

## THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

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TORONTO, FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1878.

THE attention of all parties interested is requested to the following circular issued by Dr. Cochrane:—"Will you kindly send me a statement of anything of special interest in the Home Mission work under the care of your Presbytery, for insertion in the Assembly's Report. If possible, it should be sent me not later than the 6th of May."

## WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

ON Tuesday last the anniversary meeting of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was held. The members of the association met in Knox Church lecture-room in the afternoon, when there was a gathering of ladies numerically large, and in point of enthusiasm worthy of the occasion. The annual public meeting took place in Knox Church in the evening. The attendance showed the interest which the Presbyterians and other Christians of Toronto and throughout the land take in the cause of Foreign Missions. The meeting was distinguished by the presence of Rev. Dr. Ellinwood, one of the secretaries of the Foreign Mission Board of the (Northern) Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., and of Dr. Fraser of Formosa, and a large number of the clergy of Toronto and vicinity. As might be expected, the speaking was of a high order, and well calculated to impress every hearer with the vast responsibility resting upon Christian Churches of sending the Gospel and Christian missionaries to heathen lands.

In presence of such a meeting, the work done by the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society throughout the year, and the very deep interest taken in this enterprise by the public at large, we cannot but appreciate the expansive development of the cause of Foreign Missions which marks the times in which we live. If we were asked to point out some grand distinguishing feature of the present age, we should unhesitatingly say it is the growth of Foreign Missions. It was but of yesterday when this special work was in the hands of a few, when it was of interest to only some ministers and laymen who were

deemed fanatics and dreamers because of their enthusiasm, when only some of the churches were engaged in this noble undertaking. This has all changed in our own day. It is now a thoroughly systematised work. The churches emulate one another as to the munificence of their contributions. Foreign Missions now claim a special literature of their own. The work which was so long paralysed because of the isolation of its missionaries, and their separation from one another on far distant fields, is now crystallising in many different places. Not only have schools and colleges of learning grown up in many parts of the world, but there are large congregations regularly organized and carrying on their work very much as we do at home. We are familiar with the formation of Presbyteries and Synods which occupy foreign territory. Presbyterianism has taken root in many lands, and is presenting a similar development to that with which we are familiar nearer at hand. The tree which has thus struggled on in its growth in India, China, Syria, and many lands is destined to grow. It is now grand in its proportions and most promising of fruitfulness.

But the most remarkable feature of Foreign Missions is the part taken in them by the Woman's Foreign Missionary Societies. The meeting of Tuesday afternoon represents a vast organization, whose branches ramify in every possible direction. There is in connection with each of a number of our Presbyteries a Woman's Missionary Society. This is resulting beneficially in the raising of contributions for carrying on the work. The society carries its influence into every congregation, and consequently what a different exhibit in the contributions of to-day in nearly every church compared with that of only a few years gone by! Such associations too are diffusing the missionary spirit. No longer are missionaries' wives the only females to give a helping hand to the ministers in foreign countries. Now many young women are being prepared systematically for the work of Foreign Missions. They are doing important service as teachers, as nurses, and in many other occupations. They can carry the Gospel to the women of foreign countries, to whom men can have no possible access. They are the means of distributing a kind of benevolence to women and children, which could not be touched by the ordinary missionaries.

Whilst congratulating the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society on the success which they have already achieved, we regard all that has been accomplished as only the beginning of the end. We are entering upon a new stage of Foreign Missions. But what a work still lies before us! Yet surely we can speak with confidence of the approaching day when our blessed Christianity will carry its benign influence to all the ends of the earth. Let our sisters take courage from the past, and trust in God that He will bless their undertakings in the future.

## END OF THE CHURCH YEAR.

THE present ecclesiastical year terminates on the 30th of April, when the books of the Treasurers of the several Church Schemes are closed.

It is necessary therefore that all contribu-

tions should be forwarded within the next ten days in order that they may appear in the current year's accounts. Sometimes congregations are surprised and annoyed because they are not credited in the published reports with monies sent in a week or two before the date of the Assembly Meeting.

It ought, however, to be borne in mind that the preparation of the Reports and Financial Statements of the various schemes, together with the auditing and printing of these is a work not of days but of weeks, and that therefore the treasurer's books must close promptly on the 30th of April.

We are not aware of the actual state of the several funds at the present date, but trust that all Sessions and managers will see to the forwarding of their contributions without delay so as to swell the receipts as much as possible prior to the closing of the Church accounts.

Let all monies be mailed to the respective treasurers by the end of next week at latest.

## THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY.

IT is satisfactory to observe the interest which the Christian and more especially the Presbyterian community take in the closing exercises of Knox College and of the other Theological Seminaries. There was a large attendance, we are glad to hear, at the farewell services of Montreal College. On Wednesday of last week Knox College wound up the present session in a splendid manner. The attendance of the friends of the institution was an encouraging feature, and the services altogether were of a deeply interesting and instructive nature. It is indeed satisfactory to find that as the years roll on Knox College enjoys an increasing measure of popularity, and that students of a superior order of merit are being sent forth to take part in the ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, both at home and on foreign fields.

Professor Gregg in his closing lecture performed a valuable service in the interests of theology by his able and learned paper upon the Book of Deuteronomy. It is well known that a distinguished professor of the Aberdeen Free Church College is now on trial before his Presbytery for certain articles of his which appeared in the present edition of the "Encyclopædia Britannica" upon the Bible, and the various books which form its component parts. In particular the genuineness and authenticity of the Book of Deuteronomy have been called in question in a startling manner. The case of Professor Smith it is hoped will be ready for disposal at the forthcoming meeting of the General Assembly. The proceedings of the Presbytery of Aberdeen have been keenly watched, not only by the friends of religion, but by a large number of sceptics and infidels. When the case comes before the General Assembly, it will we cannot doubt excite a furore of interest, especially as the Presbytery has ruled as irrelevant a large number of the counts. Meanwhile, in this and other countries the public mind is deeply excited on these questions. Professor Gregg has seized the golden opportunity for a scholarly and temperate treatment of a part of the subject, and there can only be one opinion as to the merits of his lecture, that it was calm, clear and logical;