

The meeting was opened with devotional exercises. After hearing the reports of the joint committees on care of premises and new building, and of the expert called in to give an opinion on the subject, it was decided to request the architect to prepare plans and ask for tenders for renovating the building, to be submitted to the joint Boards, and that the matter be remitted to the joint Committee, and further action taken through that Committee.

The meeting expressed its thanks to the expert, Mr. Withrow, and was closed with prayer, led by the Rev. W. S. Blackstock.

The usual monthly meeting of the Board was held on Tuesday, the 21st July, the Hon. Wm. McMaster in the chair. Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. J. M. Cameron and Rev. Dr. Rose. The business was entirely of a routine character. The meeting was closed by the Rev. John Burton, who led in prayer.

A joint meeting of the Directors of the U. C. Bible and Tract Societies was held on Tuesday, the 3rd September; the Rev. Dr. Gregg in the chair. The meeting was opened with devotional exercises.

The report of the joint Committees on care of premises and new building was read, and their action approved in going beyond their instructions, by obtaining plans and tenders, not only for renovating the present building, but also for erecting a new one, which plans and tenders were submitted.

In view of the fact that a new building would cost only some \$3,500 more than renovating the old one, it was resolved to pull down the present building and erect a new one, in accordance with the plans and specifications submitted by Messrs. Gordon & Helliwell.

After appointing Building and Finance Committees, the meeting was closed with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Gregg.

EXTRACTS FROM BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY REPORT, 1885.

ITALY.

Two great events have influenced the work in Italy since the date of the last report—the great National Exhibition at Turin and the outbreak of cholera. To these may be added in a less degree of importance the Italian expedition to the Red Sea.

The "Great Exhibition" was an "undoubted success." It was visited by three millions of people, and but for the outbreak of cholera, would have been visited by many more. As a display of what Italy could produce it was a splendid record of resources and of progress in the use of them, but Mr. Meille deplores the entire absence throughout the proceedings of any recognition of God.

"A nation," he says, "which forgets God in prosperity is not likely to meet disasters with dignity and courage. This is, no doubt, the reason which explains the unprecedented fear which seemed to take possession of almost everyone in Italy as soon as cholera was heard of in the South of France, and which increased, as, in spite of all precautions taken, it broke out also here and there in the Peninsula. During former epidemics, which I well remember, nothing of the kind had ever been seen. The Italian Government took up this time quite a new line of conduct, and instituted *cordons sanitaires*