

The Presbyterian Review.

NOTICES.

(a) Terms: In advance \$1.00 for 3 months, \$1.25, after 3 months, \$1.50, after 6 months, \$2.00.

All communications for the Editorial, Literary, News and Miscellaneous Columns of the Review should be addressed to the Editor of the "Presbyterian Review," P.O. Box 1547.

All communications relating to business, to The Manager, Geo. H. Robinson, P.O. Box 1547, Office, Rooms 31 York Chambers, Toronto St., Toronto.

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

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the views or opinions expressed by our correspondents.

Persons desiring a return of their manuscripts, if not accepted, could send an addressed envelope with stamp.

ADVERTISING RATES:—Per line per year, \$3.00; 6 months, \$1.75; 3 months, 95 cents; 1 month, 50 cents; under 1 month, 25 cents. Special rates for contracts on application.

Subscribers failing to receive the "Review" promptly, will confer a favour by immediately notifying the Manager.

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.

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.

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 putting on their harness should not boast as those who are taking it off."

It is a cause for congratulation that we have a Missionary Council in India, an organization which doubtless will very soon develop into a Presbytery. All plans of work we notice with much satisfaction are discussed in the Council, and are adopted only when all are substantially agreed.

June," to quote from the Report, "the Inspector visited the High Schools and reported on the whole favourably, so much so that we have as the result of his visit been receiving 166 rupees a month as a government grant in aid from the date of inspection."

A further proof of the estimation in which the Mission is held by onlookers is seen in the support and sympathy shown by the officers of the British army who have contributed generously towards its maintenance, and given from time to time to the missionaries the advantages of their experience and their knowledge of the country.

Miss Dr. Beatty and the other lady missionaries have been prosecuting their work with great devotedness and a large measure of success. We hope the Church may see its way to further strengthen the zenana branch of the Mission.

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.

Much time was consumed in discussing matters relating to publishing interests. Against the earnest protest of the Secretaries, by a small majority of eighteen the Assembly voted to abolish the Foreign Missionary, the Home Missionary and the Record, and to start a new magazine consolidated from these three.

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 missionaries and other Americans in China, and to retard the growth of Christ's church there; therefore,

Resolved, 1. That this General Assembly views with utter reprobation all such acts of lawless violence against helpless foreigners in our land; and we recognize the fact that our government

is bound not only by the ordinary laws of humanity and by plain treaty obligations, but also by consideration of what is due to our citizens resident in China, to protect the Chinese who are among us, and to repress the great wrongs which mob violence has inflicted upon them.

That a copy of this deliverance be officially sent to the Chinese embassy at Washington and to our missionaries in China.

These resolutions were adopted by a rising vote, only one voting in the negative. In view of the attitude of some of our countrymen on the Pacific coast it might not be amiss for our General 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 been liberally supported. Several new churches have been built, several relieved of debt and a number of manses built. The churches were urged to endeavour each to secure a manse.

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.

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.

A WRITER in the Halifax Witness, while paying a high tribute to the excellent manner in which Miss McGregor is discharging the duties of 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.

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 money, 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 freely for the good of the cause."

REV. DR. BUCKLEY, editor of the Methodist Christian Advocate, has a long and exhaustive article on "Faith-healing," in the June Century, 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 'faith-healing'? Very great indeed. Its tendency is to produce an effeminate type of character which shrinks 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 Bible 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 ascendancy 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 show that Christianity is not to be held responsible for aberrations of the imagination which belong exclusively to no party, creed, race, climate, 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 discussed 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. Eminent 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 Beliefs; 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 Missionary Fields. On these subjects ten elaborate papers were read and discussed.

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 interest in the pair that they are members of 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 energies of 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 all the interests involved in granting any form of Home Rule cannot fail to produce a more generally satisfactory measure.