

The Presbyterian Record.

Vol. XIX.

MAY, 1894.

Ng. 5.

The General Assembly meets in St. David's Church, St. John's, N. B., on the 13th June, at 7.30 p.m. Lists of commissioners and all official documents intended to be used at the Assembly should be forwarded to *Rev. Dr. Reid*, Toronto, at least eight days in advance. The conveners of Standing Committees should have their reports printed and ready to be stitched together before the meeting of the Assembly. The Committee on business meets in St. David's Church, St. John's, on the 13th of June at 4 p.m. It is understood that the usual reduction in railway fare will be made. Commissioners will see that they get from the ticket agent at the starting point a receipt for the fare: and their attendance will be certified by the Clerks of Assembly at St. John, in order that they may obtain reduced fare in returning. This is the arrangement which has been followed for the last five years.

WM. REID, D.D.
ROBT. CAMPBELL, D.D. } Joint Clerks.

Assembly travel's rates. It is specially requested that all commissioners to Assembly, ministers and elders, even those living near St. John, get standard certificates from the railway at the place of starting. This applies also to the wives of commissioners, as they are admitted to the same privileges as the commissioners themselves. It is of the utmost importance that for every ticket purchased there be a corresponding standard certificate, inasmuch as it is the proof required by the railways, that first class fares have been paid, and it is only when 300 of these can be shown, that free return tickets will be supplied to commissioners and their wives.

The time for return, after the Assembly, has this year been extended to three weeks, to admit of parties visiting places of interest in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Will ministers in the Maritime Provinces, instead of using their ordinary half fare permits, purchase a full fare ticket and get with it a standard certificate, in order that the 300 may be made up and free returns received for all, both East and West.

Home work The falling off in the contributions in the U. S. to the great Home Mission work in the Presbyterian Church of the United States during the past few months of severe financial depression in that country compelled the Board to pass a resolution calling a halt in its work. This action called forth many expressions of regret and also of liberality. One writes, "Please put ten thousand dollars to the credit of one who 'believes in going forward.'" Another writes—"to halt is wretched policy ruinous to the most important work in the country, and a disgrace to the rich church to which we belong. My wife and I send you five dollars each out of our need if not out of our downright poverty." A woman sends from a sick bed one thousand dollars in the hope that the halt will soon end." An elder writes—"I have been wrestling with God for our dear Home Board, and to show the sincerity of my prayers, I send you ten dollars and wish it were ten thousand." And thus they write and give, the rich out of their abundance the poor out of their poverty.

In some respects the position in our own church has been much the same. There was no halt called, but there has been great need on the part of the Home Missionaries. That need has called forth a most generous response. The poor have sent of their little, the rich of their much. Gifts, from one dollar by a poor woman with a large family, to five thousand from a rich one, have come pouring in and enabled the Board to meet its engagements in full and go forward with this "most important work."

All who help in Home Mission work not only bless the present, but help to that extent, in leaving a better country to their children; as those who help in Foreign Missions not only bless the present but leave a better world to those who come after.

Ireland's drink bill for 1892 amounted to £11,000,000, or £11 5s. 5d. per family, over the whole population. A large part of this burden was borne by the struggling poor. The Irish average was much lower per family than that of Scotland's (£18 17s. 11d.), or England's (£19 19s. 2d.)