

the Churches together with union as the ultimate goal.

There was an interesting discussion on the new Hymnal for the Church. Rev. Dr. Henderson, of Paisley, in asking the Synod to approve generally of the draft by the Committee, asked also that the Committee be instructed in concert with the Committees of other churches finally to adjust the Hymnal for publication, and to issue it as a joint Hymnal for Public Worship. The Synod agreed to the course proposed, almost unanimously, four commissioners only voting for further expurgation.

The various schemes of the Church were reported upon favorably, and on the whole the Synod of 1896 will be remembered as one of great importance to the future of the Church.

The Gaelic Lectureship.

The Senate of the Presbyterian College of Montreal has issued a circular appealing for provision for the future financial basis of its Gaelic Lectureship. We heartily commend this appeal to the Church. The committee says that by extensive correspondence with the best informed Gaelic-speaking ministers and others of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, in the Maritime Provinces, the Province of Quebec, and the eastern, central, and western parts of Ontario, it has ascertained that the number of congregations and mission stations throughout the Church in which a knowledge of Gaelic on the part of the minister is either indispensable or very advantageous is little, if at all, short of one hundred and fifty, and that even now there are several vacant Gaelic pulpits. Those who have any acquaintance with the Scottish Highlander and his language know how sacred are the associations of his mother tongue with the services of the sanctuary and with the friendly intercourse between him and his minister, and, therefore, how desirable it is that such a help to the true spirit of devotion and Christian converse should be cultivated, so long as there are those in our communion whom it may benefit. It is thus evident that the training of Gaelic-speaking ministers is a necessity, and it is in accordance with the educational spirit of our Church that, if such are to be trained, their teaching should be efficient and thorough. The Committee are aware that, in two other colleges of our Church, examinations in Gaelic have been conducted, but they have reason to believe that the Presbyterian College, Montreal, is the only institution in Canada, or indeed in America, in which Celtic studies form the regular subject of academic prelections. In this connection, therefore, they make no sectional appeal. In stating the wants of the Lectureship, the Committee name a minimum sum for endowment of five thousand dollars, with the hope that the amount may speedily be doubled. Until this minimum sum is reached, the annual expense of the Lectureship will be two hundred and fifty dollars. The Gaelic-speaking constituency of the Church should not find it a tax to provide either the capital or the annual interest of so small an amount.

Sabbath Observance. The deliverance of the General Assembly at Saratoga on Sabbath observance was pronounced: It denounced all unnecessary work on the Sabbath, excursions, ball games, bicycle riding, lax views of the Sabbath, social entertainment, and Sunday newspapers.

Mission Claims in the United States. The time of the General Assembly in the United States it is expected will be occupied chiefly with the subject of missions, than which there is no higher. How shall the increas-

ing work be met? How shall the agencies be made more effective? In the home field the cry is "Send us more help." In the foreign field the call comes with a voice that should be heard by every heart, "Come over and help us." These, and such questions will be considered.

The U. S. A. Moderator. At the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States. Rev. Dr. John L. Withrow, of Chicago was elected moderator, and Rev. Dr. Benjamin L. Agnew, of Philadelphia, vice-moderator.

Polygamons Converts. A report on the admission of polygamons converts to baptism and the church came before the General Assembly at Saratoga, on an overture from the synod of India, which asked that the decision be relegated to the synod for decision in each case. The report of the special committee, consisting of Dr. John R. Wells, of Brooklyn, President of the Board of Foreign Missions; Dr. E. R. Craven, of Philadelphia, and Elder George Junkin, was presented by Dr. Craven. It stated that the request could not be granted, and this view was adopted by the Assembly by formal vote.

The Prohibition Judgment. In the article on the Prohibition Judgment of the Privy Council which we published last week, a typographical error clouded the meaning of the statement contained in the second paragraph. It ought to have read: The Province possesses the power to legislate absolutely with respect to any liquor traffic which is entirely provincial. For instance, any transaction exclusively pertaining to Ontario may be controlled by the Ontario Legislature. The Ontario Legislature has power (should it choose to exercise it by enacting a law) to prevent a resident of Ontario from manufacturing, buying, selling or "dealing," in a business way, in intoxicating liquors, within the province of Ontario, but a resident of Ontario could in that event, buy liquor in the province of Quebec, for example, and import it to Ontario for his own use, not for traffic. Again, the province could, if it chose, prohibit the manufacture of liquor within the province so far as the liquor were for sale in that province, but not if for sale beyond the province.

The General Assembly's Travelling Arrangements. The Rev. Dr. Warden has arranged with the railway companies, for reduced fares, which are available for commissioners and their wives, and others having business with the Assembly. Tickets going must be purchased within three days' of opening of Assembly and in returning are good for three weeks after Assembly adjourns. When tickets are purchased a certificate must be procured from the ticket agent at the starting point. These certificates will be attested at the meeting of Assembly, and return tickets obtained free, provided three hundred have used the railway certificates. The number who did so last year was only slightly in excess of three hundred. It is therefore important that all commissioners, etc., should secure a Standard Certificate from the railway company, at the starting point, in order to ensure the return tickets being obtained free. If travelling by more than one line of railway, certificates should be obtained from the ticket agent of each railway. The certificates, as well as the return half of all round trip tickets, should be handed to Dr. Warden on arrival in Toronto, so that they may be vised by the officer appointed for the purpose by the railway companies.

One hundred and fifty Chinese converts were baptized last year by the Rev. Hopkin Rees, a Welsh missionary of the L. M. S., who is located at Tientsin, North China.