

where philosophy has a wider sweep and science a loftier throne, and poetry more commanding names. There may be other lands, like the Old Country, where ruins rise in every strath and glen and valley around which weird legends, stories of romance, cluster. There may be other lands where ancestry runs deeper down under ground and further back, but for the future few have brighter prospects. And finally, I am glad to know that you are all as ready to sing of the Greater Britain as we are of the Lesser Britain: "With all thy faults I love my country still, and while yet a nook of British mind and manners may be found shall be constrained to love thee."

The Moderator returned to Mr. Stewart the thanks of the Assembly for his eloquent address, and charged him to convey to the Free Church of Scotland the greetings of the Canadian Church, and their gratitude for the evidences given from year to year of their interest in the mission work of Manitoba and the North-West.

THE HOME MISSION REPORT.

Tuesday morning, the report of the Home Mission Committee was taken up for discussion. Dr. King and Rev. James Robertson gave interesting details respecting the work in Manitoba and the North-West. Mr. Herdman, Calgary, spoke of the discouragements and encouragements connected with the work. There was much immorality, which had an injurious effect on all Christian labour. Professor Bryce repudiated the idea that immorality was a prevailing characteristic of North-Western life, and paid a high tribute as to the character of the people settled in the North-West. Mr. McKillop opposed retrenchment. Dr. Cochrane suggested that there should be Woman's Home Mission Societies. Mr. James O. Fraser gave an account of the state of the country and the difficulties to be encountered. Rev. Donald Fraser, of Victoria, gave a graphic description of the condition of the people in British Columbia. He spoke in high terms of the labours of Rev. Robert Jameson, pioneer missionary in the most western province of the country, and also made a touching reference to the brief pastorate of the late Rev. J. S. M. Kay. Mr. McKenar spoke at some length, recommending the abolition of the Manitoba Synodical Committee. Rev. J. Douglas considered that the continuance of the Committee was for the present necessary. Mr. D. Smucker explained the action of the Brandon Presbytery and the Manitoba Synod concerning the Synodical Committee. Mr. Hodnett and Mr. Gray continued the discussion. Dr. McLaren took occasion to correct some misapprehensions as to the relative importance of Home and Foreign Mission work. Dr. MacVicar was of opinion that the Woman's Missionary Society has not done too much for Foreign Mission work, but they ought to do equally as much for Home Mission work. The report was adopted. Several members having recommended the formation of Woman's Home Mission Societies, Dr. Reid was doubtful of the advisability of the formation of such societies at present. Rev. M. W. McLean suggested that the constitution of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society be revised so as to allow such societies to contribute something to the Home Mission funds. Dr. Caven did not think it would be wise to urge this matter, and suggested that a committee be appointed to devise means for evoking the liberality of the Church. Too much money was spent on liquors and tobacco. Rev. L. M. Gordon suggested that the claims of Augmentation should be better regarded by ministers themselves, and thought that the Scheme should be specially commended to the liberality of the ministers. Rev. P. McF. McLeod considered that ministers gave liberally, and besides it was not merely a matter for ministers, but for congregations; he suggested the removal of disheartened and discouraged pastors that they might be settled elsewhere.

STATISTICS.

Rev. Dr. Torrance submitted the report of the Committee on Statistics.

The first part of the report dealt with the action of the committee in making the Presbyteries acquainted with the resolution passed by the last General Assembly to close the fiscal year with the calendar year. Considerable success attended this movement. It had been feared that this year's report of statistics would show a considerable falling off in the finances. But it had been an agreeable surprise on looking into the statistics that there had been an increase all over the line. There were thirty-nine Presbyteries last year and forty-two this year, making an increase of three. There were only three Presbyteries, according to reports already received, without mission stations. The number of vacancies reported amounted to ninety-four. There was plenty of room in the college for the training of students for practical work. Only forty-three congregations had not reported, which, though a smaller number than in any other year, was yet forty-three too many. In the majority of cases the non-reporting congregations were vacancies. There were 1,773 stations. The seating accommodation amounted to 410,975, or an increase of \$30,776 over last year, which was largely due to the erection of new churches

and halls. The number of families attending churches, as far as reported, were 76,226, an increase of 4,215 over last year. Of single persons attending churches an increase of 1,000 was reported over last year. Of the 76,000 families 57,441 contributed support to the ordinances. There was also a large increase in the number of communicants as well as of elders, office-bearers, etc. During the twelve years, ending 1887, the total amount received had been \$15,475,911, or an average of \$1,287,992 for each year. He recommended that the committee be instructed to alter the clause relating to the number of families contributing to Church ordinances. Second, that the Presbyteries be instructed to see that the congregations carry out the resolution of the Assembly of 1886 relative to closing of the fiscal years with the calendar year. Third, that the Presbyteries be instructed to take immediate steps for the payment of all arrears of stipends in their districts. A few other suggestions were also made. Dr. Thompson moved the adoption of the report, and that the thanks of the Assembly be tendered to the Convener for his painstaking labour and untiring devotion to this arduous part of the Church's work, and that the Assembly express its profound sense of satisfaction with this most admirable document. The resolution then expressed the hope that the recommendations set forth in the report will be faithfully carried out. He regretted the number of vacancies in the Church, and expressed the opinion that if congregations could not suit themselves the Presbytery should undertake to appoint ministers.

Rev. Dr. Gregg seconded the report, which was adopted.

Rev. Dr. Reid next presented the report of the Committee on Finance (Western Section). The receipts showed an increase over last year, and were as follows: Home Missions, 1884-85, \$31,660; 1885-86, \$32,276; 1886-87, \$32,337. For Augmentation, 1884-85, \$22,459; 1885-86, \$23,721; 1886-87, \$30,570. Colleges, 1884-85, \$8,495; 1885-86, \$8,504; 1886-87, \$5,851. Foreign Missions, 1884-85, \$38,773; 1885-86, \$38,881; 1886-87, \$49,817. Widows' Fund, 1884-85, \$4,685; 1885-86, \$4,065; and 1886-87, \$4,863. Ministers Rates, 1884-85, \$1,694; 1885-86, \$2,241; 1886-87, \$2,304. Fund for Aged and Infirm Ministers, 1884-85, \$5,658; 1885-86, \$10,026; and 1886-87, \$7,630. Ministers Rates, 1884-85, \$2,292; 1885-86, \$1,087; and 1886-87, \$910. French Evangelization (Toronto), 1884-85, \$6,347; 1885-86, \$7,138; 1886-87, \$8,839. Manitoba College, 1884-85, \$1,320; 1885-86, \$3,000; and 1886-87, \$3,372. Assembly Fund, 1884-85, \$3,196; 1885-86, \$3,237; and 1886-87, \$3,306. Dr. Cochrane moved the reception and adoption of the report, which was carried.

THANKS TO DR. REID.

Mr. J. K. Macdonald, coming forward, said he had a motion to set forth which he was sure would meet with the hearty appreciation of all present, and he only regretted more of the delegates were not present to give still louder emphasis to its adoption. He then moved that the Assembly avail itself of the opportunity now presented to express its deep sense of the value of the services rendered to the Church by Rev. William Reid, D.D., in his position as agent. The Assembly recognizes in the devoted, faithful and untiring services rendered for the long period of thirty-four years, and in the uniform correctness which has marked his keeping of the numerous accounts of the Church, a high measure of ability and a degree of service which have been but inadequately acknowledged by the salary attached to the office. The Assembly now tenders to the Rev. Dr. Reid its very heartfelt and sincere thanks, and expresses the prayerful hope that it may please the Almighty Father to spare him for many years of continued usefulness. Rev. Dr. Caven seconded the motion, and highly eulogized the long and faithful services of the venerable Clerk of the Assembly. Rev. Mr. Wallace, Rev. Dr. Fraser and Mr. Warden expressed their very high appreciation of Dr. Reid's service. The motion was carried by a standing vote. Rev. Dr. Reid, in the course of a few appropriate remarks, expressed himself deeply affected at the motion. He felt a little humiliated too, for he sought not publicity, but to be allowed to pursue his own course quietly. He then briefly reviewed the past, dwelling with much satisfaction on the fact that his relations with the brethren had been always of the most agreeable and harmonious nature.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Rev. Dr. Wardrope, in brief but appropriate remarks, presented the report of the Board of Foreign Missions. He spoke of the relative importance of Home and Foreign Mission work, showing that there was no rivalry between the respective Schemes, and that both had urgent claims on the Church. Dr. Archibald, of St. Thomas, moved that the report be received, and the General Assembly record with great joy to God their sense of the indications in the Church of the growing interest in the evangelization of the heathen, their high appreciation of the successful efforts made by the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society to develop this interest and raise funds for the prosecution of the work, and their satisfaction with the

manner in which the work generally has been prosecuted during the year; and they also tender their cordial thanks to the committee, and especially to the Convener. As had been said, the work of the Church was such that they had been in the habit of dividing it up into two parts—Home Missions and Foreign Missions—for convenience sake. He rather favoured three divisions, viz., what we do for ourselves as congregations, what we do for our country, and thirdly, what we do for foreign missions. He then reviewed the work of the different Foreign Mission stations of the Church. In three years they had gone behind over \$20,000. They had gone through their reserve funds and gone into debt. Evidently the Church is failing to meet its obligations. It was time, he thought, that the Church was converted as to its pockets. Newfoundland had given on an average per communicant \$2.85; Toronto came second, with \$2.58; Montreal third, with \$2.30; and Winnipeg fourth, with \$2.17; and these were the only four churches that had given the minimum amount. The Assembly were peculiarly pleased to know that Winnipeg stood fourth among the first congregations in this respect. Nineteen Presbyteries had given \$1.35 on an average; eighteen less than \$1, average of seventy cents, only one-third of what they were asked for. It averaged fifty-one cents each per year all over the Dominion, less than one cent a week for each communicant to convert the millions of heathens. He thought this was a lamentable state of affairs and thought something should be done in the matter at once. Ministers should not only bring it before their congregations, but should practise what they preach. There were ministers who gave out of all proportion to their ability, and he could name many who act the part of self-denial, and others who ought to be ashamed of the smallness of their contributions. Rev. Mr. Mowat briefly seconded the motion. The Church had a Foreign Mission almost before she had a Home Mission, and in the years gone by, missionaries had gone forth to those foreign lands, and set up the cross of Christ, and it was not the part of Britons, nor was it the part of Presbyterians, to beat a retreat from these stations so grandly won. There was a magnificent legacy then to be won, but the Church was creeping, and should be awakened to the importance of this work, for where there was such work to be done there should be the means forthcoming for the carrying of it on, and he believed there would be such if the matter were brought more prominently before the different congregations. Mr. J. K. Macdonald also supported the resolution. He thought the real trouble was that the Churches were straitened in themselves, and he thought the people should be ashamed of the paltry sums they gave towards a great work. There was needed more than a missionary sermon from the ministers from time to time, and there was also a consecration required of the laity. They should consecrate what God bestows on them, and give far more than had been given in the past. Ministers and laymen should work together more for the common cause of the common Master. In concluding he paid a high tribute to the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, and particularly the President, and expressed the hope that they would go on in their good work, and that God would bless them in it.

The meeting was then addressed by Revs. George Flett, missionary at Fort Pelly, John McKay, of Mistawasis Reserve, and Mr. Hugh McKay, of Round Lake. The addresses throughout were earnest and impressive, and all who heard them will doubtless be more devoted to the great cause of Foreign Missions

(To be concluded.)

IN Victoria, Australia, the Presbyterian college buildings, costing some £40,000 sterling, have recently been opened. These buildings are the gifts of Hon. Francis Ormond and Mr. Wyselaskie. The latter gave £20,000 for endowing a chair.

THE people of Switzerland have decided by a popular vote that the right of manufacturing and selling intoxicating liquors shall be exclusively vested in the Government of the country, hoping thereby to limit the use of these liquors as a beverage. This is one way of getting at it.

ARCHBISHOP CORRIGAN, of New York, lives in a princely marble palace, which is equipped and maintained for him free of cost. From cathedral funds he receives a salary of \$5,000; from each Church in the diocese a "cathedral tax" of \$200 a year, amounting to \$15,000 per annum. He receives \$1 for every interment in Calvary Cemetery, estimated at \$4,000 per annum, and, in addition to this, fees and gifts of the wealthy, say \$20,000.

GERMANY has recently taken possession of the Cameroons district, in West Africa, and besides a few German missionaries to take the place of the retiring English Baptist missionaries are the following imports from Germany: 1,524,028 litres of rum, 37,800 bottles of gin, 1,588 old muskets, and 1,000 cartridges and 56,039 kilogrammes of tobacco. "These returns are characteristic of the manner in which 'civilization' is introduced from Germany," says the *Geographical*.