

### General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the U. States.

This, the largest Presbyterian Assembly ever held, and representing the largest Presbyterian constituency, met in Philadelphia towards the end of May and continued in session for sixteen days. There were about six hundred Commissioners present. The proceedings were harmonious and very satisfactory throughout. The old and new schools have now disappeared forever, and nothing could reproduce the old line of cleavage. The Assembly was mainly occupied with re-organizing Synods, Boards, Committees, &c., as rendered necessary by the Union. The Boards of Publication continue in Philadelphia—united into one. The Board of Home Missions is now located in New York. The relation of the Theological Seminaries to the Assembly was very happily adjusted. There were only two questions determined by vote during the whole sixteen days.

Overtures were made to the Southern Assembly for Union, but these were rejected very summarily by the Southerners. Delegates were received from the Free Church, the United Presbyterian Church, and the Irish Presbyterian Church. Drs. Edmond, and McLeod, Dr. Watts, Dr. Blaikie and Mr. Arnot and Mr. Sinclair, Elder, were the leading delegates. Thus the visible unity and the brotherly spirit of the Presbyterian family are promoted.—Steps were taken to secure the raising of five millions of dollars as a thank-offering for the Union.

With regard to the state of religion it is, on the whole, highly encouraging. The Presbyterian Church of the United States is just 81 years old, and it numbers about 5,000 ministers and about four millions of adherents. There have been extensive revivals of religion during the past year. Eighty Presbyteries report signal visitations of God's Spirit within their borders; while in many of the others the number of conversions has been larger than the average. In the churches west of the Alleghanies the showers of grace have been the most frequent, and the harvest of souls has been the most abundant. The Presbyteries of Cincinnati chronicle a very remarkable outpouring of the Divine Spirit upon their churches. Not far from 1,000 souls are believed to have turned from death unto life. In the city of Dayton one church received 139 persons to the table of the Lord on a single Sabbath. In the Presbytery of Indianapolis 500 were enrolled, as the result of faith and prayer. A church within the bounds of Madison Presbytery is recorded as having received a quickening which recalls the days of Whitefield and Edwards. The membership of the church

was doubled. Men of reckless and intemperate lives were converted to Christ. The convictions of sin were in some cases so deep and pungent, that physical manifestations were witnessed, like those in Scotland, under the preaching of Livingstone and Burns. Powerful revivals have occurred in the Buffalo Presbytery, and those in the Presbytery of North River have been attended with unusual activity in the temperance reform. Especial gratitude is demanded for an outpouring of the Spirit upon the time-honored college of Princeton, which has already resulted in the hopeful conversion of fifty students. When God rains down His grace upon a college, He fills a *ristern* for the whole land. These few cases of revival have been selected from a large number as illustrations of the method in which God has wrought. But in all the cases recorded, two things have been visible; the lay members have been laborers, and the prayer-meetings have been full. In the Presbytery of Humboldt, Kansas, the increase to the churches has been more than one hundred and fifty per cent., and a large number are reported as standing ready to unite at the earliest opportunity. This encouraging success has been won in the face of the most trying obstacles, and with an utter lack of suitable houses of worship. Sabbath congregations have been gathered in rooms, without either window or doors; sometimes in the apartments above rum-shops and billiard saloons.

Great progress has been made in church organization and erection, and in Sabbath School work. The Report on the State of Religion mourns over the greatly increasing sin of Sabbath-breaking, and dram-drinking all over the land. The Church is putting forth renewed exertions on behalf of the Freedmen of the South and the Indian tribes and the Chinese immigrants.

### General Assembly of the Canada Presbyterian Church.

This Assembly met at Toronto on the 7th June. Rev. Dr. Topp preached the opening sermon. Principal Willis was elected Moderator. There were delegates present from the Free Presbyterian Churches of the British Isles and from the Presbyterian Church in the United States. Addresses of great interest were delivered by these delegates. Friendly intercourse was held also with the Wesleyan Conference and the Congregational Union. The Home Mission Report showed 90 mission fields, 165 stations, 64 supplemented congregations. The sum of \$12,761 was raised for these objects. The Assembly has two missionaries in British Columbia, a missionary and a Catechist at Red River.