

## ASSEMBLY NOTES.

## THE LONG JOURNEY.

It was a long, long ride, of more than *two thousand two hundred miles*, that carried the members of the General Assembly from the Maritime Provinces to Winnipeg. Far as it was they were then only half way across our church, for there they met delegates from British Columbia, who had come well nigh two thousand miles from an opposite direction. Whatever may be thought of the purity of our church or the strength of her stakes there can be no question as to the length of her cords.

## WINNIPEG HOSPITALITY.

Great as was the distance travelled by most of the members, all of them must have felt that the heartiness of their reception and the kindness of the treatment received from the good people of Winnipeg was well worth even a longer journey. It is no disparagement to other places where Assemblies have met, to say, that never was a General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, received with such boundless, one might almost say, excessive, hospitality, as was the one that met recently in the prairie city of the far West. It seemed as if the different classes, ages, denominations, and sexes, in every capacity, public and private, tried to outvie the other, in loading with their bounties the members of the General Assembly. Most delightful are the memories that have been carried to every quarter of the Dominion of the meeting of the General Assembly of 1887 in Winnipeg.

## THE WORK OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The sittings of the Assembly were continued for more than a week, closing at noon on Friday, June 17th. The morning and afternoon sessions were devoted more especially to business, while the evening meetings were of a more popular character. I have spoken of the boundless hospitality of the people of Winnipeg. Equally marked was their interest in the work of the Assembly and their attendance at the evening meetings. The spirit and tone that characterized all the proceedings was most excellent. As was said by the moderator in closing: "the wheels moved without friction, and it seemed as though 'the spirit was in the wheels.'"

## OPENING OF ASSEMBLY.

The Assembly was opened on the even-

ing of Thursday, June 9th, by a sermon on Zephaniah 3: 16, "In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, fear thou not, and to Zion, let not thy hands be slack," from Rev. J. K. Smith, D.D., the retiring moderator. The discourse was an earnest presentation of some of the reasons why Christians and the Church of God should not fear nor be slack in the great work before them. After roll call, Dr. Burns of Halifax, was unanimously chosen moderator, and addressed the court on the progress of the past and good prospects for the future.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 10TH.

The forenoon sederant was occupied in devotional exercises and in the arrangement of the order of business for the ensuing sessions.

In the afternoon there were two subjects before the house. The first was a communication from the Provincial Synod of the Church of England regarding union between the different evangelical bodies. This was very heartily received, and a committee was appointed to confer with any similar committees which may be appointed by other branches of the Church of Christ in Canada. Whatever the future may bring forth in the way of outward union in the church, there can be no doubt that she is making progress in keeping "the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

The Report of the Hymnal Committee was the second subject of this afternoon. There was a lively discussion—the conservative psalmists and the supposed more progressive hymnists of all shades of opinion earnestly supporting each his favorite view with regard to the best way to improve the service of praise. During the year there have been sold about 20,000 copies each of the Church Hymnal and the S. S. Hymnal. The present contract runs for five years, so that there will not likely be any change during that time, but the committee are seeking from year to year to perfect such arrangements as will enable them to give the best edition possible at that time.

## FRENCH EVANGELIZATION

was the subject for this evening. The Report was presented by Principal McVicar. The work is carried on chiefly in three ways, by colportage, mission schools, and preaching. Eighteen colporteurs were employed the past year. The total