

communicants of 380. The total number added during the year was 11,395, while removals amounted to 7,838. There is a gratifying increase of attendance at prayer-meetings. It is reckoned at nearly 2,000. Those attending Sabbath school and Bible class during the year register 91,672, and those engaged in the work of teaching and discharging duties in connection with the Sabbath school, number 10,533. Besides other reading matter more or less plentifully provided the Sabbath school libraries contain 175,848 volumes. Missionary Associations have been established in 343 congregations. Nearly 600 congregations have either manse, or provide residences for their ministers. Last year forty-five new churches and twenty manse were built.

Coming now to finances, we find that last year there was an increase over the previous year of stipend promised amounting to no less than \$45,333, and an increase actually paid of \$33,449. Another item fails to be recorded which it is hoped will rapidly diminish until it finally disappears altogether from the statistical report, that of arrears of stipend. There really is no need for such an item at all. This year it amounts to the sum of \$11,251.

Of the regular schemes of the Church there has been a total increase in college funds of \$3,933, while in the ordinary revenue there has been a decrease of \$1,779. The income of the Home Mission Committee is reported as \$43,703. The receipts from all sources for Foreign Missions during the year were \$47,965; in both instances showing a very gratifying increase. The schemes next in order have not a satisfactory showing. The pittance doled out to support aged and infirm ministers and the widows and orphans of ministers should not be grudgingly given. In the former there was a diminution from the previous year of \$451, while in the latter the decrease—there was a decrease—was only \$69. We conclude by subjoining the following extract from the Committee's report, which gives valuable, encouraging, and we hope stimulating information:

The average contribution for stipend over the Church at large was \$8.20 per family: last year it was \$7.96, and \$4.83 per communicant—last year \$4.62. For all strictly congregational purposes the average per family was \$16.51—last year, \$17.15; and per communicant, \$9.71—last year \$9.96. The average contributions to the schemes of the Church was at the rate of \$2.61 per family—last year, \$2.40, and per communicant, \$1.53—last year \$1.40. For all purposes, the contributions per family was \$20.47—last year, \$20.67; and per communicant, \$12.04—last year, \$12.01. It will thus be seen that there is an increase in those items which form the best criterion for judging of the Church's true prosperity.

The following is the reported total income and of the increase since the union of 1875:

	Total Income.	Increase.
1875-76.....	\$ 382,672	
1876-77.....	986,115	\$ 3,433
1877-78.....	1,030,386	44,271
1878-79.....	1,110,381	79,995
1879-80.....	1,162,154	51,773
1880-81.....	1,245,495	83,341
1881-82.....	1,409,748*	164,253
1882-83.....	1,422,783*	13,035
1883-84.....	1,453,624*	30,759

*Exclusive of mission stations, which this last year contributed \$13,098.

BRITISH GENERAL ASSEMBLIES.

THE various Assemblies and Synods of the British Presbyterian churches have been held, and the next assemblage of interest to the entire Presbyterian family of churches is the Pan-Presbyterian Council, which convened at Belfast yesterday. The first in order of time were the Synods of the English Presbyterian and United Presbyterian Churches. In the former, presided over by Rev. Robert H. Lundie, steady and encouraging progress made by Presbyterians throughout England and Wales was cordially acknowledged in the Synod which met at Liverpool. No specially exciting topics came up for discussion. A subject of general interest was amicably and satisfactorily solved. The discussion on revision of the Confession of Faith did not disclose any serious divergence of opinion, and the conclusion reached created neither anxiety nor alarm. Evangelistic and Foreign Mission work had been well supported by the English Presbyterian Church during the year.

The United Presbyterian Church which originated 150 years ago, held its annual Synod meeting as usual in the ancient Scottish capital. Rev. Dr. Hutton, of Paisley, was elected moderator. In this ecclesiastical Assembly no burning question distracted attention from

the ordinary and necessary work coming under yearly review. This Church, holding as it does very decided views against Church and State connection, bore its usual unequivocal testimony against its continuance. A general increase in membership, and contributions for congregational Home and Foreign mission purposes was reported. One of the features of the U.P. Synod is the missionary meeting. The large hall was crowded by a most attentive audience. Missionaries representing Kaffraria, Calabar, Livingstonia, Rajpootana, China and Japan, addressed the meeting. Much attention was given to the consideration of practical Christian work among the lapsed masses in large cities.

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland was opened with the pomp and circumstance usual on such august occasions. The Earl of Aberdeen was Her Majesty's Commissioner. The procession escorted by a squadron of Scots Greys, and a detachment of the Gordon Highlanders, forming a guard of honour, wended its way through the historic streets of Old Edinburgh to the St. Giles Cathedral, where the retiring moderator preached the sermon. In the Assembly Hall afterwards, the Supreme Court of the Church of Scotland was constituted. The Rev. Dr. McKenzie, of Urquhart, was appointed moderator. A letter from the Queen was read conveying Her Majesty's good wishes and an announcement that the grant of \$10,000 to the Highlands and Islands was continued. The missionary work in which the Church of Scotland is engaged, both at home and abroad, is growing in interest, magnitude and efficiency. It also supplies ordinances for residents abroad at a number of continental capitals. It has an extensive Jewish mission, besides important foreign missions strictly so-called. There were painful cases of discipline before the court. Rev. Mr. Whyte, of Queensferry, who at one time had a charge in Canada, was solemnly deposed from the office of the ministry for immoral conduct. The most exciting case, however, arose out of the troubles connected with the Calcutta Mission. Painful rumours were circulated respecting the character of parties connected with institutions under the supervision of the missionaries. The principal of the Collegiate Institute, Mr. Hastie, had zealously sought to rectify abuses. With greater zeal than discretion he had brought grave charges against individuals. This led to a trial for libel before the Calcutta judiciary. The plaintiff gained the case against Mr. Hastie. For his want of discretion, and for his "temper and disposition," he was dismissed by the Foreign Mission Committee. Against this he appealed, and a protracted and exciting debate resulted, Mr. Hastie speaking for eight mortal hours. A large vote of the Assembly sustained the action of the Foreign Mission Committee.

Our readers will be gratified to hear that in connection with the consideration of the Colonial Committee's report, Rev. John M. King, D.D., was heard on behalf of the Canadian Church, representing specially the urgent claims of the North-West. "In conclusion, he wished to say that, returning to Scotland after a long absence, he contemplated with pleasure the reviving and growing life of the Church of Scotland, and in the name of the Church he represented he bade them God speed in all their work."

The Free Church General Assembly met on the 22nd ult., the Rev. Horatius Bonar, D.D., the retiring moderator, preached the opening sermon on our Lord's Transfiguration. Dr. Walter Ross Taylor, of Thurso, was elected moderator. Rev. Dr. Wilson was appointed to the clerkship rendered vacant by the death of Sir Henry Wellwood Moncrieff, and Rev. Mr. Melville, Glasgow, was elected second clerk of the Assembly. The ordinary work in which the Church is engaged at home and abroad received a large share of the Assembly's attention. Gratifying progress was reported. In connection with the sustentation fund it was stated to be the intention of the committee to raise the minimum stipend to \$1,500. In this Assembly also there was a painful discipline case, that of a Glasgow minister who was deposed for indecent behaviour. There was an animated debate on the land question, which resulted in the adoption of a motion petitioning the Government to legislate in the line of the Crofters' Commissioners' report.

The organ question was again debated. The decision reached upheld the deliverance of the previous Assembly. The establishment of a chair of Natural Science in Glasgow Free Church College having been favourably reported on by a majority of Presbyteries

was resolved upon. Mr. James Stevenson promised \$15,000 for the support of the new chair, to which Mr. Henry Drummond, author of the recently published work, "Natural Law in the Spiritual World," was appointed.

The question of most general public interest was that concerning disestablishment and disendowment. The debate was conducted with excellent spirit throughout. It is true that Free Church opinion on this subject has made a great advance within recent years. After an able and spirited discussion the motion of Principal Rainy affirming that "disestablishment and disendowment are essential, that they have been too long delayed, and that the time has come to press the matter energetically upon the Legislature," was carried by a vote of 372 to 59. Rev. Mr. Balfour's amendment asserting the establishment principle. If disestablishment in Scotland is not now a burning question it will soon be.

The Irish General Assembly will be referred to in another issue.

THE NEW HEBRIDES MISSION.—Rev. H. A. Robertson, of Eromanga, is at present in Toronto carrying through the press a translation of the Gospel into *Eromangan*. Until this important work be completed, he cannot respond to any requests for a mission address except on Sundays, and in congregations at or near Toronto. His address until 1st August is No. 41 Wood St., Toronto, or to Mr. C. Blackett Robinson, publisher, 5 Jordan street. One of the difficulties experienced by the missionaries at these stations is that of clothing the native children who attend the school. Mr. Robertson has made arrangements with Mr. Isaac A. Grant, merchant, of Pictou, who has kindly undertaken the task, to ship goods for this purpose to care of Rev. Dr. Steele, of Sydney, Australia, who will forward to the missionary for whom they are intended by the *Day Spring*, which sails on the 1st April for the mission field. Mr. Robertson appeals to the congregations, Sabbath schools, and societies desirous of assisting the cause to forward contributions of made-up clothing or calicos to Mr. Grant not later than August 31st, and notify Mr. Grant that they have been sent. The following are the addresses of the three missionaries in the New Hebrides: Rev. J. W. McKenzie, Efate; Rev. J. Annand, Anietyum; Rev. H. A. Robertson, Eromanga; in care of Rev. Dr. Steele, Sydney, Australia.

THE deputation consisting of Revs. Professor McLaren, Dr. Reid, Professor Gregg, Dr. Laing, Messrs. James McLennan, Q.C., and J. K. Macdonald, appointed to convey the fraternal greetings and congratulations of the General Assembly to the Toronto Conference of the United Methodist Church on the consummation of Union, were received by the Conference last Friday afternoon. The Hon. Alexander Morris, who was appointed a member of the deputation, was unable through illness to be present. The resolution of the Assembly was read by Dr. Reid, and the Moderator, in a happy and hearty manner, conveyed the congratulations of the Presbyterian Church. He was followed by Mr. McLennan, who spoke appropriately on the tendency toward union characteristic of the age. Dr. Laing also spoke of the divisions of the past, the strong desire for union existing at present, and the hope of the future depending on the Christian instruction of the youth of the land. The last member of the deputation to address the Conference was Mr. J. K. Macdonald, who in a fine spirit referred to the harmonious co-operation of the two churches in all works of Christian and benevolent activity. The reception the deputation met with was most cordial. The resolution in response was moved by Rev. Dr. Dewar in his own kindly and vigorous way. Messrs. Warring Kennedy and Daniel McLean were no less cordial in seconding and supporting the resolution. Such reciprocal interchanges of brotherly kindness are delightful in themselves, beneficent to the respective churches, and in accordance with the Master's will expressed in the solemn prayer: "That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that Thou hast sent me."

THE congregation of Erskine Church worshipped in the Mission Hall, corner Elm and University streets, for the last time on Sabbath last. The services will be held in the school-room of their own church next Sabbath.