

—and whereas, while there is little difficulty in obtaining the money required for mission service, there is prodigious difficulty experienced by all the Churches in obtaining licentiates of the Gospel to supply the vast demands for missionaries;—and, further, whereas it appears that as has often occurred to a degree in the past, not a few young men following secular professions have at present expressed their willingness to be missionaries at home or abroad, the Synod of Fife overture the venerable the General Assembly to take these premises into serious consideration, and adopt the steps that to it may seem best for training and encouraging any such young men as may offer themselves, and are approved as suitable, to become missionaries in connection with the Church of Scotland.”

It was also moved and unanimously agreed to that, as the General Assembly has given the subject of a Mission to the interior of Africa to be considered by its Committee on Foreign Missions, and to be reported on at the meeting of Assembly in May next, the Synod instruct their Clerk to send an extract of this minute containing the above overture to the Convener of said Committee.

### HIS EXCELLENCY LORD DUFFERIN ON METHODIST UNION.

In reply to an address presented to him by the first Conference of the United Methodist Church, the Governor General made one of his wise and happy speeches. I quote the first sentences, as they give us the opinion of the highest in the land with reference to the evils of Church division and the advantages of Union. He said:—

“You must permit me to offer my congratulations upon the auspicious event which has enabled you to present me this address as emanating from a mixed body, for the first time assembled in conference at Toronto. It must, indeed, be a source of satisfaction to all well wishers of your community—amongst whom I am happy to say that I am one—that you should have been able to embody under one system of government the several units which have for so long a time labored earnestly, but without power, for that strength which union can alone afford. I have always held that the strength of Christianity is too frequently frittered away in minor contentions between sections of men who are fighting a common battle against evil, but who allow comparatively slight differences to prevent cohesion,

which must be a principal element of success.”

### MANITOBA.

Our Church in Old Canada has for some time past been conducting a mission in this distant field. A meeting of the Committee of Management was recently held in Toronto, and the whole work reviewed. There is but one laborer in the field, viz.: Professor Hart, who, besides attending to the duties of his Professorship at Winnipeg, does the work of an ordinary missionary. The stations that can be reached from Winnipeg fall for the most part to the share of Professor Bryce of the C. P. Church, and Professor Hart. The following extract from a letter of Mr. Hart to the Convener gives an idea of the ground to be covered:—

“There are three distinct regions to be supplied from town, each with two or three stations: Sunnyside, 23 or 24 miles from here; Greenwood about 30; and Woodlands 32. All these are in different directions. Sunnyside, Springfield and Prairie Grove are included in one division; Greenwood and Rockwood in another; and Woodlands and Boyd’s Farm in the third. Prairie Grove is properly a part of a region extending indefinitely towards Point du Chêne on the Dawson Route. It is 11 or 12 miles from here, and we have not yet been able to visit it very often. Most of the other stations had services every Sunday till lately. The best that we can do for them now, however, and especially when College is in Session, is to give them fortnightly services. . . . All this involves a great deal of travelling, and no small amount of expense. The other day, e. g., I was at Greenwood and Rockwood, and had to pay seven dollars for a horse. The more distant places take both Saturday and Sunday, and they come round pretty often.”

“These statements,” the Convener (Rev. D. J. McDonnell,) adds, “speak for themselves, as to the kind and amount of work done by those whose duties in the College might be regarded as quite enough without this addition. There is no doubt that more men are needed. The Home Mission Committee of the Canada Presbyterian Church are arranging to send *two*, if not *three*, additional Missionaries as soon as possible, so that they will have nine or ten men in the field to our one. Is our Church doing its fair share of the common work? Here is a question in simple proportion: *If a single*