

vacancies, and no want of church organization.

A discussion arose on the Report of a committee on hymns of which Mr. Niel of London was convener. Mr. Macdonnell, of Peterboro' wanted chanting, and descanted upon the imperfections of the metrical psalms. Dr. Cook did not object to a few hymns, but hoped that they would not be many. He said the doctrines of redemption were not in the psalms objectively, but they were there subjectively, and that those that liked the doctrines of the New Testament most, would like best to sing the psalms. The feeling of the Synod was strongly in favour of the paraphrases; but the report of the committee was agreed to, and its suggestions recommended to the church. The question of hymns is everywhere felt to be a difficult one. We cannot object to hymns for we have them. The collection of paraphrases cannot be considered perfect for all time. Many good hymns have appeared since. But then, if you have a large collection, how are people to learn the music of them. Good hymns have their own music generally. The question may to some extent be one of principle, but it is far more one of practice. The practical difficulties of a large collection, are almost insurmountable. Of course, if it be considered sufficient for choirs to sing, these difficulties are removed. Choral singing and congregational singing are different things.

The scholarship and bursary scheme report elicited a speech from Mr. Macdonnell, in which he praised an education in Scotland and Germany, as necessary to qualify young men for the requirements of the present age. Bursaries are given, but scholarships are earned by competition. The principle of each is different. The observations of Mr. Macdonnell having been considered by Mr. Mullen derogatory to those educated at Queen's alone, he made an eloquent defence of native institutions—loudly proclaimed his contempt for all Germanising tendencies, and ended with a shout of indignation with and defiance of such fallings away. Dr. Williamson made a few remarks in most admirable taste. He said that whoever informed Mr. Macdonnell that there were more bursaries than students in Queen's was mistaken, as the case was just the opposite. The authorities of Queen's would be most happy to have bursaries to bestow to enable students to go abroad, if the wealthy men of the church would found them.

The most impressive event of the session was a most enthusiastic exchange of greetings between the Methodist conference meeting in Kingston, under the presidency of Mr. Punshon, and our Synod. They are the most powerful body in Ontario, having about 300,000 adherents, and above 600 ministers. A deputation went from us to them, short addresses were given, concluded by a few remarks from Mr. Punshon, the President.—

"We should like," he said, "to catch some of the inspiration that lingers in your ancient history. We are young ourselves and have to make history. In the meantime we are not insensible to the influence of the old story, which has fired our father's hearts, and which has fired ours. If ever there were days when the spirit of John Knox required to be invoked it is now. We feel as we think of the glorious history of the church which you represent, and of the noble martyrs from whom you are lineally descended, that there is from them an inspiration to the entire church. I have sat on your martyr's graves. We may not have to pass through the martyr's agonies, but we want the martyr's heart. We want to be enkindled into the same heroism and faith, as distinguished the confessors of old." In the course of an hour after, a deputation returned to our Synod, consisting of Dr. Green, Dr. Taylor, Rev. Mr. Borland and Rev. Mr. Douglas. Dr. Green made a most able and impressive speech.—Among many other admirable remarks, he said: "From a child I have been accustomed to read of the martyrs of Scotland, and of those noble ones whose blood stained Scotia's hills, and I have thanked God that the blood of the martyrs has proved the seed of the church. I envy not the happiness of that man who can mention the name of your venerable founder, John Knox, without gratitude to the great Head of the Church. Who can calculate the results to the Church of God, and especially to the Protestant religion, which flowed from that earnest prayer he offered up to heaven as he wept under the shadow of the trees with his head upon his hands and his hands upon the ground—'Lord give me Scotland or I die!' And he did give Scotland to John Knox."

Dr. Taylor a genuine Highlander and a leading Wesleyan Minister, next made a most eloquent address, in which he referred to his having been born in Argyle and receiving the first principles of the Christian religion in the Church of Scotland. He quoted in Gaelic, with great effect, the watchword—"Highlanders, shoulder to shoulder." Dr. Snodgrass and the Moderator reciprocated in very able and eloquent terms. Four lines of a doxology were then sung, with such force and power as only Methodists can sing. You would have thought the roof of the church would fly off with the tremendous shout, and thus ended a very interesting conference.

The proceedings of the whole synod were very attractive and pleasant. Prof. Mackerras, the Clerk, fulfilled his duties in a very able manner, with clearness of judgment and promptitude. Dr. Cook is eloquent and sagacious—a little regardless of court rules, and disposed to look at questions from the stand-point of common-sense, not church rules. Dr. Barclay is a most judicious adviser, who tries not to make speeches but to keep matters right by a few quiet remarks.