

whose admirable arrangements had greatly facilitated business, and whose hospitality was above praise. A suitable Minute was adopted recording the Assembly's deep sorrow over the death of Professor MacKerras, their late clerk.

After devotional exercises, the Moderator dissolved the Assembly and summoned the next to meet at Kingston, on the second Wednesday of June, 1881.

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PAYMENT IN ADVANCE.

THE sixth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada was, we think, the happiest and the best of all the six. In all these assemblies the presence of the great King and Head of the Church was manifest, but in none more so than in the last. We have now the full and true spirit of union as well as the outward form of union. On every hand we have peace, brotherly kindness, charity. In all the proceedings of the last Assembly there was not one vote which would indicate old lines of cleavage. The vast majority of decisions were arrived at unanimously. The discussions were frank and vigorous, and some of them very able, such as would reflect credit on any assembly, civil or ecclesiastical. The attendance of members, was large and much interest was shewn by the general public. The temper of the late Assembly was on the whole admirable. We need not remark that the presence of distinguished delegates from sister churches lent peculiar attraction to some of the sessions. Drs. Cairns, and Bruce, and Steel each contributed no small share to the happy general result. It is to be regretted that our excellent foreign missionary, Rev. Dr. Mackay, of Formosa, was unable to be with us, on account of delays caused by severe illness. But, no doubt, a large portion of the Church will be visited by him in course of the year, and we may meet him at the next Assembly. The adoption of a Hymn-Book for the whole Church just five years after the Union—its adoption almost unanimously—and the remarkable manner in which its contents agree with the Hymnals

of the sister churches, may surely be regarded as a hopeful sign of union and communion. Let us thank God for all that He has done for us, in our Home Missions, in our efforts on behalf of the French Roman Catholics, in our educational work, and in our missions to the heathen; and with renewed faith and hope let us address ourselves to the work of the ecclesiastical year upon which we have entered.

Literature.

§ CHAFF'S BIBLE DICTIONARY, with 12 coloured maps, and over 400 illustrations, published by the AMERICAN SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION, Philadelphia, 1880; pp., 970. Of making many Bible Dictionaries there seems to be no end, but this is the latest and, considering the price, only \$2.50, one of the best yet published. Dr. Schaff's eminent scholarship, added to his ample opportunities, from personal observation in Bible Lands, of verifying the statements of others, affords sufficient guarantee for the reliability of the descriptions contained in this beautiful volume, which is commended to the notice of students and teachers of the sacred volume. It contains the pith of such elaborate and expensive books as Smith's and Fairbairn's, and includes many useful details not to be found in either of them. The maps are particularly good.

THE FOUNDATIONS, by REV. JOHN MUNRO GIBSON, D.D. Jansen, McClurg & Co, Chicago, 1880, price, \$1.00. This volume contains twelve lectures so well dove-tailed together as to form an impenetrable armour against the attacks of scepticism and unbelief. The author has a firm grasp of the truth himself, and has the happy gift of putting things in such a way as to convince all who are open to the influence of sound argument. In a passing notice like this we can only say that it is an admirable epitome of the Evidences of Christianity, clearly and closely reasoned, and presented in a most attractive form.

LIFE, ITS TRUE GENESIS, by R. W. WRIGHT, New-York, Putnam's Son; Dawson Brothers, Montreal, 1880, pp., 298. Price \$1.75. The design of this book is to point out the agreement betwixt true science and revelation, and to confute the speculative theories so much in vogue at the present day which are rapidly tending towards a purely materialistic view of the universe. The subject is very ably handled, but in dealing with the speculations of such men as Tyndall, Herbert Spencer, and Darwin, the author now and then, with doubtful effect, employs *ridicule* where logical argument would have been more convincing.