

Our Own Church.

THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the Presbyterian Church in Canada is appointed to meet in the City of London, Ont., and within St. Andrew's Church there, on the second Wednesday of June, (the 13th.) The accounts of the several treasurers of the Missionary and benevolent funds of the Church will be closed as usual on the 30th of April. The amounts received at this date in the Western Section are considerably less than at the corresponding period of last year. The amount acknowledged for Home Missions is only \$21,156, against \$24,409 last year, and for Foreign Missions \$19,046 as compared with \$20,703. The Convener of the former committee asks \$45,000 and could invest double that amount profitably if he had it. \$40,000 are asked for Foreign Missions, but this is evidently the very smallest sum that will meet current expenses to say nothing of the expansion of the work which may be designated "an unknown quantity."

In the Eastern Section the Home Mission committee are rejoicing in immunity from debt and in the fact that the accounts for the year will close "with the balance where it ought to be." The supplementing committee asked for \$2500 to remove a debt and they have got it—\$500 from the ministers and \$2,000 from the people. Having made provision for their own wants, they are now considering what they can do to aid the work in Manitoba and the North-West. And perhaps we should say just here, without any disparagement of any of the other Schemes, that the Home Mission work in Manitoba and the North-West, and the college connected with it, is beyond comparison the most important work entrusted to our Church. We have not hitherto been able to keep pace with the increase of population—not by a very long way. There are *thousands* of Presbyterian families wholly destitute of religious ordinances—and hundreds of townships, Mr. Robertson assures us, where the voice of a Presbyterian Minister is never heard. And what of the future? There is every reason to believe that the number of settlers this year

will be double the number of last year, and the number next year will probably be double that of this year. So far as Presbyterianism is concerned, now is the supreme moment in the great North-West. We trust that the people in the older provinces, whose sons and daughters are going there in large numbers, will realize their duty in this behalf. And although we are no advocates for craving assistance *ab extra* for our ordinary Church work, we can honestly commend this work of exceptional magnitude and interest to Presbyterians everywhere, and especially to the churches of Great Britain and Ireland who are contributing so largely to the settlement of this new country, and who we feel sure are willing to share with us the responsibility which in the providence of God has been so suddenly put on our shoulders.

MINISTERIAL STIPENDS.—Public sentiment is beginning to turn in the right direction. While the Church has been considering a General Sustentation Scheme, some of the Presbyteries have taken the matter in hand. That of Montreal has secured a guarantee of some \$4,000 a year for three years by private subscription, and with the condition that it is not to interfere with any of the existing Schemes of the Church. This will enable the Presbytery at once to make the *minimum* stipend, in the country charges, \$750 with a manse, and in the city \$1200 with a residence.

THE TEMPORALITIES BOARD.—During the last few months the *personnel* of the Board has undergone a great change. Two of the members were removed by death—Sir Hugh Allan and Mr. James Michie; two resigned their seats at the Board—Rev. D. M. Gordon and Judge Dennistoun; one removed from the country. The following are the new members elected by the Beneficiaries:—Rev. James Patterson, Clerk of the Presbytery of Montreal, Rev. Donald Ross, B. D., of Lachine; Mr. Andrew Allan, Montreal; Mr. G. M. Macdonnell, of Kingston; and Mr. D. B. McLennan, Q. C., of Cornwall. The other members of the Board are Rev. Dr. Cook, and Mr. William Walker, of Quebec, Rev. Dr. Jenkins, Rev. R. Campbell, Mr. William Darling, *Chairman*, Mr. Alex. Mitchell, and Mr. John L. Morris, of Montreal. The amount subscribed towards the Expense Fund has reached a little over \$7,000—not quite one-half the amount asked for. If there are any other congregations minded to express their sympathy with the managers of the Fund in a tangible form their contributions will be thankfully received.