

vinces, and to convey to that body the fraternal greetings and good wishes of the Church in Canada. After various other items of business of great importance, the Synod adjourned, to meet at Kingston on the second Tuesday of June, 1887. Special thanks were tendered to the congregation of Lancaster for their hearty reception of the Synod and their great hospitality.

**THE PRESBYTERIAN ASSEMBLY.**—The General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in Canada met at Hamilton on June 8th, and after a week of diligent work, which is duly reported in the public press, was dissolved, to meet at Winnipeg on June 9, 1887.

The Statistical Report shows 748 ministers on the Roll, besides 68 unenrolled preachers; Communicants, 127,611; Pastoral charges, 773; Presbyteries, 39. Some startling innovations were proposed, such as a term-service of five years of Eldership; and the "Consolidation," or, as Dr. Burns termed it, the "Deconsecration" of the Divinity Halls of Halifax and Queen's College, Kingston. But this has happily been defeated for the present. The Assembly took the side of toleration on the "Wife's Sister" question. Some conflict of jurisdiction occurred about Missions in the North-West; but a large amount of business was transacted.

Vancouver, the new city of the Pacific terminus of the Canada Railway, is burnt up, as was Miramichi sixty years ago! Thousands have been left homeless, and a number of lives perished. What is life and wealth on earth! Oh choose the better part that shall never be taken from you!

## SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

**THE BRITISH ELECTIONS** now going on are resulting greatly in favor of the Conservatives. Colchester was the first contested borough, and it returned a Tory by a very considerable majority. John Bright and Joseph Chamberlain were elected without opposition. Bright made a speech of tremendous power and earnestness against Gladstone's plan. He would have no parliament of any sort at Dublin. An Irish Government would be simply a plan to march through rapine to the dismemberment of the country. It could neither preserve order nor protect property. Lord Hartington also spoke very strongly against Home Rule. He gave a qualified approval of Mr. Bright's plan of governing by Committee of Irish members in London. The Marquis of Lorne refused to contest a seat in the Gladstonian interest, and advised electors to vote Union-

ist. By latest accounts, the last hope of the Gladstonians has failed. The Conservatives are confident of an ultimate strength of 372 against 300 Gladstonians. At 4 P. M. of the 9th inst., the returns were as follows:—Conservatives, 363; Unionists or Moderate Liberals, 54; Gladstonians, 133; Parnellites, 70.

PRINCE JEROME BONAPARTE, who has been recently expelled from France with other Bonapartists and Bourbon princes by the vote of the representatives of the people, expects soon to return to "save those who have proscribed him" from being guillotined by their repentant supporters.

THE FRENCH FLAG has been hoisted at last in the New Hebrides. This is dire news to the Protestant Missions there. Some hopes are still held out that France may back out; but she will return as soon as she can.

THE London Standard says:—"The Canadian Pacific Railway is a political triumph and achievement, the possibilities of which no one can foresee, and the military advantage of which may yet be the saving of the Empire. It is the contribution of our Canadian brethren to the organization for the defence of the Empire. It is our duty to show the world that we fully understand its importance."

THE Grand Secretary of the Grand Masonic Lodge of Canada has received from Colonel Shadwell, Clerk of the Grand Society of England, a jewel for Sir John A. Macdonald as representative in Canada of the Grand Lodge of England. The jewel is an exceedingly handsome one. Accompanying the jewel is a letter from the Grand Secretary of England, who writes: "I am instructed by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England, to transmit to you the accompanying jewel and to request that our representative at your Grand Lodge, R. W. Bro. Sir John A. Macdonald, G. C. B., may be duly invested therewith." It is probable that Grand Master Murray will invest Sir John with the jewel at the meeting of Grand Lodge this month.

THE TWENTY-FOUR HOUR SYSTEM is to be adopted on the Canada Pacific Railway. Mr. W. C. Van Horne, Vice-President of the Company, urges its adoption throughout Canada, and has issued the following circular:—

"In view of the new conditions that have to be met by this Company in establishing a continuous train-service on a line of railway covering fifty-three degrees of longitude and soon to cover sixty degrees (or four hours of time), it is necessary for convenience and to avoid confusion to adopt what is known as the 'twenty-four hour system'—that is, to substitute the numbers 13 to 24 for the present p. m. hours