

Let us be earnest in prayer for a copious pouring of God's Holy Spirit. This is the want of the age. There is a shaking. One has come to his bone; sinews and flesh have covered them. But, humbly recognizing the Spirit of God as the source of all spiritual life, let our prayer ascend: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE P. C. OF VICTORIA.

The body held its Annual Session in Melbourne on November last. The attendance was large, and the meeting one of unusual interest. The following resume of work done in from, "the *Christian Record*" for December:—

STATISTICS.

The statistics of the denomination are encouraging. The Presbyterians in the colony number 125,000. The ministers and preachers number 135, giving one to every 930 ostensibly connected with the church. There are 230 churches, and in addition to these there are numerous buildings of various sorts occupied for service throughout the colony. Close on 60,000 persons are in actual attendance in these churches. There are 14,000 communicants, with 387 churches. There are 22,700 Sabbath-school scholars, instructed by 2100 teachers, and 261 schools. The Theological Institute is attended by 8 students. One very striking proof of progress is furnished by the fact that during the past two years, as shown by the statistics of the Assembly, there has been an actual increase in attendance on divine services amounts to 15,000.

The leading items in finance stand thus. The Hospital fund for the endowment of the Theological Hall amounts to a little over £600. The revenue of the Scotch Church for the year reached the sum of £1,000. The Widows and Orphans' Fund accumulated to £16,604 13s. 8d., and the Reform Ministers' Fund to £6194 8s. The Loan Fund shows an aggregate of £759. The contributions to the New South Wales Mission amounted to £221 9s.; to the Chinese and Aborigines Mission, to £13s. 4d.; to the General Mission to £442 5s. 9d.; to the Home Church Fund, to £247 9s. 4d.; to the purchase and maintenance of "Dayspring," to £18s. 2d. The Sustentation Fund has a dividend of £38 to all the aid-receiving congregations which have complied with the necessary conditions. As nearly as can be ascertained, the congregational

contributions for the year have amounted to £71,000.

EDUCATION.

The work done in the department of education, exclusive of the Sabbath School, is shown to be something considerable. The Scotch College, under its able principal, is in a most flourishing condition. There are at present 340 pupils receiving an education that would be considered first-class in any country in Europe. A kindred institution for young ladies, under the name of the Ladies' College, has been originated, and will be ready for the reception of pupils at the close of the Christmas holidays, and of which the Rev. George Tait, of South Yarra, has been appointed principal. It is anticipated that it will prove a marked success. The attention of the Assembly has been directed with much earnestness to the importance of giving religious instruction in the State schools, and though in some districts there are serious obstacles in the way, a considerable number of ministers are giving themselves, with much self-denial and laboriousness, to the work.

The general interests of religion are being prosecuted with assiduity and earnestness. A growing importance is being attached to the conversion of the young through direct dealing with their hearts in the class and by the special service. Amid multitudinous doubts, and a wide-spread departure from the simplicity of the gospel, our pulpits give no "uncertain sound." The cross is exhibited as the one and only fountain whence healing flows to human hearts. The tidings of God's wonderful doings in the land of our fathers have encouraged and stimulated many to augmented earnestness in dealing with the consciences of men, and in striving to win souls. Lay brethren of simple piety, fervid zeal, and suitable gifts, are being drawn out to the work of preaching to their fellow-men the common salvation, especially in districts where regular ministerial supply is not meanwhile obtainable. Frequent special services have been held in many churches with the view of awakening a deeper and more widespread interest in religion. An unquailing front has been shown in resisting the efforts that have been made during the past year to make a breach in the bulwarks of the Sabbath, and its sanctity and entirety have been successfully maintained.

MISSION.

The missions of the church afford ground for thankfulness. True, indeed, they have been crippled financially, although even on this point there is room for congratulation, inasmuch as the debt on the Chinese and Aborigines' Mission has been considerably reduced during the year; but in their higher interests there is much that is encouraging.