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CONTENTS.

	Page		Page
Our Church Statistics	257	Page for the Young	272
Criminal Statistics	253	Ecclesiastical News	273
Brieflet No. 10.—The Catacombs and Appian Way	253	Our Own Church	275
Missionary Cabinet—Father Damien	259	Obituary Notices	277
Formosa, by Rev. W. Campbell	261	Coligny College, Ottawa	278
Indore, letter from Rev. J. Wilkie	262	Our Foreign Missions	278
Sabbath Observance by Rev. W. D. Armstrong	263	New Hebrides Mission	280
State of Religion, Report to Assembly	264	Our Honan Mission	280
Household Words	268	The Missionary Age	281
International Sunday-School Lessons	270	Literature	281

Our Church Statistics.

THE ASSEMBLY "Blue Book" enables us to compare the work of the past year with that of previous years, and to see whether we are really making progress in such particulars as can be tabulated. While it is true that the most vital and precious work of the church eludes the statistician, it is not less true that there is much of which we can take note, and from which we may draw timely lessons.—Fifteen years ago, the different branches of the Presbyterian family in Canada entered into union. None of all who took part in the services of that memorable 15th June, 1875, expected better results than have been actually achieved. Our fears have been disappointed, and our hopes amply realized. In regard to finance, our income has risen from \$982,000 in 1876 to \$1,942,000 in 1888. These indicate a vast amount of activity in missions at home and abroad, in educational works, in congregational work. Since the union we have added largely to the number of our Presbyteries, indicating thus the vastness of the field we occupy. We have Presbyteries of Columbia, Regina, Brandon, Calgary, Minnedosa, Honan—names of which we knew little or nothing about fifteen years ago.

Of our forty-five Presbyteries, the one that contributes most liberally per family

and per communicant is the widely-scattered Presbytery of British Columbia—\$56.42 per family and \$42 per communicant. In the last five years, Presbyterianism has made more progress in that province, so vast, so rich in mineral resources, so rich in scenic grandeur, than in the whole of its previous history. It is still a day of "beginnings," but at the present rate of advance it will not be long until we shall have a synod of Columbia. The contributions of our people in all the Presbyteries of the North-West abundantly demonstrate their liberality. Calgary gives at the rate of \$44 per family; Brandon at the rate of nearly \$21; Winnipeg at the rate \$35. Our Western friends are certainly willing to help themselves.

Fifteen years ago when our churches united, our Foreign mission work was comparatively in its infancy. It is true that the eastern section had its work in the New Hebrides, and in Trinidad, and that the western section had made a good beginning in the North-West, and in Formosa, and Central India. But the work has expanded greatly, and with the widening fields, the liberality of our people has increased. Let us hope that the rate of advance will be kept up day by day and year by year, until it can be truthfully said of our Church,— "She hath done what she could" for her own people, and for those sitting in darkness in heathen lands.