## The Presbyterian Bleview.

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AF No notice will be taken of anonymous communications, Whatever is intended for insertion must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith

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THURSDAY, JUNE 10TH, 1886.

## SPECIAL ASSEMBLY NUMBER.

As the REVIEW is sent to press on Tuesday evening, we are unable to give any particulars this week of the meeting of the General Assembly now in session at Hamilton. Next week, however, we shall give a full report to date. We have made arrangements to issue a special number, illustrated. Persons requiring estra copies for mailing should apply at once. We can send ten copies for twenty-five cents to one or separate addresses.

## OUR MISSION IN CENTRAL INDIA

THE Report of our missionaries labouring in Central India for the year ending March 31st, 1886, just at hand, we have read with the deepest interest. We trust the Report may be widely circulated, for we are sure it will greatly cheer the hearts of all who are interested in our mission work, and will completely dispel any clouds of doubt and fear which the past vicissitudes in Central India have occasioned. It is quite evident that we have now a staff of missionaries, both men and women, of whom any church might be proud; and we look forward to the future with entire confidence that the is they are now adopting will bring about in the near future glorious results. The deepest impression made upon our minds by the Report is one of profound thankfulness to God for the nonour He is evidently putting upon our Church in giving it this great field in which to labour and in opening so many and so wide doors for of Christ. This extraordinary and inspiring our missionary efforts where none others have been before us with the message of salvation. We hope to lay before our readers copious extracts from the Report, so that it is only needful here to call attention to some of its salient fea-

putting on their harness should not boast as azine consolidated from these three, the consolidated those who are taking it off." The amount of dation to take effect on the 1st January, 1887. self-denying labour, the hardships and the trials A new \$4,000 editor is talked of, but the failure endured can only be inferred from the facts of the scheme is already predicted in the newsstated, and not from any graphic descriptions of difficulties and triumphs such as we sometimes read in letters from mission fields. There is here no extravagant parade either of piety or enthusiasm, but such quiet and sober utterances as become those who are entering upon a great work with humility and self abasement but yet with the determination to be faithful unto death. This feature of the Report reveals to us the calibre of our missionaries, and gives a weight to their statements which must largely influence the Church and lead to an ever-widening interest in their work. We do not wish gush in our Reports, but facts, and it is most satisfactory to read the cautious and modest words in which the earnest and successful labours of the past year in Central India are recorded.

It is a cause for congratulation that we have a Musionary Council in India, an organization which doubtless will very soon develop into a a resbytery. All plans of work we notice with much satisfaction are discussed in the Council. and are adopted only when all are substantially agreed. By this means the danger of the Mission suffering from the adoption of ill-advised schemes, or from the peculiarities of any individual, is reduced to a minimum, and all are helped and encouraged by the sympathy and support of the Council. Last week, in considering the admirable system adopted by the English Presbyterian Mission in Southern Formosa, we asked the question. What might be the consequences if Dr. MacKay should be compelled to leave Formosa or should be taken from us? and we fear no very reassuring answer can be given. Here, however, in India our mission is not dependent on one man, but on a Council, and in spite of all triumphs of individual effort and prerogative, we consider this by far the salest and lest method of working, and one, too, which is most in accord with the genius of Presbyterianism This Council we are happy to see, seems now to be working harmoniously and to growth of Christ's church there; therefore, be guiding the mission work with great sagacity

Aesolved, 1. That this General Assembly views
and prudence—In proof of this we would notice
with utter reprobation all such acts of lawless be guiding the mission work with great sagacity

June," to quote from the Report, "the Inspec- is bound not only by the ordinary laws of hutor visited the High Schools and reported on the manity and by plain treaty obligations, but also whole favourably, so much so that we have as by consideration of what is due to our citizens the result of his visit been receiving 166 rupces a month as a government grant in aid from the date of inspection." All who remember the difficulties of the past will be rejoiced to hear these good tidings and will see that our Mission is action of the brethren on the Pacific coast, who, gaining more and more the confidence of the remembering the demands of justice and huses a subscript and the college and the confidence of the remembering the demands of justice and huses a subscript and the college and local authorities.

Mission is held by onlookers is seen in the sup-oppressed. 3. That we urge our ministers and port and sympathy shown by the officers people to do all within their power to secure to of the British army who have contributed all men without distinction of race all that is fair generously towards its maintenance, and given and according to the laws of the land and the from time to time to the missionaries the advan- law of God. tages of their experience and their knowledge of That a copy of this deliverance be officially the country. It appears from the Report that sent to the Chinese embassy at Washington and our missionaries scel the importance of the edu- to our missionaries in China. cational method, and are directing their energies
largely in that direction. With that plan of vote, only one voting in the negative. In view operations we are sure the Church is in hearty sympathy Though there may be no such brilliant | Pacific coast it might not be amiss for our Genachievements through this instrumentality as Dr. MacKay has accustomed us to see in Formosa, there will doubtless be abundance of fruit when the harvest comes.

limited only by the means at the Church's disposal, for we are persuaded there are multitudes Church's call whenever the means are forthcoming to send them. We congratulate the Church on the condition of our mission work in India, and we send our warmest greetings to our missionaries there, with the earnest prayer that their labours during this present year may be crowned with abundant success.

## THE NORTHERN ASSEMBLY.

THE proceedings of the ninety-eighth general assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, of which we gave some account last week, concluded its session on the tenth day, May 30th. A summary of the Reports on Missions, Home and Foreign, to be found on our first page will repay careful perusal. It will be noted that the watchword of this great Church is still, Forward. The mark for this year has been set at seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars for Home Missions and the same three-quarters of a million of dollars for Foreign Missions. When it is remembered that the great Methodist Church of the United States with twice the number of the Presbyterians in the Northern Assembly is moving for one million for Missions Home and Foreign, including Freedmen and Church Extension, it will be seen that our Presbyterian brethren are determined to lead the van in the noble rivalry for the cause movement was begun, let it be further noted, by the elders of the Assembly, business men in New York and elsewhere in the large centres.

Much time was consumed in discussing mathere to call attention to some of its salient features.

First, then, we are struck with the extreme modesty of the Report. Each worker tells his or her story as remembering "that those who are story as remembering that those who are papers, as it is almost impossible to gather into one publication the energies and interests at present secured to the separate publications. Fraternal greetings from the Cumberland and Southern Assemblies lead to the indulgence of the hope that all branches of the Presbyterian family will be united at no very distant day. Union is in the air. A plea for the use of lay helpers as workers in the Gospel and helpers in the ministry, urged by the well-known Dr. Howard Crosby, met with much acceptance. A Resolution in accordance with his views was referred to a Committee to report at the next General Assembly. A Committee was appointed to select delegates to the Pan-Presbyterian Council for 1888 and to report at next meeting. The following Resolutions were adopted respecting the Chinese Question: 1. That the General Assembly views with entire reprobation all-acts of violence against law-abiding citizens in our land. 2. The Assembly warmly commends the actions of the brethren of the Pacific coast in remembering the golden rule of our Lord in standing up for the oppressed. 3. That we urge ministers and people to do all within their power to create a public sentiment against outrages upon foreigners who come to our shores.

As the treatment of the Chinese on this continent intimately concerns ourselves and is likely to affect our missionaries in China, we give the deliverances of the Committee to whom was reserred certain overtures:

Whereas, There has come before the General Assembly a memorial from our missionaries in Canton, China, respecting the inhuman and unchristian treatment of Chinamen by mobs in various parts of the land, which treatment most plainly is a violation of the first principles of justice and morality, as well as repugnant to the gospel of Christ, and is also calculated to endanger the property and lives of miss onaries and other Americans in China, and to retard the

manity, and the golden rule of our Lord, have A further proof of the estimation in which the stood up nobly in the defence of the rights of the

eral Assembly now in session to put on record its views respecting outrages upon the Chinese.

The Report on the State of Religion showed progress. The home work of the churches has Miss Dr. Beatty and the other lady mission-aries have been prosecuting their work with great devotedness and a large measure of success. We hope the Church may see its way to further urged to endeavour each to secure a manse. This work is limited only by the fewness of the labourers, and the number of ladies sent out is too low. Special mention was made of the young people's prayer meetings and the good attendance everywhere reported. About 55,000 of devoted young women ready to go at the have been added to the Church. For the six preceding years the numbers were: 26,838; 25.344; 29,389; 32,132; 34,938; 42,972; figures which require no comment. The necrological list contains the names of 98 ministers who have died during the year. Two overtures of much significance were sent down to Presbyteries. The first proposes the following as Section 4 to Chapter xix. of the form of Government. "In case the Moderator of any Judicatory above the Church session shall be a ruling elder, he may open the next meeting with an appropriate address, but any act appropriate only to an ordained minister of the Gospel shall be performed by a minister appointed by him." The other overture strikes from the Confession of Faith the clause forbidding marriage with a deceased wife's sister.

From the tone of the Assembly there is little reason to doubt that the overtures will be adopted. In no long time we may hope to see a Ruling Elder in the Moderator's chair in both Northern and Southern Assemblies. And what is good for them cannot very well be hurtful to us. Shall we, too, have an Elder as Moderator next year? The Assembly's dealing with temperance and Sabbath Schools we must leave for the present. The Presbyterian Journal in its comments on the Assembly says, "The Sabbath morning sermon of Moderator Marquis caused some excitement. It is somewhat remarkable that two Moderators in succession should be pre-millenarians."

The next meeting of the Assembly will not be in Niagara Falls but in Omaha. On the whole, our Presbyterian friends in the States have had a most successful year. We greet them also with all Christian salutations. May they still further be blessed in their abundant labours to win the world for Christ.

A WRITER in the Halifax Witness, while payof the Church Agency in the Maritime Provinces, vacant since the death of her lamented father, Dr. McGregor, urges the appointment of "a thoroughly live agent, who should have a clerk, so that the agent might have an opportunity of visiting congregations." Opinions differ as to what court should make the appointment. The Witness favours the Synod. The Maritime Presbyterian also says :- "This is a matter of importance to the welfare of our Church, a matter in which there should be earnest prayer for guidance. The work is moving along very well as at present managed. There is no need for hurry in making a change. It should be referred by Assembly to Synod. There is little doubt that this will be done. Anything else would be unfair. There will not be more than one-eighth of the Synod at Assembly, and the former body is certainly far better fitted to deal with it than the latter. Better wait for a time than appoint an unsuitable man. Let it not be made a place for any man wanting the place. If any appointment be made, let the public seek the man, and appoint the most suitable. Better than any other way would be to allow the work to continue along the same lines as at present. Miss McGregor knows more about the accounts of the Church than any man in the Maritime Provinces. Let her services be retained at a fair salary for the work of keeping the accounts, receiving and paying out moneys, and let each of the committees appoint its own secretary, one of its number, who shall give his services without salary. It may be said a man should be paid for what he does. If some poorly paid ministers were doing the extra work it would be different. Something additional for it would be right. As a rule, however, the men who are appointed are in the larger centres, and are already in the receipt of good salaries, and if able to do anything more than their congregational work, can do it treely for the good of the

REV. Dr. BUCKLEY, editor of the Methodist and prudence In proof of this we would notice with utter reprobation all such acts of lawless the marked change in the autitude of the local government to the missions. "In the month of and we recognize the fact that our government which concludes as follows:—" Faith-cure, tech-

nically so called, as now held by many Protestants, is a pitiable superstition, dangerous in its final effects. It may be asked, what harm can result from allowing persons to believe in faithhealing? Very great indeed. Its tendency is to produce an effendante type of character which shinks from any pain and to concentrate attention upon self and its sensations. It sets up false grounds for determining whether a person is or is not in the favour of God. It opens the door to every superstition, such as attaching importance to dreams, signs, opening the Hible at random, expecting the Lord to make it open so that they can gather His will from the first passage they see, 'impressions,' 'assurances,' etc.
Practically it gives great support to other delusions which claim a supernatural element. It
greatly injures Christianity by subjecting it to a
test which it cannot endure. It directs attention from the moral and spiritual transformation which Christianity professes to work, a transformation which wherever made manifests its divinity, so that none who behold it need any other proof that it is of God. It destroys the ascendency of reason in the soul, and thus, like similar delusions, it is self-perpetuating; and its natural, and, in some minds, its irresistible tendency, is to mental derangement. Little hope exists of freeing those already entangled, but it is highly important to prevent others from falling into so plausible and luxurious a snare, and to strengthen the zenana branch of the Mission. There has been an increase in the contributions | show that Christianity is not to be held responsible for aberrations of the imagination which belong exclusively to no party, creed, race, clime, or age."

> THE second American Congress of Churches a few days ago closed its three days' session in Cleveland, Ohio. It is a body numerically representative of twenty-five denominations, but is not composed of delegates, and when convened has no power of vote or order over any creed, doctrine or polity. The constitution of the Congress establishes that, "No topic dis-cussed in the Congress, nor any question of doctrine or opinion rising out of any discussion, shall ever be submitted to vote at any meeting of the Congress or its Council." It is stated that the drift of the Congress was not to dispense with denominations, but to subordinate them to the union of Christians in work. Eminently practical and current questions were discussed, as The True Church in its Essentials; Religion in our Public Schools; The Present Necessity for a Restatement of Christian Be-liefs; The Workingman's Distrust of the Church, its Causes and Remedies; and Readjustments in the Church to meet Modern Needs-In our Cities, In Country Towns, On the Frontier, In-Foreign Missionery Fields. On the starts, ten elaborate papers were read and and starts.

On June and President Cleveland was married at the White House to Miss Folsom, a young lady of Buffalo. Since their engagement was first spoken of they have been obliged to live in such a full blaze of that publicity which a portion at least of the American press consider essential to Republican happiness and propriety, that the whole world is perfectly satisfied that they deserve the warmest felicitations. The match is considered to be one of affection and as such, apart from the influence upon society which the occupants of the White House are sure to exert, will insure the good wishes of all who love to see affection crowned with happiness in hut or hall. It does not detract from our ing a high tribute to the excellent manner in interest in the pair that they are members of which Miss McGregor is discharging the duties the Presbyterian Church. If in the future we shall hear less of their private life, of the food which they choose to eat, and the clothes they put on, we shall not grieve but take it for granted that they have settled down to a quiet life of domestic happiness and comfort. That they may be able to set a good example of happy home life to the American people is what we would specially wish for them.

> AT a time when persistent efforts are made to discredit the Scott Act, and to terrorize the officers of the law in their attempts to enforce its operation, it is well to note what Senator Wilson of Iowa has to say of prohibition. He is of opinion that his State has solved the question, "Does Prohibition prohibit?" and that it has answered it in the affirmative. "Prohibition is a success in Iowa," he says, "and we have driven the saloons out of the State. I have no doubt that we shall continue to keep them out, and I think Iowa is the advance guard of a movement in the West which is in the future destined to become national." While doing all we can to secure the operation of the Scott Act it is evident that at its best the Act is not sufficient. Prohibition pure and simple is what must be kept in view. To this end all the energiesof Christian people should be devoted.

> Amid the intensest excitement a vote was reached on Tuesday morning in the British Parliament on Mr. Gladstone's Bill granting Home Rule for Ireland, resulting in the defeat of the measure by a majority of thirty votes. It is unnecessary to enter here into a calculation of all the forces that brought about this result, but it cannot be doubted that religious feeling played an important part. There can be little doubt also that Home Rule in some shape or other will ultimately be conceded to Ireland, but in the meantime those who have been afraid that the interests of the Protestant minority were jeopardized by Mr. Gladstone's Bill will breathe more freely. Longer time for consideration of