

to fashionable places, and were influenced thereby rather than by the great truths on which the Church is founded. Special evangelistic services had been held in many of their churches, and great interest had been awakened in the communities where the services were held, and considerable additions to the Church had been the result. As to the supervision of the people, ministers generally visited once a year, whilst others only visited the sick; others visit twice, and sometimes three times. The committee recommended not only the preaching of Christ in the pulpit, but the carrying of the gospel from door to door. The eldership was not made to do so large a work as they might. Only one congregation reported they had no prayer meeting. The prevailing sins were reported to be worldliness, intemperance, pleasure-seeking, levity, and Sabbath-breaking. One of the great hindrances to the spread of the gospel is the crying tendency to resort to God-dishonouring methods of raising money for church purposes, which some of our churches have adopted. The evil of intemperance, the Committee believe to be on the wane. Very few cases of breaches of Church discipline were reported, whether because there were less infringements of the rules of the Church, or less tendency to put the rules in force, the Committee were unable to say. The report concluded with an expression of thankfulness that the Church was prospering, and that it had shown great advancement during the year.

PRINCIPAL CAVEN moved the following deliverance on the subject:

"That the General Assembly receives the report, and expresses its thanks to Almighty God for it, and for the encouraging facts which it reveals; but especially for the increase of interest shown on the part of Presbyteries in this great scheme of the Church, for the times of refreshing vouchsafed to many congregations, and the signs of spiritual life observed around us, and in reference to the complaints, such as neglect of family worship, the small share of labour taken in the Church by many from whom good services might be expected, the prevalence of sin in various forms, the large number living without God, the General Assembly deploras the same, and appoints that in the devotions during the Assembly, humble confession of these sins be made at the throne of heavenly grace, and that supplications be made for a large measure of the Holy Spirit, and that a Committee be appointed on the State of Religion for the ensuing year.

This was seconded by Mr. ANDW. WILSON, of Kingston. A discussion of much interest arose, which continued to the hour of adjournment. On Friday the discussion was resumed, and resulted in the report being recommitted.

Third Day.

The Assembly appointed a Judicial Committee, to which all appeals, references, &c.,

before the Court were (after the reading of papers) referred.

Rev. R. TORRANCE presented a report from the Committee that had charge of the distribution of Probationers in the Western Section. After full discussion, the report was referred to a special Committee.

HOME MISSIONS.

Friday evening was devoted to the all-important work of Home Missions. The Report for the "Western Section" was presented by Dr. COCHRANE.

Allusion was made to the prevailing depression and its effects on receipts. The usual grant of \$1,200 has been made to New Westminster, in British Columbia.

The operations of the Presbytery of Manitoba extended over a country measuring 750 miles by 275. The demands of the Presbytery are increasing with great rapidity from year to year. The first statistical Report of the Presbytery of Manitoba was made to the General Assembly in 1871. There were then 1 self-sustaining congregation and 8 preaching stations, with 1 settled pastor and 4 missionaries, including the Foreign missionary at Prince Albert; the whole amount for all purposes raised in the Presbytery being \$1 756 62. In seven years this work has grown to be 2 self-sustaining congregations, 44 preaching stations, which include 3 supplemented charges and a number more preparing for settlement, with 21 ordained ministers and several catechists; while the whole amount contributed from local sources amounted during the past year to some \$5,600 or \$10,000.

PRINCE ALBERT.

This settlement has only during the past year come under the direction of the Home Mission Committee of the Church. It is a settlement of some 600 people; there are two commodious churches erected; and preaching is maintained at five points. It is greatly to be regretted that the Home Mission Committee had been unable to find a missionary for this field after the departure of the Rev. A. Stewart in July last. The whole work has been thrown on Rev. D. C. Johnston, who is under the direction of the Foreign Mission Committee, and who, having the school as his first duty, could only give partial attention to the Home Mission work. The Presbytery is decidedly of opinion that unless some more successful mode of obtaining missionaries for these isolated points is found, not only individuals but whole communities will be lost to the Presbyterian Church.

BATTLEFORD.

This point is the present capital of the Northwest Territories; the importance of