

Romeward drift do not stop at niceties of procedure. One thing is certain. Mr. Ken-*it's* extreme action has thoroughly succeeded in attracting attention to a grievance which very many worthy members of the church endure, but who are too meek and peace-loving to resent openly. The discussion lately on the incident, in the church courts and the conclusions arrived at clearly show that a re-action is at hand and that High Churchmen will meet with organized opposition should their propaganda be pushed too far. For the sake of Evangelical religion, it is to be hoped sturdy Englishmen will decline to be overborne from their old moorings by disciples of the aesthetic rather than of the spiritual in religion, and the lesson to all denominations is to go slow with useless innovations in their church services.

THE APPROACHING GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

BEFORE our next number appears the General Assembly will have opened its Sessions in Montreal and the business will be under way. The meeting will take place under the most favorable auspices. It will be in the Commercial Metropolis of the Dominion, in a church which, though recently erected, has some claim to be regarded as representing the oldest Presbyterian organization in Lower Canada. The building affords every convenience necessary to the comfort of the members and the ready despatch of business. There are no heresy cases or difficult cases of discipline likely to come up to disturb the harmony of the meeting. There are no burning questions to occasion anxiety. There is abundance of good work to be reported and the finances of the schemes may be said to be more satisfactory all round than anybody hoped a few weeks ago. It is a good time for a forward movement of some kind which may signalize preparation for the opening of the twentieth century three years hence, as is being done by some of the more aggressive churches in the old world. It only needs that the word of faith and fire be spoken to kindle a great flame that shall shed light afar over the Continent or over the seas to lands beyond. Who will step to the front as the prophet of the new Crusade?

The indications are at present that the attendance will be larger than for any meeting since the Assembly was constituted on its present basis of representation. This may be partly due to the unusually low railway rates, but we trust that it is due also to increased interest and a determination to use the meeting for all it is worth. Let every man present help to make it a success and give the work a push at some point other than at a point of order. Let there be no temptation to say after it is over that the time and expense of holding it have been wasted.

We make no prediction as to who is likely to be Moderator and express no preference. Of the names that have been suggested by Presbyteries any one would make a good presiding officer and all are men who have served the church well. Whoever is elected will no doubt receive the hearty support of all.

THE MISSION OF CONGREGATIONALISM IN CANADA.

THE Rev. J. G. Brooks, a Congregational minister in London, who is at present on a visit to Canada in the interest of an Emigration Scheme which has our full sympathy and need not here be discussed. But he has been unburdening his mind to a reporter as to the condition of Congregationalism in Canada in a manner which calls for some comment.

According to him one of the great needs of Canada is more Congregationalism, because it pre-eminently "stands for the utmost freedom, for manhood, for character, for education, for the building up of peoples. No other system—not Presbyterianism for example—ever dared to trust the people." "The opportunity of Congregationalism in Canada is a grand one," he adds, and regrets that so little seems to have been done to realize its mission.

Now we have no wish to detract in any way from the honorable history of Congregationalism or discourage it from pursuing its legitimate mission in the world. But we make bold to say that there is no country on the face of the earth where it is less needed than in Canada to-day and hardly any other country where its departure would be less missed as a separate organization. And the simple reason is that without its direct aid we have already all the civil and religious liberty it can ever hope to give us. As for trusting the people the Presbyterian Church does that to the fullest extent that serves any purpose, and the same is true of other churches that might be named. The people have responded by supporting these churches and leaving the Congregational churches to care for a few of their own people in the large cities who were hereditarily attached to that system and preferred it when it was within their reach. The body has never cut any figure numerically in Canada, and can now hope to grow only by divisive courses. This accounts for the fact that they are becoming intensely denominational in spirit, even sectarian, and that their leaders are deliberately cultivating an attitude which must ever defeat the only mission they could ever claim to have. A few years ago there was a hopeful movement for union with the Presbyterian Church. It was defeated by the intense bigotry of a few who refused even to consider it. The only future now before them seems to be that of an expiring sect—a forlorn hope doomed to perish. They have not even the cohesion necessary to turn to full account the force they possess. Every man does what seems right in his own eyes or, more commonly, leaves it undone. They have some excellent people but what they need is an organization that will make their work effective. They would get that by merging into the Presbyterian Church or, if they prefer it, into the Methodist. In so doing we venture to say they would lose none of the real freedom they now enjoy. There is no use in making a fetish of their useless form of church government.

FEDERATION OF CHURCHES.

THE Federation of the Free Evangelical Churches in England has awakened so much enthusiasm and proved such a success that it is now proposed to extend the organization to Scotland and Ireland. The conditions there are somewhat different, but there is no reason why it should not render valuable service in these countries too. The aim of the organization is substantially the same as that of the Evangelical Alliance, only that it goes a little further and seeks to obviate the multiplication of kindred church organizations in small places where there is no real need for them, and encourages those already existing to cooperate in the thorough oversight of the population around them. Why should not the same thing be tried on a large scale on this side the Atlantic as well? Tentative efforts in that direction have been made at different points more than once and have accomplished some good. But they lacked the enthusiasm and momentum of a wide-spread movement. If some of