

or triennial Assemblies. Some would leave matters as they are. The Assembly sent the report of the committee, together with the whole subject, to Presbyteries, which are expected to report next June. We hope Presbyteries will take an early opportunity to turn their attention to the remit. The subject has been before the Assembly at various times, and some of our ablest men have grappled with it, but without practical results. The wisdom of the Presbyteries, concentrated upon the matter, will surely help to a wise decision in June next, when the Assembly meets in Halifax. The remit is on page 40 of the Assembly minutes.

OTHER REMITS.

Besides the one just mentioned, there were two others remitted to the Presbyteries by last General Assembly,—to wit, that on the Marriage Affinity question; and that on the Book of Forms. The Book of Forms ought to be read paragraph by paragraph, by every Presbytery in the church. Thus only can we have an intelligent decision on its merits; and thus only will the book win the confidence of the whole church. A committee of brethren, specially qualified, has toiled over this book for years. We doubt not that the result will be worthy of the painstaking labours of these gentlemen. None will more cordially welcome criticism than the members of the committee.

The remit on the marriage question comes down in terms of the Barrier Act. The resolution on which the remit is founded was moved by Principal Caven, and was carried by a large majority. It remains for the Presbyteries to decide whether discipline shall cease to be exercised with regard to the marriages in question.

SYSTEMATIC BENEFICENCE.

Our General Assembly appointed a large committee on this subject, which will, no doubt, ere long, press the matter with renewed vigour on the attention of the church. Such committees have done good in the United States. In one of our own Synods, the Maritime, a committee on the subject has been engaged with greater or less vigour for twenty-five years. Much stress has been placed upon the duty of laying

by in store from week to week, as the Lord has given prosperity. Not a few have adopted this system of weekly storing. Numbers of churches have adopted the system of free-will weekly offerings, both for missions and for the support of ordinances at home. As there has been much useful literature on the subject freely circulated by our Tract Societies, west and east, the committee will find the ground somewhat prepared for the seed they are to sow.

Editorial Correspondence.

MILAN AND THE ST. GOTHARD.

ON route from Venice, we got a good view of the beautiful Lake di Garda, and traversed the field of Solferino, where well nigh forty thousand warriors fell in the decisive battle of 1859, that put an end to Austrian despotism and gave Italy a free constitution, and an open Bible. Milan, the ancient *Mediolanum*, was founded about 400 B.C. In 1630, it was visited by the plague which swept away about 140,000 of its inhabitants. It is now the third city in size in Italy, having a population of nearly 350,000. Unlike the neighboring cities of the plain to which we have referred, it shows no sign of decay. On the contrary, it is one of the most progressive towns in the kingdom, and one of the cleanest. Its opulence and importance are due mainly to the industry of the *silk-worm*, and the enterprize of its people. There is nothing attractive in its situation, except that it stands in the centre of a vast tract of land as level as some of our western prairies—and as fertile—intersected by a few lazy, shallow streams, useless to commerce, save as feeders to canals. "God made the country: man made the town." What a gorgeous country! What a beautiful town! Milan is almost circular in shape. It is girt round about with massive walls, seven miles and a half in circumference. From the Cathedral Square in the centre, the main streets diverge like the spokes of a wheel to its ten or twelve gates, and as each street has its well-appointed railway, it surpasses most other cities in its facilities for rapid and cheap intercommunication. Many of these streets are very handsome—and