

islands missions are stationed, and are found of much use. Complaint is made that there are not missionaries enough sent out for the group of islands. On the island of Erromanga there are stationed one missionary and twenty-three teachers. The mission has also a little cutter used for travelling from station to station.

The Aneiteum Mission is next dealt with:—

At its chief station, Anelauhat, there are one missionary and twenty-one schools, and in the Island of Fate, in connection with the same Mission, there are several stations established. The effect of them, as seen in those islands, is remarkable. Thirty years ago the crew of the "British Sovereign," wrecked there, were eaten by the natives, and three years ago the crew of a wrecked vessel were hospitably entertained until means of leaving the island were provided them. In the Trinidad mission there are three male and one female missionaries, and twelve stations and twenty-one schools. The baptisms were 97, and the pupils attending schools 817. The expenditure on the three missions was \$13,652, and the receipts \$13,914.

Rev. Principal McVicar moved that the reports be received and considered *seriatim*, and dwelt at some length on the foreign missions work and its relations to (1) the home mission work of the Church, (2) its spiritual life, and (3) its financial development.

Rev. J. McKinnon, P.E.I., seconded the motion. He claimed that the labours of the Church in its various missions should be pushed forward without fear, because the Church had never been more spiritually successful in its missionary work than when suffering from misfortunes or persecution.

Rev. Mr. Christie, missionary from Trinidad, on a visit home, addressed the Assembly. He informed the Assembly that not only was it necessary for missionaries once in a few years to return home to restore their health in this northern bracing atmosphere, but a visit had a recuperative effect on their spiritual nature, by contact with kindred spirits instead of the pagans with whom they ordinarily associated in their mission life. He described the island of Trinidad, which is the most southerly of the West Indies, its exports, sugar and cocoa, and the heterogeneous nature of the population. There are 80,000 coolies on the island, and these are principally Hindoos, whose religious belief is either Mohammedan or Buddhist. The latter are rather intelligent, although they are cramped by their Paganism, but soon after their contact with Christianity become intellectual. He dwelt on the importance of converting the Orientals who were invading this continent, or else they would heathenize us. A number of coolie converts had been made and several churches erected and were self-sustaining. He illustrated the case of a coolie family which gave liberally to the support of the Church. The great object of the mission was an indirect one. Benefit to India would ensue as a result, because one-fourth the young men return to their native land. The influence which young Christian Hindoos, imbued with western ideas, would have on India was incalculable. He concluded with an appeal for a fourth missionary to be sent to the island.

The reports were then received and adopted, with the addition that the Committee be recommended to send Mr. John Wilkie as missionary to India as soon as possible.

The motion for appointing trustees for mission property in the North-West Territories was also carried. A vote of thanks to Rev. Mr. Christie was unanimously given.

Rev. Principal Grant presented the report of the Juvenile Mission Committee, which gave a satisfactory exhibit. The report was adopted.

Mr. W. B. McMurrich, Toronto, presented the report of the Committee appointed to propose a scheme for the amalgamation of the Juvenile Mission Committee, with a view of co-operation and yet retaining the independence of each Committee. The report proposed a scheme which was adopted by the Assembly. The benediction was then pronounced.

#### SEVENTH DAY—MORNING SEDERUNT.

The Assembly was constituted in the usual manner. A resolution extending the hours of session by ninety minutes each day was adopted.

#### LICENSING STUDENTS.

Rev. Mr. Young, of Napanee, presented the report of the Committee on Licensing Students, and dealing with the application of certain Presbyteries to license students. The report was adopted with some amendments.

#### HOME MISSIONS.

Rev. Dr. Waters presented the Home Mission Report, Eastern Section. It showed that the Committee had under its charge twelve ministers, eight probationers, thirty-one students; total fifty-one. Newfoundland is a special field for this section, and has missions at the Bay of Islands and Betts Cove. The financial position is described thus:—In May, 1876, our balance was \$520 60; in 1877, \$507 65—our expenditures being thus \$12 95 in excess of income. Last year our balance came down to \$170 76, showing an excess of expenditure of \$336 89; but this year the over-expenditure has arisen to \$1,477 80, so that the actual balance against us in the accounts amounts to \$1,307 04. The receipts were \$4,211, and the expenditure \$5,515. The report concluded with several propositions to reduce the expenditure.

#### SUPPLEMENTS.

Rev. Dr. McGregor presented the report of the Committee on Supplements, Maritime Provinces, for 1878-9.

Rev. Principal Grant, moved, "That the General Assembly receive the reports, and express satisfaction at the large amount of mission work accomplished during the year, and the many new fields that are urgent for supply of the means of grace. The General Assembly also desires to express its thanks to the Colonial Committees of the Church of Scotland, Free Church of Scotland, and Presbyterian Church of Ireland for their continued interest in our work and contributions to our funds, and to the Students' Missionary Societies of our colleges for their valuable labours during the year. Further, the General Assembly approve of the appointment of Rev. Donald Ross as minister of Prince Al-

bert, and commend him and his field to the especial interest of the Church; and also approve of the changes suggested by the Committee on Continuous Supply, and grant leave to the Home Mission Committee, Western Section, to supplement the congregations of Balsover and Vittoria, as asked by the Presbyteries of Lindsay and Hamilton. Finally the General Assembly while deeply regretting the necessity of reducing the grants for the past and present half years in the Western Section, also sanction the proposed arrangement of the Supplementary Committee, Eastern Section, to meet their next payment; sanction the action taken, but recommend the Presbyteries to endeavour to make good the deficits in their respective bounds, and instruct the Home Mission Committee in the future management of the fund to equalize the expenditure and income of each year, and recommend that in congregations where no special effort has been made to reduce the present large indebtedness a collection be taken up at an early date."

Mr. J. K. Blair, of Truro, N. S., seconded the motion, and spoke briefly on the importance of the work.

Rev. Mr. Campbell, Montreal, spoke in condemnation of the proposal in the reports to reduce the grants to missionaries in the North-West, and claimed that they were the men who were doing the real work of which the Church was proud.

Rev. Mr. Warden of Montreal, announced that a gentleman had promised him \$500 as a contribution towards that branch of the work.

Rev. Mr. Armstrong, Ottawa, spoke against any reduction of the allowance to missionaries.

An overture from the Presbytery of Manitoba protesting against the proposed decrease of allowance to ministers in the North-West was presented.

Prof. Bryce, in support of the overture, appealed to the Assembly to act honourably towards the missionaries, who had gone to the North-West on certain conditions, one of which conditions it was now proposed by the Home Mission Committee to amend.

Prof. Hart also supported the overture.

Rev. Mr. Laing moved in amendment, seconded by Rev. Dr. Jenkins, "That in view of the great increase in the deficiency in the funds as reported, remit to a Committee to consider what steps can be taken towards relieving the heavy indebtedness by which the mission funds are burdened."

The hour for recess having arrived, the Assembly adjourned.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Assembly was constituted in the usual manner at half-past two o'clock.

#### SELECTING DELEGATES TO PRESBYTERIAN COUNCIL.

The first order of the afternoon was the vote by ballot for eight ministers and eight voting elders to represent the General Assembly at the Pan-Presbyterian Council which will be held in Philadelphia next September.

Rev. Mr. Middlemiss and several other Commissioners presented a paper to the Assembly setting forth that for conscientious reasons they could not take part in the vote by ballot, as it was novel and unprecedented in the procedure of the Assembly.

The paper was ruled out of order, on the ground that a dissent had already been placed on the minutes and reasons assigned.

Considerable discussion took place as to the mode of casting the ballots. The vote was then taken, and the scrutineers retired to count the ballots.

#### HOME MISSIONS.

The consideration of the Home Missions report, adjourned from the morning sederunt, was resumed.

Mr. Thos. McCrae, Guelph, moved, seconded by Mr. Fairbank,

That the indebtedness of the Home Mission Committee be divided *pro rata* among the Presbyteries of the Church, and that one of the elders be appointed to see that the money apportioned to each congregation shall be collected and remitted at once to the treasury of the Western Section of the Church.

After further discussion, during which Rev. Mr. McMullen moved a motion much to the effect of that moved by Mr. McCrae, Mr. A. Morris addressed the Assembly, and proposed that the elders present hold an informal meeting before the Assembly separate, and that a Lay Association be formed for the purpose of raising funds for the Church schemes, the same as had been done in Scotland.

Rev. Principal Caven moved a motion setting forth the necessity of keeping faith with those who had been engaged on certain salaries, and instructing the Home Mission Committee to communicate with Presbyteries for the purpose of inducing them to subscribe the deficits in their respective bounds. Rev. Principal Grant moved, "That the reports be referred to a Committee to prepare a deliverance to be submitted at to-morrow morning's sederunt, and that the Committee be composed of:—Revs. Dr. Grant, Caven, Cochrane, McGregor, Waters, R. H. Warden, C. B. Pitblado, D. J. Macdonnell, J. Laing, and Elders Hon. Mr. Creelman, Messrs. A. Morris, T. W. Taylor, Thomas McCrae, J. L. Blaikie, R. Capels, J. K. Blair, and A. Mutchmore.

Rev. D. J. Macdonnell spoke at some length, as a member of the Home Mission Committee, in explanation of the causes which had led it to propose the reduction of missionary allowances. He proposed several remedies to prevent future deficits and relieve the present. He said that the Elders of the Church should be induced to act as liberally as ministers had done in the Western Section of the Church. The ministers had contributed \$2,000 out of the \$11,000 required. In conclusion, he urged upon the ministers the importance of offering up prayers every Sunday for an outpouring of liberality on the part of their congregations, and to specially mention the importance of sustaining the home missions.

Rev. Mr. Wishart, of Madoc, suggested the establishment of a Woman's Home Mission Branch.

Rev. Dr. Burns urged that the wants of the Church should

be specified by the ministers to their congregations; next, organizations should be formed, and then unity in labour for a particular fund should be adopted on the part of neighbouring congregations.

Rev. Mr. McLean, Belleville, seconded Principal Grant's motion, which was adopted.

#### ADMISSION OF NEW MINISTERS.

Rev. Dr. Jenkins presented the report of the Committee appointed to consider the application of ministers from other Churches for admission into the Presbyterian Church of Canada. The report recommended that Messrs. D. R. Crockett, J. A. R. Dickson, R. A. Hoskin, Antonio Internoscio, J. Kay, J. W. McClintock, and T. M. Reikie be admitted as ministers.

The cases were dealt with *seriatim*, and those of Messrs. Crockett and Dickson adopted without debate. Mr. Hoskin was restored to his full status as a minister, he having previously been in the Presbyterian Church. On the question of admitting Antonio Internoscio, an ex-priest of the Church of Rome, without ordination into the Presbyterian Church, it was decided in the affirmative by a majority vote. Several commissioners entered their dissent.

Further consideration of the report was postponed by reason of the hour of adjournment having arrived.

#### EVENING SEDERUNT.

The Assembly was constituted in the usual manner.

#### ADMISSION OF MINISTERS.

The consideration of the report on the admission of ministers, &c., adjourned from the afternoon, was resumed. Messrs. John Kay, J. W. McClintock, and T. M. Reikie were received as ministers in full standing. It was further ordered that W. A. Chambers be admitted as a licentiate, and Gilbert A. Smith be admitted as a catechist; that the application of J. N. Elliott for admission be not entertained; and that George Blair's standing as a minister be recognised. The application of W. Luke Cunningham was referred back to the Presbytery that forwarded it, to deal with in a specified manner. The decision on another application was committed to the Committee for further consideration.

The report was adopted as amended.

#### DELEGATES TO THE PAN-PRESBYTERIAN COUNCIL.

The scrutineers on the ballot for delegates to the Pan-Presbyterian Council made the following report:—One hundred and four ministers were nominated; one hundred and thirty-three elders were nominated. The following were elected:—Rev. Principals McKnight, McVicar, Grant, and Caven; Drs. Reid, Jenkins, and Burns; Rev. D. J. Macdonnell; and the following elders: Messrs. T. W. Taylor, A. Morris, James Croil, J. McMurrich, Dr. McDonald, Thomas McCrae, B. Fairbairn, and J. K. Blair.

The announcement was received with applause, and the nomination confirmed.

#### SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

Rev. Mr. Yates Hickey, a delegate from the International Sunday Observance Association, next addressed the Assembly in explanation of the objects of the Association. He said it was formed for the purpose of securing a general observance of Sunday in the Dominion of Canada and the United States, and he desired to elicit for it the Assembly's interest and support. It had three principal objects:—(1) concerted action to secure the reduction of work on all railways on Sunday within the limits of necessity and mercy; (2) to secure the observance of Sunday by the general and local Governments, including the same limits, and the discontinuance of the mail service on that day; (3) and to secure the same observance by communities. He concluded by appealing to the Assembly to give the Association every sympathy and support to secure the consummation of objects so beneficial to the Christian Church.

A vote of thanks for the address and expressing sympathy with the objects of the Association was unanimously carried.

Mr. Jas. Croil, the delegate from the General Assembly to the Church of Scotland, gave an account of his mission, and expressed great pleasure at the manner in which he had been received by that Church and entertained. Although he had no commission to the Free Church, he was invited to address its Assembly. He did so, and was well received. There was an immense meeting. The result of his delegation was, in his opinion, conclusive proof that the Assembly should never miss the opportunity of sending a delegate to Scotland.

#### COLLEGE REPORTS.

The consideration of the College reports, adjourned from a previous sederunt, was resumed. A recommendation from the Board of Halifax College, that the Assembly raise the salaries of the theological professors, was received and agreed to.

Rev. Principal Caven concluded the reading of the report of the Committee on Theological Education. It recommended the establishment of a Senate by the Assembly, which should apply on behalf of the Assembly for legislative powers enabling it to confer degrees in Divinity, and that the Theological Halls of the Church become affiliated with it. A draft Act was submitted and a number of details given.

Rev. Dr. Jenkins presented a minority report, which sets forth that the majority report was only carried by the casting vote of the Chairman. The minority report requested that more time be allowed for the consideration of such an important scheme as that contemplated, and for the collection of further evidence on the matter.

Rev. Principal Caven moved a resolution to the effect that the General Assembly sanction the principle of the report, which purposes to establish a university for the purpose of conferring degrees in Divinity, with which the Theological Halls of the Church could become affiliated, and further order that the draft of the Act be entered on the minutes and printed, and left over to next Assembly for consideration. He spoke at some length in explanation of the objects sought by the report.