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Manager and Editor.

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1907

The well known photographers of Montreal, Messrs. Notman and Son, intend producing a group picture of the late General Assembly. This will be composed of photos taken separately, and will form a pleasing souvenir of a memorable gathering of Presbyterians, of which we are sure, every commissioner will like to have a copy.

The appointment of Dr. John Somerville to be Treasurer of the Presbyterian church in Canada places the "right man in the right place." He is capable, experienced and eminently "safe." He was successful in a long pastorate; he will be equally successful in the responsible office to which he has now been called by the unanimous voice of the church.

It is sometimes urged that a layman should be elected to moderator's chair in Synods and Assembly's. And why not? If there is no constitutional objection the Presbyterian church in Canada has abundant material among its elders to effectively fill the chair for several years. To make this apparent we have only to mention such names as Sir Sandford Fleming, Hon. E. H. Bronson, Walter Paul, David Morrice, Hon. David Laird, James Croil, Hon. Justice James MacLennan, Sir Thomas Taylor, John A. Patterson, K.C., John Charlton, Hon. D. C. Fraser, Lt-Governor of Nova Scotia, Hon. D. H. MacMillan, Lt-Governor of Manitoba, and Hon. W. M. Clark, Lt-Governor of Ontario. Then among the younger men, mention might be made of Lt-Governor MacKinnon, of Prince Edward Island, John Cameron, London, John R. Reid, Ottawa, Hon. Colin Campbell, Winnipeg, and scores of others, from Halifax to Victoria, whose names will occur to our readers. Yes, we have any quantity of good material among our laymen for first class moderators.

**A SUCCESSFUL ASSEMBLY.**

On all hands it is agreed the General Assembly at Montreal, which has just adjourned was one of the most progressive and successful of recent years. It showed its judgment at the outset in choosing a fine Moderator in the Rev. Dr. Campbell, who "made good" by putting through the business in workmanlike manner. It did itself credit by making Rev. Dr. John Somerville, Treasurer, and by asking Rev. A. Gandier to become special financial agent or general secretary.

An important step was taken by the Assembly in appointing a standing committee on temperance and social and moral reform, with the assistance of a special agent who will give his whole time to the work of organization and propaganda. Most fortunate is the Assembly in obtaining the services as special agent of Rev. Dr. Shearer, whose splendidly successful career as secretary of the Lord's Day Alliance marks him out as fitted above all others for the place.

As to Church Union, the Assembly, by 137 votes to 11 adopted Principal Patrick's motion to send down the recommendations of the joint committee on union to the Presbyteries, Sessions and congregations for information and suggestions. That the union between the Presbyterians, Methodists and Congregationalists will be effected within a few years no longer admits of doubt. When the union spoken of has been effected, the question of further union with Anglicans and Baptists can be taken up. From this time on, the question will be that of effecting the union in the manner best calculated to serve the religious needs of the Greater Canada now emerging into prominent place among the nations of the world.

The prominent pulpit of St. James Square, Toronto, seems to be unfortunate. If the present pastor accepts the position offered him by the General Assembly he will be the third minister within twenty years taken from the congregation for wider service. The first was the late Dr. King, for the Principalship of Manitoba College; the second was Dr. Kellogg, asked to return to India to take part in the revised translation of the Bible into Hindi; and now Mr. Gandier, in the midst of a particularly successful pastorate, is named for an important office, that of Financial Agent and Field Secretary, a position for which he is eminently well qualified. But the St. James Square people are entitled to our sympathy in the circumstances.

Rev. James Buchanan, the capable clerk of Orangeville Presbytery, has a modes way of asserting his individuality. When the Hymnal report was before the Assembly some one named him as a member of the Committee. Mr. Buchanan promptly declared, "I am a first class preacher, but I'm a poor singer." He was at once placed on the Committee on "Systematic Giving," where his enthusiasm and practical experience will make him exceedingly useful.

**GREAT DEBATE ON UNION.**

The Montreal Gazette of Tuesday has this to say on this subject:—

The long-expected discussion on church union came in for full attention from the Presbyterian General Assembly yesterday afternoon, and was marked by a note of spirited eloquence that had scarcely less interest than the sensational disclosures of Saturday morning. The mood of the meeting appeared, on the whole, to be judicial. There was hardly a shade of bigotry and much liberality of attitude in the different views expressed. Yet the line of cleavage was sharp between the opposing debaters of the question. Animation was intensified by the fact that both parties in the battle of opinions had leaders of striking ability. On the one side was Rev. Principal Patrick, of Winnipeg, convener of the committee on union with other churches. Magnetically persuasive, yet never obtrusively forceful, he conducted his hearers through the series of details that led to the substance of present projects. He had an able ally in the person of Rev. Principal Gordon, of Queen's University, one of the most convincing speakers that the present assembly has heard. His quiet scholarship and thoughtful moderation were no less effective in their way, than the swifter methods of the business-like Winnipeg principal. They had a valuable supporter in Rev. John McVicar, of Pergus, Ont., whose cogent presentment of the case seemed strongly to appeal to the meeting.

On the other side was Rev. John Mackay, the pastor of Crescent street church, who took issue with the Principal of Queen's in regard to unifying projects and in a scathing deprecation of such schemes had some telling shafts to fling at the theory of sacerdotalism, which, he declared, had always been fatal to the spiritual life of the church.

Rev. Mr. Mackay had a gallant supporter in Mr. Hugh Gourlay, of Carp, Ont., an elder who, as the moderator, Rev. Dr. Campbell stated, is of more than fifty years standing, and showed a resolute adherence in his interesting speech to the tenets of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Gourlay was of opinion that the securing of an all-round minimum salary of \$1,000 for pastors was far more important than any unifying plan.

Candidates wishing to get a hearing in Bathurst and South Sherbrooke, should correspond with the Rev. D. Currie, Perth, interim moderator.

Rev. Dr. Marsh, of Springville, Ont., interim moderator of Pontypool, will be pleased to hear from ministers wishing a hearing there with a view to a call.

Rev. D. Strachan, of St. John's church, Brockville, is a bit of a humorist. When the long list of names for Standing Committees was under discussion he remarked that the mere initials, such as D's or C's or J's were most confusing. "There are so many 'Jays'," said Mr. Strachan, amid the hearty laughter of the Assembly.

A number of the commissioners to the General Assembly from the Northwest treated themselves to a trip through the great lakes and the St. Lawrence. Among these was Rev. J. A. Caldwell of Pilot Mound to whom the trip would no doubt be doubly delightful as just before leaving Mr. Caldwell joined the ranks of the benedicts and brought his bride along. After attending the assembly he will spend a few days with his brother at Woodland's before returning to the West.