

**Scottish U.P. Synod.** This Synod met in Edinburgh, 7th May. There were present 501 ministers, 11 missionaries and 451 elders, a total of 963. As it does not consist of selected representatives, like the assemblies of some of the larger churches, but every minister and Presbytery elder has a seat, it is one of the largest, if not the largest, Presbyterian ecclesiastical court in the world, and it represents one of the world's most earnest and active evangelical churches.

The total membership of the church was reported as 188,706, an increase of 1,631 during the year. This is nearly the same as that of our own church, our reported membership last year being 181,370. The total income for all purposes during the year was £402,206, an increase on the previous year of £31,504.

Their F. M. report shows that they have in the foreign field 71 ordained European missionaries, 19 ordained native missionaries, 15 European medical missionaries, 31 Zenana missionaries, 8 European evangelists, 127 native catechists and evangelists, 393 native teachers, 105 native Zenana helpers, and 90 other native agents, in all 838. The ordinary income last year was £33,543, a decrease of £2,306, from the previous year.

The funds of their other schemes were for the most part in a satisfactory condition.

The question of union with the Free Church and disestablishing the Kirk, were both before the Synod. The former was in connection with the visit of a delegation from the Free Church, when on both sides there was free and hopeful mention of union. The latter came up on the report of the Disestablishment Committee. The Synod strongly approved of a "Bill" that would secure complete disestablishment, with a justly calculated annuity to every incumbent affected by the change, so that there would be no injustice to anyone.

**The "Kirk"** With its usual peaceful pomp, as **Assembly.** becometh the patronage of Royalty, the Assembly of the Established Church of Scotland opened its sessions about the same time as did the Free Kirk over the way. The Marquis of Breadalbane represented the Queen, and once more the halls and corridors of ancient Holyrood thronged with Scotland's defenders of the Faith.

The growth of the Kirk showed itself in the Assembly Hall, which had been enlarged to meet demand for room, and over the gathered piety and wisdom, which represented 612,000 reported communicants, Rev. Prof. Story was chosen to preside.

Their six great schemes are, Home, Foreign, Colonial, Endowment, Jews, and Small Livings. The almost universal giving to all the schemes, a thing which in this respect our congregations might well pattern and exceed, is seen in the

fact that last year, out of the 1,342 parishes, 1,070 gave to all these schemes, 139 to five, 55 to four, 40 to three, 11 to two, 8 to one, while only 14 gave to none. What the report complains of is that in many cases the amounts given are too small. Besides these six schemes there are other objects for which collections are taken, and towards which the giving is not so general.

The Committee on Christian Life and Work reports the Woman's Guild as having 18,931 members in 277 branches. A few years ago the first deaconess was appointed, and now there are 20. The young men's guild numbers 23,482.

The report on the religious condition of the people states that the fishing population in the counties of Aberdeen and Banff have in measure lapsed and become alienated from the worship and sacraments of the Church, and calls for more earnest work for their welfare.

The Jewish Committee reported hopefully, speaking of the schools at Alexandria, Smyrna, Constantinople and Salonica (the ancient Thessalonica), attended by over 2,000 pupils, of whom 1,350 are Jews.

Colonial work is carried on, and this year, they, with the other churches, are taking a deeper interest than ever before in our own North-West.

As with the Free Church, their Foreign Mission work is chiefly in Africa and India. Including wives, there are 57 missionaries from Scotland, and 350 natives, employed by their F. M. Com., and in addition, 28 from Scotland, and 134 natives, supported by their Women's Association. There are 8,900 young people in their mission schools, and 6,120 baptized natives in their fields, of whom about one-fourth are communicants. The total income for the year, including that of its Women's Association, was \$216,400.

The instinct of self preservation makes the Committee on church interests an important one, and for some years past, its Report has been the chief event of the General Assembly. On Wednesday, May 30th, a crowded hall told the interest in the subject, while the Report told of organization extended and strengthened, and of literature widely circulated with a view to the instruction of the people.

The Report says that "for the first since the Revolution Settlement the church finds itself the object of serious attack by the government, and it is in consequence more vigorous in defence. With regard to other churches it expresses itself as willing to enter into "any reasonable arrangement by which the other churches may become sharers in the heritage and privileges of the National Church if they desire to do so," and assures them of her earnest desire to "consider any proposals for effecting such an arrangement which are not inconsistent with her principles and her duty to her members and to the nation." The kirk, says, "we want union if all others