

an institution in which the Church as a whole is directly interested, it is nevertheless true that the members of the Board are familiar with the needs of the college and of the field, and with the available and prospective resources, and their mature experience will have great weight in forming a decisive opinion on the question.

Whether an elder can preside as Moderator of Presbytery will come up on overture and will likely evoke an interesting debate. When discussed in the Presbyteries and Synods the pros. and cons. were ably argued by brethren who occupy a leading place in the counsels of the Church, and it is probable much diversity of opinion will find expression on the floor of the Assembly.

Home and Foreign Missions, and the Finances of the Church merit careful consideration.

In glancing over the past year much will be found to be thankful for. Notwithstanding "hard times" and various hindrances, the Church has steadily, and hopefully pressed on and in almost every department of work a distinct progress falls to be recorded. The Church has much to be thankful for in her ministry which has faced difficulties with determined courage; and in her trusted officers who have skillfully and ably administered her affairs and by incessant effort have maintained past records of achievement.

The lists will be searched in vain for well-known names. The venerable senior clerk of the Assembly, to whose careful hand the business of the court owed so much, is no more, and his place will be filled by a new man. Rev. D. J. Macdonnell's voice is also still. Each in his own way left a legacy to the Church which the Assembly will not lightly regard, and the work which they laid down will be taken up in the spirit which lingers with their memory.

We welcome the General Assembly to Toronto. Here Presbyterianism is strong and growing. A highly intelligent and interested public will attend the sessions and will follow the proceedings prayerfully and sympathetically, and the local arrangements ensure the comfortable and convenient despatch of business.

#### Home Missions.

The Home Mission report, a summary of which appears elsewhere, deserves careful perusal in all its details by the commissioners at once. No better test of the life of the Church can be applied than its interest in mission work—at home and abroad—and Rev. Dr. Cochrane has compiled facts which speak eloquently of the noble work carried on in the home field. It is clear that the missionary spirit has been stirred, and that glorious and blessed results can be pointed out. The report brings before us the wide scope of the Home Mission field and the agencies that are employed therein, also the wide-spread interest of the people in this work. It was feared by some, when the great outburst of enthusiasm for Foreign Missions swept the church some years ago, that the home field would be forgotten, but the proof is here that such fears were groundless. Indeed it would seem that the awakening to the needs of the foreign field has produced a greater liberality generally, and that the enthusiasm in one branch of work has been contagious.

From the nature of the work it is difficult to give a birds-eye view of it, for columns of figures are after all but faint echoes of the reports from Presbyteries, Colleges, of the Missionaries, Superintendents and others who tell the Glad Tidings to the scattered settlers and the poor of this wide Dominion. We learn, however, that there are 354 mission fields, 382 church buildings, 1044 preaching stations, an average attendance of 37,846, and 17,633 families, and 3718 single persons, not connected with the families, who attend the mission services, and the number of communicants being 15,604.

From the Presbytery of Lindsay comes the complaint that "there does not seem to be the fruits commensurate with the outlay of men and money. . . A lamentable want of energy and zeal . . . A great deal of money is being practically thrown away". This is outspoken and doubtless this report will receive attention. The convener also complains "that many of the Mission Stations supported by the fund gave little or nothing in return, while at the same time contributing to other schemes; and that the amounts sent by many of the regular congregations are so small towards the support of a scheme which so vitally affects the very life and advancement of Presbyterianism in the Dominion". There is here a nice problem to solve. Opinions differ; but it does seem fair that the first charge on a congregation or mission station should be on account of its own maintenance.

#### The Manitoba Schools.

The portion of the Home Mission report dealing with the Manitoba school question will doubtless bring a responsive and sympathetic deliverance from the General Assembly. This question, has now, for the first time, this year, come fairly and squarely before the church, in the report of a responsible Committee. But the principles involved are not new to Presbyterians or to General Assemblies. It will be admitted that a great crisis exists in which the principles of religious liberty and equality on the one hand and ecclesiastical aggression on the other, struggle for the mastery. Ultramontane pretension and political treason traffic shamelessly in the open market. As a church journal we have hitherto refrained from discussing this question in these columns, feeling that it savored too much of party politics, the shallow trickery of which has been only too obvious. But the audacious mandement of the Bishops, has compelled Dr. Robertson to speak and the Presbyterian Church has to defend its own interests, which will surely suffer in the political ascendancy of Rome. Therefore the subject is germane to the business of the Assembly. The General Assembly ought to be outspoken. There should be no mistake as to the view it holds and no hesitancy in its expression. The passage in the Home Mission report has been drafted by Rev. Dr. Robertson, a man of moderate views, of fair judgment, who has gone over the field often and knows perfectly well whereof he writes. His report ought not only to be adopted, but strengthened by a resolution setting forth the importance of right action at the present time.

#### Foreign Missions.

One of the great treats of the Assembly will doubtless be the Public meeting on Foreign Missions. The work of the Church in the foreign field never fails to draw the sympathy and rivet the interest of large audiences of people. We hope a deep impression will be made to-morrow evening, should the Foreign Mission meeting be then held as is expected, and that the Church as a whole will feel its power. Never was the "day of power" more needed, for to our shame it has to be confessed that the Committee meets the Assembly with a deficit this year. The claims of this work cannot be too often urged; for having put her hand to the plough the Church cannot look back, neither can she stand still. A thriving work must be a growing one. There must be extension year by year as the able and devoted Secretary of the Committee points out, and it must not be forgotten that the increased interest in Foreign Mission means increased interest all along the line of church effort. The Home Missions and other schemes will not be crippled by a greater liberality to