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### THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Montreal wept and smiled, was warm and cool in turn, as she welcomed the largest General Assembly since the Union. Nearly 400 commissioners were present, and the Sessions lasted from Wednesday, 8th June, to Friday 17th.

At the opening service Knox Church was well filled with commissioners and citizens. Rev. Dr. Moore, of Ottawa, retiring Moderator, preached from the Psalmist's prayer "Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, etc.": after which the Assembly was constituted with prayer and Rev. Dr. Torrance of Guelph was chosen Moderator for the current year.

All over the Church full reports of the proceedings have been borne by the daily press. To repeat these in order would not profit. We shall try, without regard to the order of their happening, to give brief notes of some of the subjects that were before the Assembly.

It would be pleasant also to speak of men, as well as things, that were "prominent," but this has been already done to the full by pen and pencil, and as the tongue bears small proportion to the body, the silent majority should have their innings. Speaking of "pencil," as shown in the newspaper pictures of "the men" of the Assembly, recalls the budding artist who thought it necessary to explain his maiden effort by underwriting "This is a horse."

While not a "State Church," there is no other, that, more loyally and firmly than the Presbyterian, buttresses the State in righteousness, and a vice regal visit, especially in the person of a Presbyterian elder, one pleasant Wednesday afternoon, was very welcome. Though he came not, as once he did in Edinburgh, the official head of the Church,

the Queen's representative, to open in her name the General Assembly of the Scottish Kirk, the visit of Lord and Lady Aberdeen, lacking officialism, was even more heartily enjoyed than amid the accustomed royal pageantry of St. Giles and Holyrood.

The Moderator's address and the Governor-General's reply were well suited to the occasion. Lady Aberdeen, like a conservative Presbyterian Scotch-woman, though called for, "kept silence," and was eloquent in smile.

The new Hymnal has made music in hearts and homes as well as churches, and whatever may be thought or said of the Choral refrain, even the most conservative will gladly say "Amen" to the fact that from the royalty on the first nine months' sales, four thousand dollars has been given to the Agee Ministers' Fund, and half as much to the Widow's and Orphan's Fund. And none were gladder thereat than the dear old Convener, whose four score years' search in vain for the labor and sorrow.

Our list of Presbyteries in "Church Notes and Notices," which has for some time stood at the half century mark, goes on to fifty-one. A new Presbytery, to be known as North Bay, was sanctioned by the Assembly, and will be organized at North Bay, Ont. on the 12th of July. Varied are the stages of progress, but all thankfully welcomed. A new preaching station opened by a missionary, it may be in a log shack, or kitchen, or dug-out, means a new centre of light in our land, and is a mark of progress of our Church and of Christianity. Then follow in due course others on a larger scale, the grouping of a number of stations into a mission field with an ordained missionary, then into an organized congregation with a pastor of their own; then a new Presbytery and sometimes a new Synod.