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Toronto, Dec. 9, 1897.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The collection appointed by the General Assembly for Manitoba College falls to be taken on the third Sabbath of this month. It is gratifying to know that the College is prospering, the attendance being larger than at same date last year, and more than thirty of its students are occupying mission fields in the West. Ontario and the East are especially interested in the great work of the Church in the Western field, and a liberal collection ought to be made to encourage our brethren on the frontier in their disinterested, devoted, and missionary services.

Knox College has been known throughout its history as a centre from which missionary interest and zeal have been inspired, and the annual report for the year now about to close, gives a welcome account, in brief, of the work done by the Students' Missionary Society of the College. The Society was founded in 1844, and in 1846, the condition of the French Canadian people was brought to its attention with the result that three years afterwards the society undertook a mission among them at Amherstburgh, the student selected for the work being Mr. John Black (the Apostle of the Red River.) Since then the society has had a famous record and has been the means of doing great things in needy fields. The society works in harmony with the Home Mission Committee as a useful auxiliary.

The opening of the Ontario Legislature last week was interesting chiefly because of the fact that Sir Oliver Mowat sat on the throne for the first time as Lieutenant-Governor. For an exceptionally long period his seat in the House was on the Speaker's right, as

leader of the Government, the responsible adviser of Her Majesty's representative. Now that seat is occupied by another, and Sir Oliver is guided by the advice of one who was but lately his first lieutenant. Such are the curious changes time brings in the political arena. That Sir Oliver Mowat may be spared long to grace the position he worthily fills, is the wish of a united Ontario. The House now open will be reminded of its duty with respect to temperance and Sabbath legislation, and we trust the advocates of both these movements will make strong enough representations to the Assembly, to carry out the reasonable ends they have in view.

The Rev. Dr. Warden has issued the following comparative statement of receipts, for the Schemes of the Church, from the beginning of the ecclesiastical year, 1st May to 1st December, 1896 and 1897:

SCHEMES.	1896.	1897.
Home Missions.....	\$13,734.56	\$16,853.66
Augmentation.....	1,839.30	1,756.66
Foreign Missions.....	34,629.51	28,371.17
French Evangelization.....	5,533.47	4,135.68
Pointe aux Trembles.....	953.14	1,107.16
Widows' and Orphans'.....	812.81	640.76
Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund..	748.19	802.10
Assembly Fund.....	1,941.40	1,564.34
Knox College.....	971.89	909.09
Queen's ".....	1,425.22	1,154.35
Montreal ".....	165.13	162.73
Manitoba ".....	1,002.52	434.44

Special attention is called to the fact that the Church year now terminates on the 31st of March, a month earlier than formerly.

Last week we referred to the apt advice given to the Toronto St. Andrew's Society, by Rev. W. G. Wallace, B.D., in his annual sermon. On Tuesday evening, following, at the Celebration of St. Andrew's Day His Excellency Earl Aberdeen paid a graceful and well deserved tribute to the Presbyterian Church in Canada for the good work she was doing in connection with the settlement of the country. His Lordship observed truly, a fact too often overlooked, that the placing of Gospel ordinances within reach of the scattered settlers in the Western Territories, at a time when these settlers were too few in number to maintain a church of their own, was of the greatest possible value to the State, as well as to the church, preventing as it does a period of lapsing and indifference. Lord Aberdeen is alive to the importance of following the settlers to their homes and his commendation of the work being performed by the Presbyterian church will bear fruit, it is to be hoped, by a revival of public interest in the subject.

Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education, has usually something to say worth listening to when he comes before an audience. A close student of affairs his grasp of public questions is strong and masterly, and his eloquence enables him to clothe his facts in attractive garb. On Saturday evening he gave one of the best illustrations of his eminence as a public speaker, ever given by him. It was an address before the Toronto Branch of the British Empire League, of which he is a vice-president. It may not be too much to regard