

## BUSINESS.

At the close of the devotional services, the Assembly proceeded to business, various committees having been already appointed. We present to our readers the more important parts of business transacted.

## HOME MISSION REPORT.

Rev. W. Cochrane, Convener of the Home Mission Committee, presented his report on the evening of Wednesday, the 9th. The report was full and interesting. The amount received for Home Missions during the year was \$22,000, and the expenditure, \$24,000; leaving a deficiency of a little over \$2,000. The contributions were in advance of those of last year; but the expenditure, in consequence of the expanding nature of the work, had increased still more. To enable the Treasurer to wipe off the debt, it had been proposed to ask the congregations of the Church to make a special collection on the Sabbath before the sitting of the Assembly, and from this it was expected that the greater part of the amount required would be realized. The report gave detailed statements of the amounts contributed by the congregations in the different Presbyteries. The Presbytery giving the largest sum per member was Montreal, and the congregations giving most liberally according to membership, were Erskine Church, Montreal, and Gould Street, Toronto—the rate in these congregations being \$1.82 per member. After reading the Report, Mr. Cochrane made a few suitable remarks in explanation of some parts of the report, and urging the importance of cultivating a missionary spirit. Mr. Robertson, of Winnipeg, gave an interesting account of the state of the work in the Province of Manitoba, speaking of the great destitution prevailing in many parts of the country, and of the necessity of vigorous efforts with the view of meeting this destitution.

The report was received and adopted, and the thanks of the Assembly given to the Committee, and in a special manner to the Convener.

## TEMPERANCE.

On Thursday forenoon the Assembly called for the report of the Committee on Temperance. This was given in by the Convener, Mr. John Smith. The report having been read, was referred to a committee to prepare a deliverance on the subject. At a subsequent diet the committee reported the following deliverance, which was adopted:—"The General Assembly would take this opportunity to renew the testimony borne against the evils of intemperance. Every year makes it plainer that intemperance is the chief cause of poverty, the great source of crime, and a most prolific cause of disease and death in the community. The Assembly also cannot but express their conviction that intemperance is a great external barrier to the progress of the Church, being a frequent occasion of scandal and discipline, and hindering in a large measure in every department of our work as a Church of Christ. The Assembly consider that intemperance is maintained chiefly by the customs of society in the use of intoxicants as a common beverage, and by the public traffic in strong drink. The Assembly, therefore, would earnestly recommend for the office-bearers and members of the Church the practice of total abstinence, and, further, would express a decided conviction of the expediency and desirableness of an immediate and total prohibition of the public traffic in this Dominion."