

ASSEMBLY NOTES.

The recent meeting of the General Assembly in Montreal was a good one ; good, in the numbers present, good, in the pleasant weather that lasted throughout the meeting, good, in the hearty kindness of the Presbyterians of Montreal, good, in the reports that were given in by the several agencies, of progress made during the year, good, in the absence of judicial cases that consume the time and good temper of Church Courts, good, in the earnest attention that was given from first to last to true church work, and good in the spirit at once earnest and forbearing that prevailed throughout. May good results follow it.

What might be called the business work of the assembly occupied chiefly the day sessions, while the evenings, when the public could more conveniently be present were of a more popular nature and were devoted to hearing reports and addresses on the great departments of our church work. On Wednesday evening, June 10th, the Assembly was opened by a missionary sermon from Dr. McLaren, retiring moderator, from the text which has been the motto at the head of the title page of the Maritime Presbyterian, since its first issue. This subject struck a good keynote. The following evening was devoted to Augmentation and Home Missions, Friday evening to Foreign Missions, Monday evening to the State of Religion and Temperance, Tuesday evening to French Evangelization, and Wednesday evening to Sabbath Schools.

HOME MISSIONS.

Reports from the Maritime Synod show nearly 130 stations, or small settlements that depend for supply of preaching upon the Home Mission Board. These are for the most part so situated that two, three, four, or sometimes seven or eight, are grouped together and wrought by one catechist. During the present summer there are about fifty

student catechists laboring in the Synod of the Maritime Provinces.

In the Western Section of the church there are in all some 618 mission stations. Of these 318 are in Manitoba. These Home Mission fields both East and West are pretty well supplied during the summer by students, but one great problem for the church is the small supply of laborers during the winter season, when many of them have to be left vacant.

AUGMENTATION.

In the Western Section this scheme has not been quite so successful as last year. The outlay for the year just closed was \$31,090, the income about \$27,000, while the number of congregations receiving aid was 159 as against 145 the previous year. In the East the income for the year was about \$11,000, the expenditure was at the rate of about \$9,600, for the nine months that the scheme was in operation, the number of congregations receiving aid under the new scheme being 46.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The Foreign Mission night was a good one. The Reports for the year have their lights and shadows, but on the whole there has been good progress. In Formosa the French occupation did much to hinder the work, but that has come to an end. Dr. McKay has returned, and reports large numbers as having forsaken their idols. He has ordained two native pastors.

In India much difficulty has been experienced hitherto from the opposition of the native princes, but since Lord Dufferin became viceroy of India the effect of his influence has been felt, and the missionaries have much more freedom in carrying on their work.

In the new Hebrides there was a fear of French occupation but that has passed away.

Trinidad has its lights and shadows, the chief shadow being Mr. McLeod's