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The Assembly Minutes.

THE acts and proceedings of the sixteenth General Assembly will be in the hands of the office-bearers of the church before these lines are read. A goodly volume it is, carefully edited and conveniently arranged for reference. We bespeak for it a careful perusal. Turning over the pages the reader will be impressed with the variety and extent of the enterprises in which our Church is engaged. The statistical tables give valuable information regarding most of the congregations from Newfoundland to Vancouver Island, with ample details of the Home Mission work in all the Presbyteries, and even beyond their bounds—amid the mists and storms of barren Labrador. To-day our ministers and missionaries proclaim the glad tidings in many languages—in English, Gaelic, French, Italian, Icelandic, Cree, Chinese, Hindi, Aneityumese, Erromangan, Efatese, and Santese. Every one who contributes to the missionary funds of the Church thus aids to proclaim the Gospel in one or other of these tongues. It will be seen from these minutes that our General Assembly deals faithfully with the great moral questions of the day such as Temperance, Sabbath observance, and the Christian Life of the people generally. Drunkenness, gambling, neglect of religious ordinances and other popular sins are earnestly denounced.

It is to be regretted that our statistics are still incomplete. Did Kirk-sessions and Presbyteries only consider what a serious injustice is done to the Presbyterian Church in Canada by the withholding of information which it is in their power, and in theirs only, to give, they would be more mindful of their duty, and the annual report of the Convener of the Committee on statistics would be much fuller and more satisfactory than it has ever yet been. Still the figures we find in the report now before us are by no means discouraging. The progress made during the past fifteen years is very striking. The total income of the church in the year after the union was \$982,672; in 1889 it was \$2,054,951. Last year showed an advance in the rate of giving per family and per communicant above any previous year—the average per family being \$24.72, and per communicant, \$13.

For all purposes the increase was 32 cents per family, and 14 cents per communicant. A similar advance for several successive years will tell powerfully on the revenues and the work of the church. Thus, if every member adds but one cent a year to his gifts, the aggregate will pay the salary of a missionary to the heathen. It is a singular fact that the largest contributions per member should come from the Presbyteries of Columbia, Calgary, and Newfoundland.—Presbyteries far away from the older centres of the Church.—The comparative liberality of congregations in the New Hebrides and Trinidad is also worthy of note; and it will not be long until we can gather timely lessons from other foreign fields where our own missionaries are at work.