

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11.

Mr. Hamilton Cassells moved that proper steps be taken to secure the suppression of the opium traffic in British Columbia and in parts of the North-West Territories.

Rev. J. Chisholm seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Professor McLaren moved that Mr. Newmark, a young man of Jewish birth and training who has embraced Christianity, be received as a missionary among Jews in Montreal, and that he take a course of theology in one of our Colleges. Dr. A. B. Mackay spoke very highly of Mr. Newmark's qualifications and character, and seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Hamilton Cassells moved that trustees be appointed to hold mission property for the Indian and Chinese Missions in British Columbia.

Dr. Pollok presented the report of Halifax Theological College. The income for the year amounted to \$11,113. The debt has been considerably reduced during the year. The congregational contributions to bursary fund have been liberal. The attendance of students was twenty-eight, of whom eight have graduated. The number of students is not commensurate with the requirements of our Home Mission fields. It is the duty of Presbyteries to look out for students. He concluded by a sympathetic reference to the loss sustained by the retirement, through enfeebled health, of Dr. Robert F. Burns.

Rev. T. Sedgwick moved the reception of the report. The resolution approved of the appointment of a fourth professor, and urged the attention of Presbyteries to the duty of encouraging young men to study for the ministry. Mr. R. J. Macgregor, New Glasgow, seconded the motion, which was adopted.

Rev. A. T. Love presented the report of Morrin College, Quebec. In doing so he made reference to the loss sustained a year ago by the death of Professor Weir, and a short time ago they had to mourn the loss of Rev. George Coull, who took Dr. Weir's classes, and of Dr. Cook, the Principal of the College. Appointments have been made temporarily for carrying on the work of the College. The attendance of students was thirty-five. The income for the year has been \$66,475, and the expenditure amounting to the same. A friend had called on Mr. Love and gave him a handsome donation, which wiped out the debt.

Rev. D. J. Macdonnell moved the resolution for the reception of the report, assuring the directors of the confidence, support and sympathy of the Church. The resolution referred sympathetically to the loss of Professor Weir, Rev. George Coull and Principal Cook. Mr. Macdonnell spoke in admiring and affectionate terms of the distinguished men whose services Morrin College has lost during the year. Professor McLaren seconded the resolutions, and Rev. J. Carmichael said a few words in its support, paying a tribute to the memory of the departed professors of Morrin. The motion was adopted.

Dr. Warden, in the absence of Mr. D. Morrice, presented the report of the Presbyterian College, Montreal. The attendance of students during the past session was seventy-seven. The Endowment Fund canvass has produced \$20,000. The report states that a gentleman, who desires that his name do not appear in this connection, has intimated that he intends to contribute for the next five years the full salary of an additional professor. The receipts for the year returned were \$191,422. Dr. Warden concluded by moving the resolution covering the report.

Rev. John Somerville seconded the motion, which was agreed to. Principal Grant submitted the report of Queen's University and College. Seventeen students graduated in theology last year. The year has been one of the best in the history of the College. Another point, not so satisfactory, was the fact that there was a deficit of \$9,000. Principal Grant closed with moving the reception and adoption of the report.

Dr. Wardrope, one of the first students of Queen's College, seconded, in a few cordial words, the reception of the report.

Mr. W. Mortimer Clark rose to disclaim any responsibility on the part of the Board and Senate of Knox College for the position he had taken in relation to Queen's. He did not act as Chairman of Knox College, but as an individual. The case of Dr. Briggs in the American Church has awakened anxiety among ourselves and renders it necessary to consider the relation of our theological colleges to the Church. Mr. Clark went at length into the history of Queen's College. He considered that the Act passed by the Dominion Parliament in 1887 materially altered the relation of the College to the Church, and thus led to a reopening of the whole question. He said that by an oversight no mention of radical changes in the method of appointing trustees was made in the report of the Board of Queen's College to the General Assembly. He concluded by moving an amendment to the effect that the Moderator appoint a committee to investigate the relation of Queen's College to the Church and report to next General Assembly. Dr. Robert Campbell referred to the understanding come to at the time of the Union in 1875. The General Assembly then declined to accept Queen's University as a Presbyterian institution. He did not think that it was right to depart from the understanding then arrived at. General Assemblies did not pretend to be infallible in the appointments to chairs in theological colleges.

Rev. Dr. Jackson seconded the amendment moved by Mr. Clark, and contended for the right of the Assembly to have full control of the appointment of professors in the theological colleges.

Professor McLaren thought there were some facts that ought to be stated. He did not consider that this Church is responsible for the Act passed in 1874 affecting the relation of Queen's University to the Church. He held that the Assembly had as much right to deal with the College as the old Synod had.

Principal Grant regretted the reference to Dr. Briggs. He thought it was unfortunate. He might also refer to the troubles the Free Church of Scotland had about professors, and it would have been ungracious for this Assembly to refer to them in its discussions while cases of these professors were *sub judice*. He regretted that in so large a question Mr. Clark had not given notice to the Assembly of the amendment he had now proposed. The question had been introduced not on its merits, but in connection with letters that have appeared in the papers. Mr. Clark holds that Queen's has no statutory right to report to the General Assembly, and therefore it cannot deal with its report. Dr. Grant showed that the Assembly had always received the reports of Queen's College. The Church was bound to take a warm interest in the welfare of Queen's. The mover of the amendment had two courses open to him. He could have come by overture or through the Presbytery. He instead resorted to inflammatory letters in public journals. The former could do nothing but good, the other will do harm. The hour of adjournment having arrived, it was resolved that further discussion of the subject be deferred till Tuesday morning.

In the afternoon a pleasing conversation was held in McGill College. A number of members of the Congregational Union and many of the citizens of Montreal were present. Principal Dawson made a graceful and felicitous address of welcome, which was happily responded to by Principal Caven and Rev. A. F. Macgregor, chairman of the Congregational Union. The members of the Assembly and their friends greatly enjoyed the visit to McGill and the Presbyterian College. The good ladies of Montreal made sumptuous provision for the refreshment of their guests.

MONDAY, JUNE 13.

Mr. W. Mortimer Clark presented the report of Knox College. The institution in every respect was in a satisfactory condition. He spoke very highly of Principal Caven's services to Knox College and

the Church at large. The services rendered by Dr. Kellogg were very highly appreciated. It was the wish of many that they might be able to retain his services permanently. The regret is general that he is about to leave for India, yet he will carry with him the hearty good-will and prayers for his success in the important work to which he has been appointed in India. The financial affairs of the College were in a very satisfactory condition. There has been an increase in contributions from congregations. Munificent bequests had been received from the trustees of the late Mrs. Nicholls, of Peterborough, and Mr. McLaren, of Buckingham. The Endowment Fund has not been so vigorously pushed, in order that the Endowment Fund of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' should obtain the aid it urgently needs. Mr. Clark concluded by moving the adoption of the report.

Mr. J. A. Paterson seconded the adoption of the report. He spoke in laudatory terms of Mr. Clark's interest in the College and for his many acts of liberality in promotion of its interests. He advocated a permanent appointment of an instructor in the preparatory classes.

Professor Gregg presented in brief terms the report of Knox College Senate. The attendance of students had been 109. Nineteen, the largest number yet, had graduated in theology. Dr. Gregg also referred in appreciative terms to the liberal donations the College library had received, to the great acceptance and value of Dr. Kellogg's services during the absence of Principal Caven.

Principal King submitted the report of Manitoba College. This report records a remarkably prosperous year. The position of the students in the examinations has been very high, due to the efficiency and care of the instructors and the diligence of the students. The number of students, the highest on record yet, was 139. Of these twenty-three are in various stages of preparation for the ministry, and seventy-three in the arts department. Seven have completed their theological course. The financial report shows that the income for ordinary revenue was \$15,389.08. The revenue has been adequate to meet the expenditure. He referred to the generous contributions for making much needed additions to the College. The entire income, including several handsome legacies, was \$29,177. He asked for the appointment by the Assembly of a lecturer in mental and moral science, and referred to the efficient services rendered by the professors in the various existing departments. He made an appeal for larger contributions from Eastern congregations. Some had never during the last nine years made a single offering for Manitoba College.

Dr. Gordon, of Halifax, after a few congratulatory remarks concerning the prosperity of the institution, the efficiency of the work accomplished by it, concluded by moving the reception of the report, recognizing the prosperity of the College, its improved financial condition, thanking the British Churches and the American Presbyterian congregation, Montreal, and the other individual donors; that the General Assembly provide for the appointment of a lecturer in mental and moral science, and commend the fund for the erection of much-needed additions to the building. Mr. J. K. Macdonald, from personal knowledge of the condition of the College, spoke strongly in seconding the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Dr. Cochrane presented in a clear and concise manner the report of Brantford Ladies' College. There was an attendance of 150. The teaching staff is most efficient, and the work has been most thorough and satisfactory, and the institution has been singularly fortunate in securing the services of Mrs. Rolls as lady principal. The educational advantages offered by this institution are of a valuable description, and at the cheapest rate compatible with efficiency. The daughters of ministers are received at a reduced rate. The financial condition of the College is better than ever it has been in the past, a balance now being in the treasury.

Dr. Lung moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Dr. Fraser, Hamilton, and carried unanimously: That the report of the Brantford Young Ladies' College be received and adopted. Further, the Assembly expresses its gratification at the increasing prosperity of the College, as indicated in the large attendance of students during the year, and the high standard of work attained; commends it anew to the confidence and generous support of the Church as an institution to which parents may safely entrust their daughters, alike for its religious influence and educational advantages. The Assembly nominates the following gentlemen, from among whom six shall be elected at the annual meeting to act as directors for the ensuing year, viz.: Rev. William Cochrane, D.D.; Messrs. William Watt, Robert Henry, William Nichol, M.D.; Thomas McLean, C. B. Heyd, A. Robertson, William Grant, Robert Russell, Adam Spence, John Sutherland, Alexander Turner, and appoint Rev. George M. Milligan, M.A., as the Assembly's visitor for the ensuing year.

The report of the Hymnal Committee was presented by Professor Gregg. It stated that from the sales there was a surplus of \$1,600. Of this it is proposed that \$1,200 be given to the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. As to the contract with the English Presbyterian Church, the incoming committee will have to make arrangements for future publication. He moved the reception and adoption of the report.

Rev. H. Gracy suggested that Psalms, paraphrases and hymns be numbered consecutively.

Professor Gregg explained that steps are being taken for the preparation of a hymn-book, to be used by all branches of the Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Robert Murray moved, seconded by Mr. Gracy, that the Hymnal Committee be instructed to consider the question of revising or enlarging the hymnal, also to authorize them to correspond with the sister Churches in Scotland in relation to the preparation of a common hymnal.

Rev. D. M. Gordon presented the report of the Committee on Remit relative to Summer Session in Manitoba College. Thirty-seven Presbyteries had reported in favour of the plan; one declined to express an opinion; three were opposed. All are of opinion that the Manitoba College should be chosen for holding the Summer Session. Mr. Gordon moved a resolution providing for holding such sessions. He also presented Presbyterian returns to the remit of the Assembly on the training of catechists and the appointment of a Foreign Mission Secretary.

An overture from the Presbytery of Guelph as to representation in Church courts was explained by Dr. Torrance, and an overture from the Presbytery of Toronto bearing on the same question was read. Dr. McLaren moved that a committee be appointed to consider the subject and report to next General Assembly. Rev. J. A. Turnbull seconded the motion. Rev. D. J. Macdonnell suggested that the Committee suggest the line of legislation that should be adopted. Mr. W. Mortimer Clark drew attention to the fact that there were ministers without charge and college professors with no elders corresponding.

After deliberation Dr. McLaren moved that the reference from the Presbytery of Guelph and the overture from the Presbytery of Toronto be received and referred to a committee to ascertain the existing law of the Church in respect to the point referred to, and also to consider whether any addition is necessary in regard to representation in the courts of the Church, and report to next General Assembly.

When the Assembly met in the afternoon a little discussion sprang up relating to the principle of summer sessions, and there was a disposition to reconsider the motion, because it committed the Assembly to that principle. Dr. Laing moved that the matter be remitted to a committee to report at a subsequent sederunt. The original motion was affirmed by a large majority.

Dr. Cochrane moved that the next meeting of the Assembly be held at a city called Brantford, which possessed many attractions and advantages. The church accommodation for the transaction of the business of the Assembly was all that could be desired. He then detailed the many institutions, the Ladies' College among them, in Brantford which possess great historical interest for the members of Assembly. It was seconded by Rev. George Cuthbertson and Dr. Laidlaw. The proposal to hold the next meeting in Brantford was cordially received, and it was resolved to meet in Zion Church, Brantford, on the second Tuesday of June, 1893, at 7.30 p.m.

Rev. D. J. Macdonnell reported for the committee appointed to consider applications for leave to retire from the active duties of the ministry. The following cases were granted: Rev. A. McLean, J. McG. Mackay, Rev. H. McQuarrie, Presbytery of Sydney; Dr. R. F. Burns, Halifax, who does not desire to be placed on the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund; Revs. W. Furlong, Duncan Davidson, John McMillan, D. M. Cameron. The cases of Messrs. Coulter and Hume were remitted to the Committee on the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund.

The hour for the reception of the delegates from the Congregational Union having arrived, Rev. A. F. Macgregor conveyed the cordial greetings of the Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec. We belong, he said, to one another. We have fought many common battles and gained victories. We belong to one another as servants of the same Lord and King. There were indications of the true kind that real union was not far distant. May the good time soon come.

Professor Barbour followed. He said he coincided with the opinions and sentiments expressed by Mr. Macgregor. After referring to the hymns common to the Christian Church, he said that we should preach what we pray and pray what we preach. The ministers ought to be imbued with the spirit of moral heroism. They took care to examine carefully the record of those who apply to be received into the ministry of their Church. You have good Presbyterians and some who are rather slack. So they had Congregational independents and independent Congregationalists. He concluded with cordial expressions of fraternal feelings.

Mr. Charles Whitelaw, Paris, spoke of the progress made by Presbyterianism in Canada within his own recollection, and spoke of the cordial relations of the Churches.

The Moderator conveyed the cordial congratulations of the Assembly to the delegates, and spoke of the intimate relations that have existed between the two Churches. The two Churches had upheld the principles of civil and religious liberty. He made reference to the great services rendered by the late Dr. Wilkes. The applause that followed Principal Caven's words of warm response to the delegates was of the heartiest kind.

Dr. Reid then read a friendly letter from the Moderator and Convener of the Colonial Committee to the Very Rev. W. H. Gray, D.D., of Liberton, ex-Moderator of the Church of Scotland. Dr. Gray was received in a very hearty manner. He expressed his great pleasure in being present in Montreal at the time of the meeting of the General Assembly. He was astonished at what had been accomplished by the Presbyterian Church in Canada. In the matter of colleges, remarkable things had been achieved. He could not speak of the preaching in the Canadian Churches. People do not build handsome churches like the one in which we are met except for good preachers. Debt, whether personal or congregational, was an undesirable thing. Laymen had a more prominent place in the Church's work in Canada than in Britain, and the ladies are accomplishing a great work in connection with the Church. He spoke of the pleasure of visiting the Assembly, and that it will delight him to report to the Assembly and Colonial Committee the cordial reception he had met with, and that there is a prospect of the union of Presbyterianism in Scotland.

Dr. McCrae moved a resolution expressing cordial reciprocal feelings to the Church of Scotland for commissioning Dr. Gray as its representative. The resolution was seconded by Dr. Cochrane, enthusiastically endorsed by the Assembly, and conveyed in felicitous terms to Dr. Gray.

In connection with the question of appointing a Foreign Mission Secretary, Professor McLaren thought that the returns to the remits made it plain that we ought to go forward in this matter. He moved that those nominated be balloted for.

Rev. S. J. Taylor, Secretary of the Board of French Evangelization, presented the report of that Board. He began by reading several extracts of a scandalous kind from some of the controversial tracts issued by adherents to the Church of Rome. This he stated in proof of the first paragraph of the report referring to the activity of the Romish propaganda. There is a growing discontent among the people, craving for a better system of education than they now enjoy. The Roman Catholics generally do not have the Gospel. Mr. Taylor deprecated strong denunciation of Roman Catholics. The aim of the Society is not to proselytize, but to give the French-Canadians the simple Gospel. The work has advanced within a life time, has increased so that the Protestant French-Canadians in New England now number about 75,000. Many of their ministers have been trained in our own institutions. The establishment of a newspaper is now under consideration. Colportage and mission schools have been vigorously maintained. The Point-aux-Trembles school has been prosperous during the year. The attendance was 188, and the debt has been met.

The work under the care of the Board during the year embraced thirty-six congregations and mission fields, ninety-five preaching stations, with nine hundred and forty-two Protestant families. The average Sabbath attendance was over three thousand and twenty, of whom nine hundred and forty-one were Roman Catholics. One hundred and forty-three were added to the Church, making a total membership of over fourteen hundred and twenty-three. Eleven hundred and eighteen scholars attended Sabbath school. The people contributed six thousand, two hundred and fifty-five dollars. One new field was occupied, and the congregation of St. Anne transferred. Thirteen colporteurs were employed and eighteen hundred and sixty Bibles and New Testaments and about twenty-six thousand religious tracts and papers distributed. Forty-two thousand and ninety-two visits were made. Seven hundred and ninety scholars, of whom three hundred and sixty-five were from Roman Catholic homes, attended the Mission day schools, with an average attendance of four hundred and ninety. Seventeen French-speaking students attended college during the winter, three of whom graduated in theology and have since been licensed. One hundred and eighty-eight pupils attended the Point-Aux-Trembles schools, ninety-seven of whom came from Roman Catholic homes. One hundred and fourteen attended Colligny College, Ottawa. The total number of labourers employed, including twenty-four ordained ministers, four licentiates, missionaries, teachers and colporteurs is seventy-nine. Total receipts, fifty-six thousand, five hundred and fourteen dollars, and twenty-three cents. Good work has been done in the various fields with the exception of four or five. While all has not been done that might have, there are results sufficient to encourage the devoted missionary, and to stimulate the faith and quicken the zeal of the Church in her efforts to "preach the Gospel to every creature."

The financial statement shows that congregational contributions amounted to \$17,479.52; Sabbath schools, \$1,658.30; miscellaneous, \$2,990.13; bequests, \$4,120.31; contributions from Britain, \$3,153.32; with a balance from last year, making a total of \$30,791.75.

Mr. W. Mortimer Clark moved that the report be received and adopted and that the General Assembly records its gratitude to God for the continued success that has attended the efforts of the Board.