

with the exception of the Synod of the Maritime Provinces. Those admitted on certificate numbered 6,130, not all, however, as in most instances the change was merely one of ecclesiastical connexion. The number of persons removed during the year, through discipline, change of locality or death was 9,917. There is a decrease of persons baptised of twenty-three. The number of infants to whom the ordinance was administered was 10,144, a decrease of 120 on that of the preceding year, and of adults, 1,148, an increase of ninety-seven. There is an increase of 274 in the number of elders reported, the figures being 5,153. Other office-bearers of the Church, deacons or managers are 8,310, an increase of 513. The number of those attending the weekly prayer meetings was 46,193, an increase of 2,485. In the last report it was mentioned that there was an increase of 7,364 of those attending Sabbath schools and Bible classes on those attending in 1885. The returns for this report show a farther increase of 4,656 on those attending in 1886, or an increase for the two years of about 12,000. The total number in these classes was 112,940. The number engaged in Sabbath school work, including superintendents, teachers and other officers, are returned as 12,976, an increase of almost 1,000. Volumes in libraries, congregational and Sabbath school, aggregate 183,471, being a decrease of 210. The Church has, throughout her bounds, 349 missionary associations, with one Ladies' Aid, and 396 Woman's Foreign Missionary Societies, giving a total of 746 organisations for procuring contributions for the spread of the gospel on the wide and needy fields of the Dominion. There are in all 385 mission stations. In these there is sitting accommodation for 25,421 persons, which, added to those formerly given, make an aggregate for the Church of 452,138. The number of families connected with these stations is 4,897, or an aggregate for the Church of 83,546. Number of single persons 406, aggregate 13,667. Number of communicants 6,555, aggregate 152,195. Added on profession 744, aggregate 13,215; on certificate 284, aggregate 6,414. Removed 312, aggregate 10,230. Number of baptisms, infants 574, aggregate 10,718; adults sixty-three, aggregate 1,211. Number of elders 272, aggregate 5,425, and of other office bearers 535, aggregate 8,845. Number attending weekly prayer meetings 2,832, aggregate 49,025. In Sabbath school and Bible class 4,914, aggregate 117,854. Engaged in Sabbath school work 557, aggregate 13,533. Volumes in Sabbath school and congregational libraries 8,142, aggregate 191,613. Number of missionary associations nineteen, aggregate 368, and of Woman's Foreign Missionary Societies six, aggregate 402. Number of manse ten, aggregate, including rented houses, 577. Churches and manses built during the year fourteen aggregate 85, including one church repaired.

FINANCES.

Referring to the financial statements sent in, the committee says that \$738,086 has been reported as stipend received from all sources, an increase of \$70,868 on the same item as reported the preceding year, and an average of about \$820 to the 900 ministers whose names are on the rolls of the Presbyteries, and of nearly \$943 for each of the pastoral charges reporting. The stipend promised by congregations alone sums up to \$662,884, an increase on the previous year of \$33,245, and giving an average of nearly \$847 to each charge reported. The stipend paid by congregations alone was \$679,297, or \$16,413 in excess of that promised, and \$50,758 more than the amount paid according to the report of 1886, and giving an average of nearly \$868 to each of the number of charges reported. In the last report the arrears actually due on stipend aggregated the large sum of \$14,920; in this report they aggregate the larger sum of \$15,880, an increase of \$960. There are only three Presbyteries throughout the Church in which arrears do not appear, namely, Wallace, Newfoundland and Lindsay. The amount expended on church or manse during the year was \$393,330, an increase of \$77,033. Other strictly congregational purposes have called forth the liberality of the people to the extent of \$313,672, an increase on the previous year of \$21,275. The expenditure for these two purposes has been \$712,002, an increase of \$98,308 on the year 1886. For strictly congregational purposes, including stipend, church or manse and incidental demands, the total expenditure has been \$1,393,226, an increase of \$150,316, whereas last year showed a decrease on 1885 of \$17,796. In strict correctness, the increase should be \$196,616, made up of the sum of the increases. The total amount contributed for the Schemes of the Church was \$226,499, several items being included in this which are not credited to the particular scheme to which they were allotted. This amount shows an increase of \$33,037 on the contributions to the same objects in 1886. Of the entire sum \$10,832, a decrease of \$1,647, were paid for the colleges' ordinary fund; \$21,999 for the special fund, a decrease of \$2,248; and \$8,050 to Manitoba College, an increase of \$1,916, or a net decrease on the three of \$1,799. There were raised for Home Missions \$43,073, against \$32,204 the preceding year, being an increase of \$10,869. To the Augmentation Fund there has been an increase of payments to the extent of \$1,306, the figures for this report being \$32,562, and those in last year's \$31,256. For the purposes of French Evangelization \$22,752 have been raised, being an increase of \$2,868. A decided and large increase has been made in the amount contributed to Foreign Missions, the amount for this report swelling up to \$69,606, against \$50,001 in 1886, showing an increase of \$19,605. For the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund \$7,926 were contributed in 1886, and \$8,060 in 1887, an increase of only \$134—far short, it is understood, of the necessities and importance of the case. The payments to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund show a decrease of \$333, the actual sum being \$5,449. There is also a decrease to the extent of \$30 in the contributions to the Assembly Expense Fund, the sum raised by the different congregations being \$3,487. Of the total amount collected for the Schemes of the Church, \$21,456 came from Sabbath schools and Bible classes. Last report the sum was \$18,154 so that there is an increase of \$3,302. Dividing this by the numbers in attendance, an average is given to each of not

quite 20 cents. Of the entire amount raised for Foreign Missions, \$23,908 were received through Woman's Foreign Missionary Societies. There are only five Presbyteries all in the Synod of Manitoba and the North-West Territories, not reporting contributions by this agency; that the Presbytery of Toronto returns \$5,039; Lanark and Renfrew, \$1,713; Hamilton, \$1,583; London, \$1,348; Paris, \$1,149; Peterborough, \$1,179; Halifax, \$1,085. All the others come short of \$1,000, Quebec being the lowest with \$7. The amount raised for Synod and Presbytery Funds was \$7,622, an increase of \$37; and for all other religious and benevolent purposes \$95,927, an increase of \$13,547. The total contributions by pastoral charges was \$1,730,252, or an increase on 1886 of \$196,735, larger by more than \$30,000 than the income of 1881-82, which shows the largest increase since 1875-76, the year in which the Churches were united.

The average contribution for stipend per family was \$8.64 an increase of 40 cents on the rate of last year, and per communicant \$4.67, an increase of \$1.07; for all strictly congregational purposes, \$17.71 per family, increase \$1.41; and \$9.57 per communicant, an increase of \$0.47; for the Schemes of the Church, \$2.90 per family, an increase of \$0.37; and \$1.56 per communicant, an increase of \$0.15; and for all purposes, \$22 per family, increase \$0.82; and per communicant \$11.23, increase \$0.67.

The total increase for all objects for the year was \$1,730,252, exclusive of mission stations, which so far as reported have raised for the year \$42,862, an increase of \$10,674. The total named is an increase over the contributions of last year of \$196,735, and an increase over the contributions of 1875-76, the first year after union, of \$747,580.

Taking the Schemes of the Church, \$55 were raised in stations for the Colleges' Ordinary Fund, aggregate, \$10,887; \$41 for Special Fund, aggregate, \$22,040; and for Manitoba College, \$118, aggregate, \$8,168. The payments to the Home Mission Fund by stations were, \$1,087, aggregate, \$44,170; to the Augmentation of Stipend Fund, \$232, aggregate, \$32,794; to French Evangelization, \$319, aggregate, \$22,071; to Foreign Missions, \$263, aggregate, \$69,869; to Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, \$38, aggregate, \$8,098; to Widows' and Orphans' Fund, \$12, aggregate, \$5,461; and to Assembly Expense Fund, \$40, aggregate, \$3,527. The total contributions to the Schemes of the Church by mission stations were \$2,215, aggregating with those by pastoral charges, \$228,705. Of the amount raised for Schemes, \$246 were by Sabbath school and Bible classes, giving an aggregate from this source of \$21,702; and \$36 by Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, aggregating \$23,944. Stations contributed \$78 to Synod and Presbytery Funds, aggregate, \$7,700; and to other religious and benevolent purposes, \$394, aggregate, \$96,321. They raised for all purposes \$42,862, aggregate, \$1,773,114.

On motion of Principal Caven, the report was received and adopted and ordered to be printed in the minutes. Thanks were given to the committee, and especially to Dr. Torrance, for their diligence and gratitude was expressed for the steady growth of the Church and the large amount of liberality that has characterised the membership. In his address, Dr. Caven referred to the marvellous increase in the membership, contrasted with the Churches of the Old World, and spoke in eulogistic terms of the blessed effects of union, which had enabled united Presbyterianism to take a firmer hold of the country. He spoke also of the good work done by the Woman's Missionary Society, which had increased the spirit of missions throughout the entire Church, and the indebtedness of the Assembly to Dr. Torrance, for his great skill, industry and correctness in this and all his former reports. It was a great boon to the Church to have such a marvellous statistician. Dr. Bryce, Dr. Burns, Mr. James Croil and others spoke in similar terms.

CITY MISSION WORK.

An overture from the Montreal Presbytery regarding city mission work was received. Dr. Campbell, of Montreal, was heard in its support. It asks that missionaries be appointed in the larger towns and cities without any particular locality being designated and to be paid or assisted by the Home Mission Funds of the Church, the same as missionaries in country districts. Dr. Cochrane moved, seconded by Mr. D. J. Macdonnell, that the Assembly receive the overture, recognize the great importance of the matter to which it calls attention, approve of the object at which it aims and remit it to the Home Mission Committees East and West, to suggest regulations under which city mission work might be done, if the principle of the overture were adopted, and reported to next General Assembly.

CHURCH AND MANSE BUILDING.

Dr. Robertson, Superintendent of Missions, presented the report of the Church and Manse Building Fund for the North-West and British Columbia. The board, during the past year, assisted nineteen congregations and stations to erect or complete churches or manses. The building season does not synchronise with the year for which the board reports, and hence in four instances payments are made in part during the past year to congregations reported the previous year. Of the fifteen new congregations assisted, one is in the Presbytery of Rock Lake, one in the Presbytery of Calgary, two in the Presbytery of Regina, and eleven in the Presbytery of Brandon. Since the organization of the board, 109 buildings for church purposes have been erected. Of these buildings, fifteen are manses, four church manses and ninety churches; twenty-one are built of hewn logs, eighty are frame buildings, three are brick and five stone. Fifteen are in the Presbytery of Winnipeg, eleven in that of Rock Lake, thirty-five in Brandon, thirty-seven in Regina and eleven in Calgary. Fifty of the churches are in villages or towns along the railway. At present, the expense of Home Mission work in the North-West falls almost exclu-

sively on the Province of Ontario. Since so many settlers come to the North-West from the Maritime Provinces, surely assistance could be given by the members of the Church there, at least for the work entrusted to this board. The claims of the work need no advocacy and it is hoped that the presence of the General Assembly in Halifax this year will result in securing the co-operation of the Eastern section in the future to a much larger degree than in the past. Dr. Robertson, in presenting the report, gave an admirable address, showing the large increase in the Presbyterian settlers in the North-West, which demanded not only the supply of gospel ordinances, but Church buildings where they may be gathered in through these churches. Visability and permanence had been given to the churches.

On motion of Rev. D. M. Gordon, the report was adopted. He made special mention of the valuable services rendered this fund by Dr. Robertson and Mr. J. B. McKillingan, of Winnipeg, and urged upon the people of the Maritime Provinces the privilege as well as the duty of assisting the Home Mission and Church Building funds of the West.

UNION WITH THE ANGLICAN CHURCH.

Dr. Burns reported on behalf of the Committee on Union with the Anglican Church. The committee met in Halifax on Thursday, June 14. It was then reported that correspondence had been carried on with members of the committee and with the Rev. J. Langtry, the Convener of the Anglican Committee, and that a joint meeting had been arranged for October 18 in Toronto. The report was received and Dr. Caven appointed Convener.

THE MARRIAGE QUESTION IN INDIA.

An overture from the Presbytery of Indore anent the rule now in force in India preventing our Presbyterian missionaries from solemnizing the marriage rite, was read, and Dr. Moore heard in its support. It was agreed that the Foreign Mission Committee, through the Moderator, should memorialize the British Secretary of State that this grievance should be removed.

AGED MINISTERS' FUND.

Mr. Chase presented the report of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund for the east and Mr. McCoy for the west. Both reports were accepted. Mr. McCoy, in the absence of Mr. J. K. Macdonald, stated the present state of the fund and its urgent wants, and intimated that an effort would be made this fall to raise an endowment for the fund of \$100,000. Dr. Reid made a detailed statement of important matters connected with the work of the committee.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Dr. Cochrane presented the report on Standing Committees, which, with certain changes, was adopted. The Conveners are as follows: Board of Management, Knox College, Mr. William M. Clark; Senate, Principal Caven; Queen's College Bursary Committee, Mr. S. Houston; Board of Management, Montreal College, Mr. D. Morrice; Senate, Principal MacVicar; Halifax College, Board of Management, Dr. Burns; Senate, Principal McKnight; Manitoba College, Board of Management, Hon. A. G. B. Bannatyne and Chief Justice Taylor; Home Missions, Western Section, Dr. Cochrane; Eastern Section, Mr. S. McMillan; Augmentation, Eastern Section, Mr. E. A. McCurdy; Distribution of Probationers, Dr. R. J. Laidlaw; Foreign Missions, Dr. Wardrope and Mr. Alexander McLean; French Evangelization, Principal MacVicar; State of Religion, Dr. Moore; Sabbath Schools, Mr. Fleck; Sabbath Observance, Dr. Armstrong; Temperance, Mr. P. Wright; Widows' and Orphans' Fund, West, Mr. J. S. Blaikie; East, Mr. R. Laing; Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, West, Mr. J. K. Macdonald; East, Mr. E. Grant; Finance, West, Mr. J. S. Blaikie; East, Dr. Warden; Halifax Section, Mr. John S. McLean; Statistics, Dr. Torrance; Protection of Church Property, Mr. J. McLennan; Church and Manse Building Fund, Chief Justice Taylor; Hymnal Committee, Dr. Gregg; *Presbyterian Record*, Dr. Campbell.

FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

At Monday evening's sederunt of the General Assembly Professor Scrimger presented the report of the French Evangelization Board, in the absence of Principal MacVicar, the chairman, and gave encouraging statements as to the different branches of work under the care of the committee. He referred to the new proposition before the Board to obtain the building in Ottawa now known as the Ladies' College for the purpose of higher French Protestant training. In April last the Board of Management of the Ladies' College opened negotiations with a view to the transfer of the institution to the Board. After lengthened consideration and after a thorough inspection of the property by Mr. A. C. Hutchison, architect, who estimated the value of the grounds and building at about \$64,000, the Executive agreed to recommend the General Assembly to authorize the Board to purchase the grounds and buildings of the college, with their contents, for the sum of \$20,000, the amount to be paid, and the property, free from all encumbrances, transferred to the Board of French Evangelization on July 1, 1889, the college to be maintained as an educational institution under the control of the Board from that date. The Board of Management have signified their willingness to sell the property on the above conditions, subject to the consent of the shareholders, and will call a meeting for this purpose so soon as the sanction of the General Assembly is given to the recommendation of the Executive. Dr. Armstrong, in moving the adoption of the report, spoke strongly on the aggressions of Rome. Mr. Doudiet seconded the motion in eloquent terms, and it was afterward adopted. The Assembly also gave instructions to the French Evangelization Board to purchase the Ottawa Ladies College for the purposes indicated in the report.