

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT OTTAWA.

So soon again! How closely the years tread in each other's steps! Soon will follow the General Assembly that shall never be closed, where all questions of doctrine will be forever settled, and where there will be no debates on questions of practice, no calling to order of members who are exceeding their rights, no counting of votes, for all will be unanimous on the one great theme. But the best preparation for a higher future is a right use of the present so we must return to the subject before us.

• THE JOURNEY.

Going to the Assembly is a more speedy and easy matter than it was a year or two since. Twenty four hours easily takes me from *Truro* to *Montreal*. Then the taking of meals is more comfortable. It used to be a stoppage of fifteen or twenty minutes for refreshments morning, noon, and evening, with a hurried bolting of a heavy meal. Now a little table is placed between the seats in the car, meals are given on board at a reasonable rate, and one can eat leisurely while rushing along at a rate of forty miles an hour.

Leaving *New Glasgow* one afternoon, and *Truro* a little later, half past eleven at night finds us in *St. John*. Earliest dawn shows us the *St. Croix* river which we cross into *Maine*. All the forenoon we run by the new Short Line of the C. P. R. through wild and beautiful scenery of mountain, forest and stream. About noon we pass through the *Lake Megantic* region made famous by the name of *Donald Morrison*. And at four o'clock in the afternoon we roll across the mighty *St. Lawrence* on a new steel bridge some miles above *Montreal*. Up the beautiful *Ottawa* river and valley in the gathering shadows of evening and a little after nine o'clock we reach the *Capital* where hospital hearts and homes gave a warm welcome to the Commissioners to the General Assembly.

OPENING OF ASSEMBLY

At half past seven on a hot Wednesday evening June 11th. *Bunk St. Church* was well filled to listen to the opening sermon by *Principal Grant*, the retiring Moderator. The text was in *Heb. xii. 28-29*, and the theme was "A Kingdom that cannot be moved." The Kingdom is "righteousness and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." The preacher showed the character of that Kingdom and its effects in the life of the individual, the Church, the State, and the world. The sermon was long and strong and worthy of the occasion.

Next came the roll of Assembly. The calling of four hundred and fifty names of ministers and elders is a somewhat lengthy matter, and to some a very tedious one, but it is not without interest. Members find out who are there of old friends or well known names. It is, in a way, an introduction of each to all, and a common form of salutation on succeeding days as friend greets friend is "I heard you answer to your name on the night of the opening." Some of the members tried to carry a motion dispensing with the reading of the roll and having members report their attendance privately to the Clerk, but it was voted down by a large majority.

CHOOSING A MODERATOR.

Choosing a new Moderator is always an item of interest. Two names were proposed, *Rev. Dr. Laing* of *Dundas*, and *Rev. T. Sedgewick*, of *Tatamagouche*. *Mr. Sedgewick*, thanking those who had proposed him asked that his name be withdrawn, and *Dr. Laing* was chosen by acclamation. The hours of meeting were then fixed, extending from half past nine in the morning until ten at night with intervals for dinner and tea. While provision was thus made for the regular meetings of Assembly we may here state that in addition to this, much of the real work was done in Committees whose meetings were in the early morning, or late at night, or sandwiched between the meetings of Assembly, and sometimes during its sittings. Having thus made all necessary preparation for its regular work the first session was brought to a close and a general handshaking