

British American Presbyterian

Vol. 8—No. 37.

TORONTO, CANADA, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1876.

[Whole No. 245

[For the Presbyterian.]

ST. MARK'S CHURCH, MONTREAL.

INDUCTION OF REV. JOHN NICHOLLS.

The Presbytery of Montreal met in St. Mark's Church, on the evening of Thursday, the 28th Sept., for the purpose of inducting the Rev. John Nicholls into the pastoral charge of this congregation.

This church, which is located in the Hay-market, is a substantial brick structure, capable of accommodating 400 persons, erected about seven years ago. It has been vacant for about a year, its former pastor, the Rev. W. M. Black, having then resigned his charge to return to Scotland.

The attendance at the induction services was large. After the usual intimation to the congregation, the Rev. J. Scrimger, M.A., of St. Joseph Street Church, proceeded to the pulpit and preached an appropriate sermon from John iv. 35, his theme being, "The present is the Gospel harvest time." He dwelt upon the facts (1) That Christ is able to save now; (2) That Christ is ready to save now; (3) That the Spirit is willing to save now, and (4) That man has no promise of salvation in the future—each day's delay to accept Christ hardening the heart and rendering salvation more difficult. He then pointed out the truth that if the present is the Gospel harvest time, the reapers must be diligent now. This he illustrated by the natural harvest—each day's delay after the grain is fully ripe proving injurious, the grain decaying and falling to the ground. So in the spiritual harvest; at every tick of the clock souls are passing into eternity, hence the need of immediate labor on the part of the reapers. After the usual questions and prayer, Mr. Scrimger, in name of the Lord Jesus, and by the authority of the Presbytery, inducted Mr. Nicholls into the pastoral charge of the congregation, and the brethren present gave him the right hand of fellowship.

The Rev. J. Patterson, of Hemmingford, then delivered an earnest address to the newly-inducted pastor, basing his remarks on the words, "Take heed unto thyself, and to the doctrine," etc. The points illustrated were: (1) Take heed to thyself as to bodily health, not that there was to be indolence, for (2) Take heed to thyself as to mental culture—outward engagements were to be declined where these would interfere with due preparation for the pulpit. He should study the book of nature, the works of Providence, keep versed in passing events, "Every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old." (3) Take heed to thyself, and see that your own soul prospers and is in health. "Work out your own salvation," etc. Like Paul, "I keep under my body, etc., lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." Take heed to outward deportment, great care and watchfulness needed here. "Be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." (4) Take heed to the doctrine. "We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus," etc. (5) "Continuous in these." "Be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord."

Mr. Patterson closed an admirable address by urging the newly-inducted pastor to exercise discipline faithfully, to give a conscientious attendance on the meetings of church courts, and above all, to watch for souls as one that must give account. The minister was an ambassador for Christ, and must, therefore, press on his hearers the necessity and privilege of being reconciled to God.

The Rev. Robert Laing, B.A., of St. Paul's Church, Montreal, in the unavoidable absence of Dr. Jenkins, addressed the congregation. He prefaced his remarks by briefly referring to the history of the congregation, and his own connection therewith. He stated that it first began with a Sabbath School of seventeen pupils, which met in a little room on Duke street, he being one of the teachers. Soon a Sabbath evening service was instituted, then the church was erected, he being one of the first elders ordained, etc. In a very feeling address, he pointed out certain requisites to success and prosperity on the part of the congregation: (1) Full, hearty sympathy with their minister. If they wanted him to be firmly planted among them, they must plant him in the soil of their love, and bind him with the sweet cords of sympathy. (2) Full, hearty sympathy with one another. (3) Active effort, all being co-workers with their minister and with Christ. (4) Punctual and regular attendance on the means of grace—Sabbath evening as well as morning—the prayer-meeting, etc. (5) Cheerful giving to support their minister, church schemes, etc., and (6) Warm love to Jesus, and close walking with Him.

The whole service was of a most interesting and profitable nature. After the benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Jas. Elliott, of Nazareth Street Church, the new pastor was introduced to his people at the door of the church, and afterwards to the session.

On the following evening a welcome meeting took place which was very largely attended by the members of the congregation and their friends. The Rev. Mr. Scrimger presided. Addresses were delivered by the Rev. Messrs. J. Elliott, R. Campbell, R. H. Warden, and the new pastor, Mr. Nicholls, after which refreshments were served, and a pleasant evening spent.

Mr. Nicholls enters upon a most encouraging field of labor. We cordially wish him and his congregation much success.

[The delay in the appearance of the above report is due to the fact of its not reaching us as promptly as we could have wished.—Ed. B.A.P.]

PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE OF MONTREAL.

OPENING OF THE COLLEGE—MEETING AT ST. PAUL'S CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY EVENING—THE ADDRESS, ETC.

The usual opening meeting of the session of the Montreal Presbyterian College was held on Wednesday evening in St. Paul's Church. The building was well filled, Rev. Mr. Scrimger, chairman of the College Board, presided. The Rev. Principal MacVicar, LL.D., Principal Dawson, LL.D., F.R.S., the Rev. Dr. Jenkins, the Rev. Messrs. Muir, Patterson, Watson, Campbell, Elliott, Nichols, Chiquiquy, Warden King, and others, occupied seats on the platform.

The Rev. Mr. Robert Lang opened the meeting with prayer.

The Chairman, in a few introductory remarks, alluded to the late and conditions of the Montreal Presbyterian College, now under the jurisdiction of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. After briefly speaking on this theme, he introduced the Rev. Principal MacVicar.

The Rev. Principal MacVicar, being called on to address the meeting, said: In compliance with the request of the College Board, allow me to make a short statement respecting the history, progress, and present position of the institution in whose interest we are assembled. Such a statement is rendered necessary in view of the new circumstances in which we are placed by the recent union of the Presbyterian Churches of the Dominion. The constituency from which our revenue is to be derived has been very decidedly changed, and persons who are now expected to contribute to our income will naturally desire information as to what was done in the past and what is required in the future.

With respect to the origin of the College I may say that the conviction was long cherished by leading laymen in this city, that such an institution should be founded here. More than thirty years ago, before Knox College, Toronto, was established, it was a question, as may be seen from minutes of Synod, whether it should be placed in Hamilton, Toronto, or Montreal.

The Synod of the late Canada Presbyterian Church having, in answer to the solicitations of the persons referred to, and to an overture from the Presbytery of Montreal, resolved to open a college here; the present charter was obtained from the Parliament of Quebec in 1865, and in 1868 I was appointed professor, and began the work of the College and continued it, assisted by Dr. Gibson and others as lecturers, for over four years in the basement of Erskine Church, which was generously granted by the managers free of expense.

It is proper to say that the charter limits the College to the work of training missionaries and ministers of the Gospel, and places it under the control of the General Assembly, while directly managed by a Senate and Board, annually appointed by the Assembly.

The aim of the founders was not to set up any unhealthy or improper rivalry with other institutions, but rather to add to the means furnished in our country for Theological education.

They saw that the University of McGill, with its wise and liberal charter, invited the affiliation with itself of Theological Colleges of all denominations, and afforded, without expense to the several churches, admirable facilities for the literary training of students. They were deeply impressed with the utterly insufficient number of missionaries and ministers for the work in the Province of Quebec and the valley of the Ottawa; and it was believed that by educating men here they would be naturally led to work and settle in the fields which so much required their services, while the total or aggregate number of students for the ministry in connection with the Church might be increased.

It was plain, too, that if this Province is to be evangelized, missionaries and ministers must be trained, speaking both French and English; and, accordingly, provision was early made for this purpose by the appointment of a French lecturer, and we have had, all along, a class of French students averaging from twelve to fifteen.

These were the things aimed at in the establishment of this College, and now, after a few years' career, it is quite right to ask how far has it answered these ends. Have its founders been disappointed, and have they reason to be discouraged and ashamed, or have their efforts been crowned with success?

What of the aggregate increase of students in connection with the church? It is certain that the number attending Knox College and the other Institutions has not been diminished, while on our roll last winter there were 54 names, and this session the number will exceed 70, as no fewer than 28 new men have intimated their desire to connect themselves with us, and a large proportion of these will be in attendance.

Our students are drawn from all parts of the Dominion; some from the United States, and some from Britain. Those who have passed through our curriculum, and have entered upon the work of the ministry, have shown commendable zeal and earnestness in seeking out other young men to devote themselves to the Lord's service. As an evidence of this I mention the fact that we have received six students from a recently formed congregation adjacent to Ottawa, over which Mr. Wullians, one of our graduates, is settled as Pastor. I think, therefore, that we may fairly conclude that our work, as was expected, has greatly increased the number of the theological students in connection with the church.

We have sent out 31 graduates. Have these settled in the regions so long neglected and suffering from spiritual destitution as was specially contemplated in founding this

College? A very large proportion of them have. I am constrained, in order to make this perfectly apparent, to give you the names of the places where they are settled. Beginning in the east and coming west, we have Mr. Pelletier at Stellarton, Nova Scotia; Mr. Paradis at Grand Falls, N. B.; and Mr. Buletto at Val Cartier, near Quebec, and I remember, occupying French fields, and not very recently Mr. Sinclair at Langwick, and Mr. McMaster at Danville, Mr. Wellwood at Cote des Nigees, Mr. Mackay at Laguerre, Mr. M. Kibbin at Edwardsburg, Mr. Day at Spencerville, Mr. Wullians at Nepean, Mr. Hughes at Alice and Pettawa, and Mr. Bennett about to be settled at Chateauguay—in all twelve, occupying the very regions of our country contemplated at the outset. And it is proper to say further that over ten French stations are carried on by our students in pretty much the same territory, these I need not name. But I do not wish you to get the impression that we have only a local work to do. I merely want to make it perfectly clear that the local work formerly neglected, and so justly called for, is being effectively done. At the same time let it not be forgotten that we occupy a position central to the whole Dominion, and that we should make our influence felt accordingly, and send our men to all parts of the land, and far beyond the limits of Canada. We are already well represented in Ontario by Mr. Fraser, in Toronto, Mr. Torrance, at Peterboro, Mr. Munro, at Embro, Mr. Cameron at Millbrook, and others elsewhere. And we hope soon to be represented in the foreign field in India or China. So much for graduates and students.

It is unnecessary, and it would be improper on my part, to speak at length on the staff of instructors. I merely state that I have charge of the work in systematic theology, homiletics, and church government, while Professor Campbell, M.A., takes charge of the two departments of church history and apologetics, the Rev. J. Scrimger, M.A., is lecturer in exegesis, and the Rev. W. Mitchell, B.A., in sacred rhetoric and elocution. Since the return of Mr. Cussirat to France the work of our French department has been carried on by Rev. C. Doudet as lecturer, and Mr. C. E. Amaran as tutor; and for Hebrew, all our students attend the classes of Dr. De Sola in McGill College.

In the preparatory department, which connects with the undergraduate course in arts in the University, our mathematical and classical tutors are Messrs Morton and McFarland. In addition to the provision thus made for the regular work of the curriculum, we have had valuable courses of lectures on special subjects from Principal Dawson, Professor Robins, and Mr. A. C. Hutchison.

But let me ask your attention now for a few moments to financial and kindred subjects. In order to estimate the progress made in this respect it should be remembered that only a few years ago we set out with nothing. We had no students, no library, no bursaries, no endowment and no buildings. What have we now? I have told you that we have 81 graduates and over 70 students. We have a library of over five thousand volumes, in all respects well selected and valuable, and in some respects unique, and such as is to be found in no other Protestant institution in Canada. We have procured it partly by purchase, and very largely by donations from generous friends.

The total amount of our endowment, including the John Radpath scholarship, is \$41,375. Of this, \$26,375 was raised by subscription, and the remaining \$15,000 was received from the estate of the late Mr. Hall, of Peterboro'. The generous conduct of the heirs in this case deserves the highest commendation; and they have, by their action in carrying out the wishes of Mr. Hall, placed the College, and the church at large, under a lasting debt of gratitude. In addition to this amount for the College Endowment Fund, the Board of French Evangelization received, from the same estate \$10,000.

We have grounds and a college building, for which we paid \$45,190, and on which there still rests a debt of \$10,410.

We have annual scholarships, contributed by citizens of Montreal, some of which, such as the McKay and Anderson scholarships, may be regarded as permanently secured; and we have two medals, a gold and a silver one, the former founded by the students and the latter by Mr. A. Sandham.

Taking all our assets together, library, scholarships, endowments, building, and grounds, we have accumulated during the brief period of our existence nearly \$100,000, besides meeting our annual expenditure, averaging about \$9,000.

I think, therefore, that we may safely assert that we have enjoyed a very remarkable degree of financial success. This will be specially apparent when I remind you of the very small territory from which we have drawn our revenue and general resources. At the outset the Synod allowed us only three Presbyteries, viz.: Montreal, Brockville, and Ottawa, the remaining fourteen Presbyteries, embracing the stretch of the Church in Ontario, being connected with Knox College. For two years a fourth Presbytery, that of Kingston, was given us; but last June the General Assembly disjoined from us all the territory west of the Prescott & Ottawa Railway, including all congregations along the line and the City of Ottawa. Our annual income, already too small, is thus still further diminished, and rendered quite inadequate. It is for the Board and for those who have the good of the institution at heart, and are able to meet its wants, to say what is to be done.

It is right for me, however, to indicate the present state of affairs, and perhaps to go further and show what, in my opinion, is really needed in order to the continued efficiency and success of our work. I shall

not indicate what should be aimed at ultimately, but only what should be sought with as little delay as possible. Several things press upon us with great force, and demand immediate action—one is the enlargement of our College Buildings. Our students have to come more than twice as numerous as we can accommodate, and from intimations which I have received from ministers and others in various parts of the Dominion, this is likely to be still more the case in years to come, unless by failure on our part to do what is now needed we retard and impair the usefulness and growth of the institution. Further, it appears to me that our floating debt should be cleared off at once, so as to save our annual income from the inroads made upon it from this quarter, and our Endowment Fund should be doubled or trebled. How is all this, or even the most pressing part of it, to be done? The times are hard, it is true, but I have been told that some of our good friends are making more money now than in seasons of general prosperity. Be this as it may, to wait for better times in the commercial world may only be to bring about worse times in collegiate matters by allowing our present opportunity to pass.

More than once, near the beginning of our work, I was assured that in the event of its being reasonably successful, especially in gathering students for a few years, there would be no difficulty in commanding all the financial support that might be required. For this, as well as for other reasons, I have submitted the facts to which you have listened. Students are attracted to us in large and increasing numbers. What is to be done? That we cannot stand still is obvious to every one that understands figures and facts. It will not do to wait for bequests such as that which we so thankfully acknowledge to-night, and without which I know not what we should have done. There is something even better than this, viz.: that those to whom God has given much should disburse what they have resolved to give for religious and benevolent purposes in their lifetimes, that there may be no doubt as to its application, and that they may see with their own eyes the good that is accomplished.

Will some one then build a memorial Hall that will give us the room we need, and bear and perpetuate his name in future generations? And will some one else endow a chair, and thus relieve our embarrassment and stimulate the whole church to a measure of Christian liberality hitherto unattained?

I leave these matters, and all others upon which I have touched, to those who have been asked to speak here to-night, in the hope that they and all of you may devise liberal things, and that there may be good and permanent issues.

Mr. Chairman, I cannot close without expressing my sense of the loss we have sustained by the recent death of the Rev. Dr. Taylor, who was a member of our Board and Senate from the beginning. I have pursued Christian work side by side with him in this city for sixteen years, and know how to estimate his worth as a man, a Christian, and a minister of the Gospel. His memory needs no eulogy from my lips. It will long be fragrant and cherished among us all, while we no longer enjoy his fellowship, his wise counsel, and firm advocacy of the truth. He has left behind him a lasting monument of his wisdom, zeal, and faithfulness in the large and influential congregation that now mourns his loss, a congregation in whose bosom this College was fostered from its very infancy.

The Rev. Dr. Murray moved in effect that the meeting rejoice in the prosperity of the College in the past, and cherish the hope that, at no distant day, it will attain a position worthy the great commercial metropolis in which it is situated.

In support of this resolution, he referred to what had been done by the College in the past, and required nothing more than the statement of Dr. MacVicar to assure his auditory that they all had cause to rejoice. They had reason to be proud of the building, its library, and the progress the latter had made, for even money could not always purchase a fine library. As to the endowment, although it was not all that was required, it gave all good cause to be thankful. He would not deal with the past, however, but would speak of the future. There were students who applied for admission to whom they were obliged to close their doors from want of accommodation. He trusted this would be remedied. As to the endowment, it was impossible that the college could derive sufficient revenue from the district assigned to support it; therefore, endowment must be the means to sustain the efforts the college was making. The best way to do good for the college was to place it above dependence upon annual subscription. He would not say that means any one liberal enough to give should adopt in giving. They could find that out for themselves. There was something in the resolution which he would speak of—the reference to Montreal as the commercial metropolis. There was, on some hands, opinion expressed of incompatibility between educational institutions and commercial pursuits. In a long and interesting speech he combated the idea, holding that history, ancient and modern, proved the ground taken by persons holding this opinion to be untenable even for a moment, and contending that not only were educational institutions necessary to commercial greatness, but that theological institutions were necessary to educate men to honesty and integrity.

The Rev. Dr. Jenkins seconded the motion, alluding in complimentary terms to the Montreal Presbyterian College as a most prosperous institution, and one for Presbyterians to be proud of and foster. He was in favor of the endowment plan. In noticing the remarks of Dr. MacVicar, he pronounced, when the citizens were to be appealed to, that the meaning was Presby-

terian citizens, for each denomination had much to do to support its own institutions. An endowment of \$100,000, in addition to the present amount held would be sufficient, and even in the present dull times he thought this could be done. He could not help contrasting the zeal of Presbyterians on the other side of the line with those of Montreal, and instanced a man who had heretofore contributed \$200,000 to endow Franciscan College with it. This and other instances he gave, and in referring to the Church as united, said it was yet in short-coats, only a year old and scarcely able to walk. If the Presbyterians wished to have the College worthy of the past history of the Church, they must work hard and endow it.

Mr. Warden King said a few words in support of the motion, giving some statistics as to the College finances, and the mode of raising necessary means for its support in past years.

The resolution was then put from the chair and carried unanimously.

The congregation sang two verses of the Hundredth Psalm.

Principal Dawson moved the next resolution, in effect, that "The meeting pledges itself to support every effort made in furthering the usefulness and efficiency of the College." At some length he praised the work the College had done; was astonished at the dimensions it had reached—exceeding his very sanguine expectations,—and contended that it must be in a flourishing condition from the very fact that it was asking for more money to carry on its work. He contended that a college which came forward and said they wanted no money, was either an exceptionally rich one or did not accomplish much good. He was also in favor of the endowment plan, and held that the yearly subscriptions taken should be for Foreign missions and other religious objects, instead of for supporting the College. He congratulated all the Protestant denominations upon the progress made in the past ten years. It was not long ago that there was not a theological school in the city. There were four at present in connection with McGill College; and, though the Presbyterian was the largest and strongest, he could not help congratulating the others of the Protestant family upon their success. The McGill College always had the end in view of assisting schools of these denominations, and he welcomed them all gladly. In conclusion, he strongly advised the endowment of the College with an additional \$100,000.

The Rev. J. B. Muir seconded the resolution, and had no doubt that Montreal would act in that praiseworthy manner which had endeared her name to the speaker and his fellow-laborers in the West.

The resolution being put, was carried unanimously, and after the Doxology had been sung the Benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Dr. Jenkins, and the meeting broke up.

Appreciative Resolutions.

We clip the following from a recent copy of the Detroit Free Press:

Rev. George M. Milligan, for the last seven years pastor of the Central (formerly Scotch) Presbyterian Church of this city, announced from his pulpit last Sunday, that he had decided to accept a call from St. Andrew's Church, of Toronto, Ontario. Last evening his congregation held a meeting to consider the matter, and appointed Thomas McMillan, delegate to the Presbytery, which meets at Pontiac, to-day, with instructions to notify that body of the church's assent to the dissolution of the pastoral relation.

The following resolutions were adopted by the congregation:

Whereas, The members and adherents of the Presbyterian Church, assembled at a congregational meeting, in response to a notice given from the pulpit, have received the intelligence that the Rev. Geo. M. Milligan, pastor of the congregation for the past seven years, is about to relinquish his pastorate, with a view to removing to another field of labor; and,

Whereas, It is deemed desirable at such a juncture for a people to give expression to their sense of appreciation of the work performed by their retiring pastor, and of their regard for him, engendered during his labor among them; be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of this meeting that the pastorate of the Rev. Geo. M. Milligan has to all human appearance been an eminently successful one; that the relations between pastor and people, naturally close and endearing, have in the present instance been peculiarly so; and that the bond, strengthened by seven years of untiring watchfulness and solicitude for the highest interests of his flock, and now about to be severed, cannot be broken without a pang.

Resolved, That this congregation recognizes the fact that the difficulties which beset the path of the Rev. Mr. Milligan at the beginning of his pastorate in this place were those of no ordinary nature, and that only his determination of character, his fixedness of purpose, his superior abilities, and his unswerving zeal in the cause of his Divine Master, could have supported him in the midst of his besetments, and enabled him to raise his charge from the position in which he found it, to that which it occupies on the eve of his withdrawal.

Resolved, That in parting with Rev. Mr. Milligan the congregation does so with a sorrow tempered only with the reflection that "all things work together for the good of them that love the Lord," and that beyond these scenes of change, and the severing of the dearest earthly ties, there is a land of rest where parting is unknown.

Resolved, That a fitting copy of the above preamble and resolutions be presented to the Rev. Mr. Milligan, with the assurance that the prayers and best wishes of his people will follow him and his dear family through life.