

year, only gave liberty of opinion on the matter to Sessions, to discipline, or otherwise as they might see fit, but not liberty of action to individuals who might wish so to marry.

Strange as such a position may seem, a number supported it. And it was felt that the better way was to settle the question beyond all doubt. Accordingly after considerable discussion a resolution was prepared in the following terms. "That the discipline of the Church shall not be exercised in the case of marriage with a deceased wife's sister, aunt, or niece, and that this resolution be sent down to Presbyteries for their decision. If the presbyteries decide in favor of it, the matter will be buried at next Assembly, it is to be hoped never to be resurrected again.

A PAPER FOR CHILDREN.

Some five years since the Sabbath School Committee in their report to Assembly, recommended the publication of a *Children's Record*. The Assembly decided not to do so but to leave the matter of providing papers for the young to private enterprise. Shortly afterwards the *Children's Record* was started by the Editor of the *Maritime*. It met with a very kindly reception, and notwithstanding the many illustrated children's papers with which it had to compete, it gradually worked its way until it has reached a circulation of over 11,000, and, besides paying for itself has been able thus far to send several hundred dollars to the Foreign Mission Fund. The circulation is pretty evenly distributed over the whole church, being about 3,250 in the East, and about 8,000 in the West.

The matter of publishing a children's paper by the Church was again brought before Assembly at its meeting last year. It was remitted to a Committee and considered this year. The publisher of the *Children's Record* was conferred with, and offered, if the Assembly wished to publish such a paper, to transfer it to the Church. The offer was accepted, and the Committee on the *Presbyterian Record* was directed to take over the *Children's Record* at the beginning of the year, and to take steps for its publication on and after that date.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

As nearly as can be ascertained there are about 1720 Sabbath Schools, with nearly 15,500 officers and teachers, and about 140,000 children under instruction. Only one-third of the schools are reported as contributing to any of the Schemes of the Church. The whole amount thus given being \$27,663, viz., to Colleges \$582, to Home Missions and Augmentations \$5,329, to Foreign Missions \$8,942, and to the remaining schemes \$1,773.

The amount expended upon Sabbath Schools is reported at \$33,927. Of this the congregation paid \$12,225 or 36 per cent. It is very desirable that the congregations should bear the whole burden of maintaining the Sabbath Schools, and that the schools should be trained to give to the Schemes of the Church.

A new departure has been taken during the past year or two in what is known as the Scheme for Higher Religious Instruction. Under this scheme some 600 underwent the prescribed examination, of whom about one-half obtained diplomas.

EQUAL RIGHTS.

The Committee reported that its members have done much to foster a healthy public sentiment regarding this subject. The following recommendations were adopted by the Assembly as objects which should be furthered by all legitimate means. (1) The complete separation of Church and State. Each to be independent in its own sphere, a free church in a free State. The mutual rights of each to be respected, but neither to invade the prerogative of the other. (2) The abolition of all grants from the public exchequer for ecclesiastical or sectarian purposes. (3) The abolition of Compulsory tithes and other ecclesiastical dues.

HOME AGAIN.

With the details and organization of its work along the different lines the Assembly was busily occupied during the eight days of its sitting, transacting a large amount of business. And then came the dispersion, far and wide, to Atlantic coast in the far East, and to the Pacific in the far West, each one to take up and carry on in his own sphere of labor the work of another year.