

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. STATES.

This body, representing the largest Presbyterian Church in the world, met towards the last of May, in Chicago. There were about 500 members present,—there being representatives from China, India, Africa, Brazil, Palestine, Armenia, and Persia. The following is an abstract of Foreign Missionary operations during the year :

The missions have been enlarged during the year by transfer from the American Board of the Ojibwa, Seneca, Gaboon, Syria, and Persia missions, with their staff of laborers. Two missionaries have also been received in China. The working force of the Board has been increased by thirteen ordained ministers, two physicians, seven unmarried ladies, and the wives of some of the missionaries—in all thirty-two new laborers. Nine who had been at home returned to their different fields.

Four missionaries were removed by death—the Rev. Mr. Ellis, of Liberia; Mrs. Menaul and Mrs. Nassau, of Corisco; and Dr. Owen, of India.

The missions of the re-united Church take in a vast sweep of territory, and of a countless host who need the gospel. They are among eight tribes of Indians, among the Chinese in California, in the United States of Colombia, in Brazil, Japan, China, Siam, among the Laos in India, Persia, Syria, Western Africa, and among the Jews in New York. These embrace in all 25 missions, 111 ordained evangelists 5 missionary physicians, 2 superintendents of schools, 118 females, of whom 27 are unmarried, making a total of 236 foreign laborers. Besides these, there is a large number of native ministers, with more than 360 native helpers. The number of churches cannot now be reported; to these have been added more than 400 converts, making the present membership about 3,500. Over 10,000 youth, of both sexes, are receiving a Christian education in the schools. Some of these institutions are of a high order. Theological classes have been formed in several missions, and an enlarged native ministry will soon be raised up. With the exception of certain commotions in China, the missions had rest during the year, and were strengthened.

The financial condition of the Board has not been in as healthy a condition as was expected. The debt with which it closes the year is about \$43,300. The receipts, it is hoped, for the coming year, when the whole Church will get into full working order and into concert of action, will be sufficient to pay off this indebtedness, and

enable the Board to enlarge its operations in various fields.

Every thing is auspicious for a forward movement, and never were the different missions in such a favorable attitude for aggressive action. If the Church will but take hold of this cause in the spirit of the Master, and in sympathy with providential indications and openings, the progress of the work will be speedily marked and blessed.

The Assembly appointed two delegates to convey fraternal salutations to our Synod at St. John,—namely, Rev. J. B. Dunn, and Wm. Crook, both of Boston.

The Assembly resolved more than a year ago to raise a Fund of Five Millions, as a Thanksgiving Memorial for Union. The result of the effort was that they raised *Seven Millions, Six Hundred and Seven Thousand, Four Hundred and Ninety-nine Dollars, and Ninety-one Cents*. The success of the movement has astonished all the churches.

The Assembly has appointed a Board of Benevolence and Finance. It also adopted a Sustentation Scheme of which, owing to the practical importance of the subject to our own church, we give an ample outline :

(1.) That all the charges throughout the Church be divided into two classes—“*Full Pastoral Charges*,” and “*Church Extension (or Mission) Charges*.” The former comprising such as have pastors, and are sufficiently advanced to pay a salary of \$500, provided only that this be equal to the minimum hereinafter named for the membership. The latter class to include all such charges as have stated supplies, and such pastorates as pay less than \$500 *per annum* of salary, or less than the minimum rate per member. Only the former class are, at present, to come under the Sustentation Scheme for aid. The latter class, if needy, are to be under the care of the Board of Home Missions until they are advanced to full pastoral charges, and are so certified, by vote of Presbytery, as entitled to aid under this scheme.

The propriety of thus beginning with pastoral charges, already somewhat developed, is : 1st. That *all* cannot be aided by this scheme, at the outset. 2d. A beginning is made with those who are in regular ecclesiastical relation, in hope of thus aiding to bring to an end the anomalous and disorderly system of stated supplies—that it may give place to the pastoral relation in the great majority of cases; and 3rd. This will encourage new churches to spring.