

composed the deputation. The other churches vied with the Kirk in sending distinguished men. Dr. Rainey was there from the Free Church, and Principal Cairns from the U. P. Church.

Great wisdom was shewn in the way in which the organ controversy of 17 years standing was got rid of for a time, perhaps for ever. The signs are that it will never come up again. At an early sitting, a committee representative of both sides of the house was appointed to see whether something could not be done in view of the crisis in which the country is, to avoid a whole day's debate on the question of instruments. The report when presented was carried by the whole house, only three dissenting, two of them being liberty men and one a purity man, none of them being a leader in the house. There is to be no debate in the Assembly on the question for three years, under certain circumstances, for five years. A Committee was appointed to deal in a friendly way with congregations that have organs. The leaders of the Purity party agreed to use their influence to suppress associations against organs. Here the 17 years' war ends, in substance it is a drawn battle.

The Assembly renewed its testimony against Home Rule. The deliverance points out the dangers that threaten if the Protestant minority be left to the mercy of such unscrupulous men as the Home Rule leaders have shewn themselves to be. The unanimity with which the Assembly speaks ought to count for something in the counsels of the empire. The deputies from Scotland were very emphatic in expressing sympathy with the Church in Ireland in the present crisis. It is believed that the vote of Scotland will be an important factor in preserving the unity of the empire. H.

CANADA.—The several Conferences of the Methodist Church in the Dominion were held in the month of June. They all betokened the energy that is born of strength and hopefulness. "Onward" is the motto inscribed on their banner. The various departments of work were reported as in a healthy condition. On the vexed question of University federation, they reaffirmed the resolutions passed twelve months ago—except the Toronto Conference, which agreed to remit the matter to the General Conference, which is summoned to meet in September next, without debate.

The annual meeting of the Congregational Union of Canada took place in Ottawa during the month of June, under the presidency of Rev. H. D. Hunter, of London, Ont. The total membership of the congregations connected with the Union was reported to be 7,316. The amount contributed by the ninety-nine preaching stations reporting was \$7,556. The sum raised for all purposes was \$110,824.

The sad intelligence of the murder of the Rev. John Houghton and his wife is confirmed by the Foreign Office. Less than two years

ago Mr. Houghton was set apart for the foreign work of the United Methodist Free Churches, and a few months later started with his young wife for the new field of labor in East Africa. The station had been established only recently at a very considerable outlay, and great hopes were entertained of success. In a recent letter to her home-friends, Mrs. Houghton described the murder of Bishop Hannington in the same district. Particulars of the murder have not yet arrived.

HAWAIIAN EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION.—This reverend body met in annual session at Honolulu on the 5th of June, in Kamaiahao Church. It is composed of the ministers and lay representatives of the Churches planted by the American Board. All its business is transacted in the native language. From the "Honolulu Daily Bulletin" we gather that the Association, now in its twenty-third year, is prosecuting mission work with earnestness and vigour. It has its various boards and committees, and from the terms employed one might fancy himself reading an account of the proceedings of our own General Assembly.

TEMPERANCE NOTES:—The Montreal, Bay of Quinte, Guelph, Niagara, London and Toronto conferences of the Methodist Church, recently held, all passed strong resolutions, demanding a total suppression of the liquor traffic, and urging that their people should vote only for such candidates for parliamentary and municipal honors as are known and professed prohibitionists. They regard the Scott Act as merely an instalment of what is requisite in the interests of morality and religion. The Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec and the Baptist Union adopted motions of like import; so that it looks as if the public mind was now educated up to that point, at which a prohibitory enactment, if passed, might be capable of enforcement, so ridding the country of one of the most fruitful sources of crime and misery. The report presented to our own General Assembly, while brief and carefully weighed, was yet quite firm and decided in the positions which it took. The following recommendations were heartily adopted:—

I. That this Assembly records its profound gratitude to God for the signal success of temperance principles during the past year, and its deep satisfaction with the unmistakeable advance of temperance and prohibition sentiment throughout the land.

II. That this Assembly re-affirms the oft-repeated testimony of our Church to the effect that intemperance is a sin against God and a crime against society; its conviction that intemperance is a hindrance to the cause of Christ and a great social curse; and its earnest desire to see the evil exterminated by the preaching of the Gospel, the power of moral suasion, the education of the young in temperance principles, and by such deadly blows as a vigorous and enlightened legislation alone can inflict.