \$118,092.77, and the disbursements, including loans and expenses of administration, were \$165,552.44.

During the year there have been reported to the Board as completed through its aid, without debt, 193 churches and mansees, the aggregate value of which is estimated at \$573,280.

The resolutions presented by the committee were adopted.

AFTERNOON.

The report of the Executive Commission of the Alliance of the Reformed Churches, throughout the World was presented by Rev. W. H. Roberts, D.D., L.L.D., Chairman of the Western Section and President of the Alliance. The report contained the record of the movement conducted by the Alliance in the interests of co-operation in Home Mission work on the part of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches on the North American Continent. Among other things, the report pointed out that the work actually accomplished within little more than a century, through Home Mission effort in this new world, was quite as wonderful as the triumphs of the Gospel in heathen lands, and more complete from

the very fact that so many denominations have been employed therein. The plan of co-operation is as follows:

"The Boards and Committees of Home Missions, Church Erection, Freedmen's Missions and Sabbath school work of the American Churches in 'The Alliance of the Reformed Churches holding the Presbyterian System,' both in the United States and Canada, recognizing with gratitude to God their substantial unity both in faith and polity, do agree upon the following principles of action for their guidance in their work, viz.:

1. That in the work of all these Boards as related to each other the authority of the church courts is to be recognized as final.
2. That there shall be no interference with churches, mission or Sabbath schools at present existing, unless by voluntary agreement between the denominations directly concerned.
3. That, ordinarily, no churches, missions or Sabbath-schools shall be established in small communities where the field is fully occupied by other Presbyterian or Reformed churches.
4. That the supreme judicatories of the several churches recommend their church-members, when moving into new communities, in which there is no congregation of their own Church, to unite, for the time being, with some other Presbyterian or Reformed Church, if such there be.
5. That if cases of difference of opinion arise in connection with the work, they shall be referred for consideration and amicable adjustment to the missionary authorities of the denominations directly concerned."

The plan adopted by the Alliance was adopted by a conference meeting of secretaries of several Home Mission and other Boards held in New York City in January, 1896, and presided over by Dr. W. H. Roberts.

EVENING.

Vice-Moderator Agnew presided at the night session, and Rev. Dr. Wm. L. McEwan, of Pittsburg, read the report on the Million-dollar Memorial Fund; \$352,854.36 had been raised. The rural regions, villages and smaller towns had done their part. But the great cities had done comparatively little, "with the one honorable exception of Pittsburg, which had raised more than one-seventh of the whole amount." He thought it was a time for humiliation in view of the fact that the Church had failed to raise a little more than one-half needed to pay the debts of the Board.

Rev. William H. Hubbard spoke in the same strain, and held that only a part of the Church did its duty.

FRIDAY.

Rev. Frederick Campbell, of Chicago, led the devotional services.

Dr. Steele reported approving the Boys' Brigades and St. Andrew and Philip Societies as doing much good.

Rev. Dr. Henderson reported on church polity. Unordained men may not be appointed on standing committees.

Rev. Dr. W. H. Roberts said that the statistics of the church show that 65,000 members have been received during the last year, and that the total membership is now 940,000.

The question of the next place of meeting was taken up. The Assembly, by an overwhelming vote, decided to go to Winona, in Indiana.

The Committee on bills and Overtures, to which was referred the memorial in the matter of the protection of our missionaries in the Turkish Empire, submitted through Col. D. W. McClung a strong resolution.

AFTERNOON.

The report of the Committee on the Theological Seminaries came up for discussion.

Rev. W. H. Hubbard, chairman of the Committee on Temperance, read the report and then made a strong appeal.

Rev. Dr. W. H. Roberts, representing the Alliance of the Reformed Churches holding the Presbyterian faith and order, said that said Alliance now includes ninety-five different organizations with a membership of twenty-five millions of adherents.

HOME MISSIONS.

The Assembly was addressed by Dr. Kane, Secretary McMillan and Dr. John Hall.

SATURDAY.

The Assembly received a supplemental report from its Committee on Foreign Missions recommending certain re-election.

Dr. McLeod, of Scranton, proposed an overture to the Presbyteries for a triennial meeting of the General Assembly, and after debate the resolution was defeated.

The Judicial Committee reported as to the matter of students pursuing their studies under disapproved instructors. Last year the New York Presbytery asked for instructions, and these were given by the Assembly.