

The Presbyterian Record.

Vol. XX.

JULY, 1895.

No. 7

The Meeting of Assembly. The Assembly is over, a brief sketch of its work begins on next page.

It might well have been closed by singing, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," for its review was most encouraging. The funds of nearly all the schemes were in good condition, and the work full of promise.

To many it is a heavy task and expense to attend, but good comes that could be attained in no other way. The laborer who in some lonely field has been growing discouraged, gets here a wider outlook, and goes back, to enter with new life and zeal upon his work. A number of intelligent elders who were there for the first time, were heard expressing thankfulness that they had come. The Church and her work seemed to them more real and great than they had even dreamed.

The Missionary Church is the one that has the Master's presence. "Go teach all nations"—"And lo I am with you." Perhaps it was because the Assembly gave Missions, Home and Foreign, so prominent a place, both in its work and its choice of Moderators, that tokens of this presence have been given.

Twenty Years. Just twenty years old is the Presbyterian Church in Canada, just a score of years ago, 15th June, 1875, its first General Assembly met in Montreal and consummated the Union of the four Presbyterian Churches then existing in the different Provinces. What changes time hath brought. In the Eastern Section, the first year after the Union, the receipts for Home Missions, were \$2,841; for Augmentation about \$4,000; and for Foreign Missions, taking the following year which was a more normal one, \$10,259; a total for these three main schemes, of \$17,140.

Last year the Eastern Section gave for Home Missions, including about \$2,000 given for the North-West, \$12,289; for Augmentation, \$8,263; and for Foreign Missions, \$27,485. A total of \$48,028, nearly three times the \$17,140 given for these objects twenty years ago.

In the Western Section, the first year after the Union, the receipts for Home Missions, including Augmentation, were \$28,800; and for

Foreign Missions, \$8,761, in all \$37,561. Last year the receipts in the West for Home Missions, was \$63,806, besides the \$8,777 received from Britain, and some \$23,000 expended by Presbyteries, which did not come into the General Fund. For Augmentation there was given \$26,227, and for Foreign Missions, \$86,447, in all \$176,180, besides aid from Britain and amounts expended by Presbyteries, or nearly five times the \$37,561 of twenty years ago.

The Giving of the Church. One of a delegation from the Anglican Synod of Huron, in addressing our Assembly in London, said that he understood the Presbyterian Church in Canada was largely made up of hard headed, close fistcd, Scotchmen; and he wondered how it was that in these hard times when Church Funds in so many places are falling behind, this Church gave so much for missions, and its schemes were so largely out of debt; and he wished to find out the secret of it. The secret is an open one. Those same hard headed men are the men for time of need. Presbyterianism makes much of the great truths of the Word of God. It drinks deep at that fountain of knowledge, and the Christian life that is thus fed is always a strong one. Presbyterianism has never been noted for its display, perhaps at times it has erred on the side of quiet reserve, but its "staying" power seldom fails. It is a cause for most fervent gratitude to God on behalf of our Church that during the past year, in the great and general depression that existed all over the Dominion, and the special losses that bore heavily upon some parts of it, nearly every leading mission scheme of our Church received more money than in any previous year, the total increase above the giving of the previous year being over sixty thousand dollars, apart from nearly \$9,000 given by the British Churches for work in the North West.

To the Work. Now for the work of another year. Let the success given in the past be an incentive for the future. Let there be more and better work at home. Let the light be flashed further into the world's darkness, to guide the footsteps of groping humanity in the way of life.