

## Our Own Church.

IN a few days the tenth session of the General Assembly will meet in Toronto, the Queen city of what use to be called Western Canada, but which by reason of the march of empire is now much nearer the rising sun than it used to be. This fine city was founded in 1794 and has now 90,000 inhabitants. Its growth during the last few years, especially, has been both rapid and substantial. The first Presbyterian congregation in the city was organized in 1821 by the Rev. William Harris who died only a few years ago. There are now fifteen large and flourishing congregations in Toronto and its suburbs, representing a Presbyterian population of 16,000. Many of the churches are expensive and beautiful. The St. James' Square Church, in which the Assembly meets, is a model of elegance, convenience and comfort, and is seated for about 1,200 persons. It has become "vacant" since last Assembly by the appointment of its late pastor, Rev. John M. King D.D., to the Principalship of the Theological College, Manitoba.

There is sure to be a large attendance of commissioners, though many of the Eastern brethren may be prevented by the great distance and expense of travelling. Some of the Presbyteries have undertaken to defray the travelling expenses of their representatives in the Supreme Court. But there are still many who have to pay their own way and many more who cannot afford to attend. We wish that some plan could be devised to meet this difficulty. A Central fund similar to the Assembly Fund, *plus* local effort, might be the most successful and equitable way of reaching the case.

COMMISSIONERS will as usual receive their certificates for travelling from Dr. Reid, the Clerk of Assembly, to whom all communications intended to be presented to the Assembly are to be addressed. Rev. P. McF. Macleod, Toronto, is the chairman of the local committee of arrangements. All commissioners who wish accommodation provided for them should notify Mr. McLeod. Those who have made private arrangements should also mention the fact to him.

DEMARARA.—The missionaries sought for Demarara have not yet been found. Mr. Ewing of Ardincaple Castle, Helensburgh, who is largely interested in the sugar estates, and who offers to pay the salary of one of the missionaries, is beginning to despair of securing the services of a suitable Canadian agent, and is now advertising in Britain, but he would prefer a man from this country, so it is not yet too late to apply. The salary offered by Mr. Ewing is \$1,500, with a manse, and the reason of his preference of a Canadian minister is evidently on account of the success of our Trinidad mission. Mr. Ewing says that the district in question is one of the healthiest in the Colony. At New Amsterdam, in the same locality, Rev. John Rannie, one of our ex-Canadian ministers, has been residing for some eight years and his reports which have reached us from time to time lead us to infer that the climate is not unhealthy and that in other respects the place has many attractions. The chief attraction, however, is that there are many there who want a faithful minister to labour among them and to look after their moral and spiritual interests. It is a *mission field*—needing the services of an earnest missionary. Will no one respond to the call?

THREE GREAT CONVENTIONS are looming up, in each of which the Presbyterian Church in Canada has more or less interest. (1) *The International Sunday-school Convention*, to be held at Louisville, Kentucky, June 11-13. It is important that our Church should be well represented there. Special rates of travel will be offered to delegates. Mr. David Morrice of Montreal, who is a member of International Committee, or the Rev. John McEwen of Toronto, will be happy to supply information in this behalf. (2) *The Presbyterian Alliance*, which commences at Belfast on the 24th of June. Some changes have been made in the list of delegates appointed by last General Assembly. Dr. Reid and Professor MacLaren being unable to go, Dr. Mathews of Quebec and Rev. A. B. Mackay of Montreal have been appointed in their stead. Only two elders have, so far, announced their intention of compearing at Belfast—the Hon. David Laird of Charlottetown, and one of the Montreal men. The full number of ministers, (eight), will be there if all goes