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The Maritime Presbyterian.

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AFTER THE ASSEMBLY.

ACROSS THE CONTINENT.

Usually the interest of the meeting of Assembly begins to decline as its work draws to a close. The last session or two the attendance is generally small, the larger part of the members having scattered to their distant homes. Those who remain to the end, however, always find themselves richly repaid. There is something very solemn in the close of a Synod or Assembly. There is the breaking up of the pleasant associations, the thought of separation to another year's work, and of all the changes that that year will bring. Who of us shall meet again? With whom shall this year be the last? And there is the reminder too that thus our years are fast hastening to a close. There is the moderator's closing address, usually brief, pointed, practical. Its solemn words giving added weight from the solemnity of the occasion. Then comes the singing of that grand old Hebrew hymn

"Pray that Jerusalem may have
Peace and felicity.

Let them that love Thee and thy peace
Have still prosperity.

Therefore I wish that peace may still
Within Thy walls remain,
And ever may Thy palaces
Prosperity retain.

Now for my friend's and brethren's sakes
Peace be in Thee I'll say,
And for the house of God the Lord
I'll seek thy good alway."

Then the solemn benediction. Then the good-byes, and the partings.

This year was no exception so far as regards the sweet and tender interest of the closing session, but with most there were other things yet to come before the members left the prairie city for their Eastern homes. Some spent the following week in visiting different parts of the Province of Manitoba. A considerable number availed themselves of an invitation from the Governor of the North West to visit the Indian Reserves and see how it fared with their dusky fellow citizens, while a third party, comprising perhaps fifty members of Assembly, together with a number of friends, chiefly from Winnipeg, went on a trip to the Pacific Coast.

Those who visited the Indian Reserves had a week of prairie driving, and were on the whole well satisfied with their trip.

The third party had less of toil than the second, and more of sight-seeing than both the second and first.

The Assembly came to a close about noon on Friday, July 17th.

In the afternoon the special train for the Pacific coast drew out of the station at Winnipeg and started on its long run across the prairie. All night and all next day, with occasional brief stops, it kept on its eager westward race, and about midnight, Saturday, having made 840 miles, it drew up at Calgary, the border town between the prairie and the mountains, for the Sabbath rest.

It was communion day in the Presbyterian congregation of which Mr. Herdman is minister. With them the delegates