

will come into the Establishment;” while the others as definitely say “we want union, but if ever it comes it must be outside the Establishment.” It is, therefore, quite safe to predict that changes must come before the union of Scottish Presbyterianism.

The women too have their part in the work. The “Scottish Women’s Church Defence Association” held meetings during the sittings of the Assembly, and is taking steps to organize branches in every parish throughout the church. All that can be done, will be done, for the defence of the Establishment, and when the day comes for its abolition, its friends will not have to reproach themselves for want of zeal or effort in its defence.

The Free Ch. Met in “Scotia’s darling seat”

Assembly. on the 24th of May. Two thousand people gathering at noon-day to listen for three hours to the opening sermon of the retiring moderator, Dr. Walter C. Smith, and the address of his elected successor, Principal Douglass; and the interest during the fortnight, less a day, of the Assembly’s work, shows the Scotch true to their antecedents.

The review of their work was encouraging. Though the year has been such a “hard one,” the income of the Church for all purposes, £865,819, over three millions and a quarter of dollars, was larger than ever before. True the increase was due to legacies, donations, &c., yet the ordinary contributions were good.

Sustentation still sustains. The income is somewhat less than last year, Jubilee year, but in direct contributions only £288 less than 1892. The slight falling off is chiefly due to legacies.

In their Sabbath Schools 222,644 young people are reported, with 20,000 teachers, and \$35,000 as their giving for the year.

As is our own church they are seeking some better plan of bringing together churches without ministers and ministers without churches, and some of their difficulties and remedies, remind one of the utterances in our own Assembly at St. Johns, even to the proposal made in both Assemblies that probationers spend a year in Home Mission work before being eligible for a call, and the objection that in some cases it would be unfair alike to probationer and congregation. They are not much overcrowded with men. Of the 135 on the probationers roll, 45 are assistants to ministers in large cities, 41 are missionary assistants in large congregations, 14 are supplying Home Mission stations, and only 35 are without regular employment and giving occasional supply. Of the 259 students in their Halls, 32 have offered for Foreign Mission work.

They too had a talk over “the new hymn book,” one which the three Scottish Churches are preparing, and which is making good progress. It sounds a little — well — cool, to read that

“the co-operation of other churches outside of Scotland has not been sought, but the expectation is not unreasonably cherished that when finished it may become the Hymn Book of the Presbyterian world.” The expectation would be more reasonable and more likely to realize if the courtesy of co-operation were extended to others.

The report of their publications shows that the *Monthly* has a circulation of 81,300 copies as against the 50,000 of our own *Record*, and their *Children’s Record* 75,000 to the 22,000 of our own; while *Youth*, a new midway monthly has 3,000, and the *Gaelic Witness* 4,500, per quarter. The Scotch like to read, and like it solid.

The Highland “secession” will not make history for the readers of coming years. Two ministers, McDonald of Shieldaig and McFarlane of Raasay, withdrew from the Church on account of the Declaratory Act.

A growing wish to renew union negotiations with the U. P. Church, was shown by several Presbyterian overtures to that end and by the hearty approval with which they were welcomed by the Assembly.

Their mission work shows life. Even Scotland has Home Missions. There are *classes* and *places* to be cared for. Plowmen and quarrymen, tinkers and fishermen, are often massed in ignorance, while parts of the Highlands, and elsewhere, afford a lingering Home Mission Field, and 34 mission stations, 20 church extension charges, 12 territorial charges and 96 congregational missions figure in their H. M. Report.

Among the Jews they have five mission stations, at Breslau, Pesth and Constantinople, and two in Palestine, Tiberias and Safed. Some of these are old and flourishing, as Pesth with its school of 500 pupils and an extensive system of Bible distribution and colportage, while others are young, but promising, as in the Holy Land.

Continental Missions are represented in many of the centres of Europe by Churches which are proving sources of light amid the darkness of Romanism.

In the Foreign Field their chief work is in Africa and India, though not confined to these. They work with us and others in the New Hebrides. Their F. M. income for the year was about \$272,000, an advance on the previous year. As with us, their Women’s F. M. work is making progress. Their Ladies Association, during the year, raised at home \$50,000 which is supplemented by nearly as much more in India and Africa, and in the Foreign Field it supports 50 Scottish women and 300 native agents.

Their Colonial Committee has a watchful eye and a helping hand for all the Colonies, especially in Australasia, and now, largely through the efforts of Mr. C. W. Gordon of Winnipeg, there has been created a very deep interest in all the Scottish Churches for the great North-West.