

The total number of families reported is 76,226—an increase of 4315 on the returns of last year; besides these, 10,697 single persons, being about 1000 increase. This part of the report is manifestly incomplete as “some sessions do not report the number of families committed to their spiritual oversight.” The number of communicants is 136,598, a net increase of nearly 9000. There were admitted into the fellowship of the church, 18,046, namely, 12,562 on their own profession of faith and 5484 on certificate. In some congregations, the accessions were large, confirming reports that have been published of the outpouring of the Spirit of God. Baptism was administered to 10,264 infants, and to 1051 adults.

The number of elders is given as 4879—an increase of 109, and an average of more than six to each pastoral charge. The average attendance at weekly prayer-meetings was 43,708—an increase of 4,083, affording another proof that God has been pouring out the spirit of grace and supplications upon congregations, families, and individuals. Sabbath-schools and Bible classes were attended by 108,284 young persons, shewing an increase of 7364 upon the figures of last year. There are 414 missionary associations with 21 Women's Foreign Missionary Societies.

**FINANCES.**—For the reason stated by the Convener that a number of the returns made to him embrace only a portion of the year, it is impossible to make a correct estimate of the contributions of the church during the year for its various missionary and benevolent schemes. It is interesting however to notice that of the sum here reported, \$193,453, the Sabbath-schools and Bible-classes gave \$18,154. The expenditure for all purposes last year, for the period embraced in this report, was \$1,533,517. The average contribution per family for stipend alone was \$8,24, and per communicant, \$4,60: for all strictly congregational purposes, \$16,30 per family, and \$9,10 per communicant: for the Schemes of the church, \$2,53 and \$1,41 respectively; and for *all purposes*, \$21,18 and \$11,23.

Twenty-three ministers demitted their charges. Twenty-six translations took effect, and forty students were licensed to preach the Gospel of the Grace of God.

## Editorial Correspondence.

POMPEII AND HERCULANEUM: PUTEOLI AND  
BAIAE.

THE whole neighbourhood of Naples is full of absorbing interest, but I will only make brief reference to the above-named places as being, perhaps, next to Vesuvius, the most prominent in general estimation.

POMPEII is about fourteen miles from Naples and two miles from the sea. The railway lands us at the entrance gate. Having paid two francs, we pass the turnstile and in a few minutes we are standing in the Forum, once the heart and business centre of a beautiful little town of 25,000 inhabitants, where now death-like silence reigns. On the afternoon of August 24th, A.D. 79, the stream of pleasure and business in this place suddenly stopped short, never to go again. As the city was buried, so it lay in its winding-sheet of ashes for seventeen hundred years—its very existence scarcely suspected. Yet, here it is to-day basking in the sun-shine, exposed to the gaze of curious travellers, in its main features as perfect almost as on the day of its burial. This Forum is an open space, 320 feet by 120 feet, flanked by rows of broken columns and surrounded with temples, theatres, public buildings of different kinds, and dwelling houses of an old-time aristocracy. Ascending the steps of the temple of Jupiter, and sitting down at the foot of the marble altar, we tried to recall the past. But a veil of mystery hangs over it. There is no doubt, however, that these columns and temples were shattered by the great earthquake of A.D. 63, and that at the time of the eruption from Vesuvius, which covered the city, they had not been rebuilt. The weird appearance of Pompeii can never be effaced from memory. The houses are nearly all one storey in height, and built of brick. The streets are narrow, paved with large blocks of lava, dove-tailed into each other, and in many places worn into deep ruts by Roman car-wheels. The side walks, from two and a half to three feet wide, are raised a foot above the causeway, and where the streets intersect, there are stepping-stones, that even ladies might cross without soiling