

DELEGATES TO ENGLAND.

It was resolved, on report of the Nomination Committee, that the Rev. John Burton, Prof. Fenwick, and Rev. Chas. Duff be delegates to represent the Union at the autumnal meeting of the English Congregational Union at Manchester in October next.

LABRADOR MISSION.

Rev. Thomas HALL brought forward the subject of the Labrador Mission, and gave a very interesting account of the small mission and of the school conducted by Miss Warriner. The establishment of the mission was said to be a breastwork against the encroachment of the Church of Rome, and he hoped that none would begrudge the small amount of money necessary for the support of this important mission.

The Union then adjourned.

THE CONGREGATIONAL COLLEGE.

The annual meeting was then held to receive the report of the Congregational College of British North America, which was read by the Secretary, the Rev. Dr. Cornish, of Montreal. In it was stated that the Board had requested the Rev. Dr. Wilkes to continue in his professorship for another term, which request had been acceded to.

Mr. HAGUE, in moving the adoption of the report, said he thought that the time had come when the College should have a building of its own. The accommodations now afforded were, he said, most inadequate, and the inconvenience to the students was very great. He fancied that a building might be erected by the generosity of a few persons in and around Montreal. It was not desirable, he believed, to burden the churches generally for the building, but possibly an appeal would have to be made to Ontario for the full completion of the project. The question of scholarships was also an important one, and a few of these would be of the greatest assistance. The raising of the standard of the curriculum was also referred to. He moved the adoption of the report.

Rev. Mr. MCKAY moved, "That a cordial vote of thanks be tendered to Major Mills for his timely generosity in connection with the College." Carried.

Rev. Mr. GRIFFITH said that, in his opinion, the time had come when they should separate altogether the literary from the theological work, and make their college at Montreal a purely theological school. He would like also to see the course of study divided into years, after the manner of all seminaries.

Mr. PEDLEY said that they should, he thought, discuss the general policy of the college in connection with the appointment of a professor to succeed Rev. Dr. Wilkes, so that the Board might be guided in their future action.

Mr. JACKSON moved the adjournment of the discussion until Monday. Carried. The Union adjourned at 12:45.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Union resumed at 2:30.

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

Mr. ROY read his paper on "The Mission of the Church." The nature of his essay is indicated by its title. Its reading was listened to with the greatest attention. At the outset it was said:—

"When attempting to decide the mission of the Church they entered at once upon questions of political economy, for the Church had its politics as well as the nation. Let any number of followers of Christ exist, and then there was a church even though no organization should bind them together, and each faithful follower of the Redeemer retained his membership in that Church in the sight of God, whatever combinations were formed against him, or however his fellows might exclude him from such combination. Did he thereby, he asked, forfeit his discipleship or membership in the Church of Christ?"

In speaking of the desirability of individual freedom within a Church organization he said, in every organization there must be some centralized control. The legitimacy of strikes must be conceded. There was truth in what the people of the United States called the "divine right of booting," and it was a serious question how far any organization should force upon any number of worthy and conscientious adherents any measure which would reduce them to the necessity of "bolting" out of the house. Mr. ROY was warmly applauded upon concluding.

CONGREGATIONAL PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Rev. Mr. BURTON introduced the subject of the Congregational Publishing Company, referring to the financial embarrassment which had surrounded the denominational organ previous to the entering of the present editor and management upon their duties, and spoke of the efforts that had been made to extinguish the debt.

A discussion took place on the position of the Company, it was apparent that largely they had inherited the mistakes of others; the friends who pressed the publication of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT as a weekly having gone away. Several speakers expressed themselves to the effect that, although the Union was in no sense responsible for the debt, nor yet the members of the body, the liability having been incurred by a Company on its own responsibility, yet that the good name of the body was involved in the amount being paid in full.

Mr. FIELDS, M.P.P., in a short practical speech, offered fifty dollars towards the debt, providing it was all paid.

Mr. Geo. HAGUE also promised a similar sum on the same conditions, and stated that others could be had.

Rev. C. DUFF urged the taking up of the unallotted shares, as a means of not only extinguishing the debt, but extending the interest.

Rev. J. L. FORSTER, Rev. JOSEPH GRIFFITH, and others, spoke on the subject.

Mr. H. J. CLARK explained that since he had taken charge of the INDEPENDENT, during the last nine months, it had been self-sustaining, he stated that if seventy-five per cent. of the subscribers paid their subscriptions regularly, there would be no additional debt, although the work would have to be done gratuitously. The meeting adjourned without taking definite action.

PROVIDENT FUND SOCIETY.

The annual meeting was held. Mr. David Higgins in the Chair.

Mr. C. R. BLACK read the report as follows:—

Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the Congregational Provident Fund Society, presented at its Annual meeting in Toronto, 10th June, 1881.

The Directors, in submitting the twenty-fourth Annual Report, do so feeling assured that the results will meet with the approval of the Corporation.

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS' FUND BRANCH.

The list of annuitants remains unchanged, viz., six widows and one child, involving an annual expenditure of \$640; and making in all the sum of \$6,600 paid to widows since the fund was created.

The income of this branch has been about the same as last year, and the expenditure a little more, caused by the payment of a sum to Rev. J. Salmon on his leaving the body, and being two-fifths of the amount which he had paid in to the fund, as provided in By-Law No. 3.

INVESTMENTS.

In the Financial Statement hereto annexed it will be found that there has been a reduction made in the value of one investment, viz., that of the Provincial Loan Company. The amount actually paid in to the company was \$3,150, and the investment has always stood for that amount. In the report of the Directors for 1878 the position of this company was noticed as being

unsatisfactory; and since the spring of 1877 no dividend has been paid. The matter has been alluded to in each report since that time. Hopes were entertained that as times began to improve, and property became more valuable, this stock might come up again to par or thereabouts; but the Directors regret to say that the mismanagement has been so effectual as to preclude that hope; and they deem it wise to write down the asset to seventy-five cents in the dollar this year, and possibly may have to write it down another twenty-five cents next year.

The stock in the Montreal Loan and Mortgage Company, representing over \$17,000, has yielded seven per cent. interest this year, being the same as last, and the statement of the Company for the year 1880 is very satisfactory. The stock is selling at a premium varying from seven to twelve per cent., last sale being at nine.

REFUGEE MINISTERS FUND BRANCH.

At last annual meeting the Board were asked to consider on what terms Ministers may be made benevolent members of this Branch, by the payment of a sum of money at once, either by themselves or their churches, and to report at this meeting. They have to report that a sub-committee has been appointed to consider the matter, but, as according to the By-laws, no change in rates can be made until 1883, the Board did not deem it necessary to report until next year. They would therefore suggest that the question be referred to the new Board for report at next annual meeting. This will give a year's time for the consideration of their suggestions, which in any case could only come into effect after the annual meeting in 1883.

The Directors are gratified to be able to report a considerable increase in collections from churches for the past year. The Secretary sent a circular letter to all the churches during November asking for an annual collection for the Fund, and the result has been that, while the collections for this Branch in 1879-80 were \$49.25, this year they were \$167.91. They have been very anxious all along that the churches should make the interests of this Society their own (which they really are), and have time and again brought the matter up in their annual reports; and they feel now greatly encouraged at the number of churches who, this year, have responded to their appeal. For this Branch sixteen churches have sent in subscriptions, as against four churches last year, and they hope that next year this number will be still further increased.

The Board are also pleased to report that \$270 have been paid in on account of old subscriptions. As with the investment of the Widows and Orphans' Branch in the Provincial Loan Company, so with the investment of this Branch in the same Company, the Directors have written down the asset to seventy-five cents in the dollar, and in all probability will have to make a similar reduction next year, in order to bring it down to about its true value.

The subscription churches to both Branches this year are as follows, and they are entitled to representation by one delegate at this meeting:—Emmanuel Montreal, \$50; Kingston Ist, \$21.50; Guelph Ist, \$10; Paris, \$8; Lennoxville, \$7.86; Danville, \$6; Cowansville, \$5.15; Yorkville, \$4.10; Brigham, \$3.85; Zion (Toronto), \$31; Northern (Toronto), \$20; Lanark Village, \$9.93; Ottawa, \$8; Western (Toronto), \$6; Athol and Martintown, \$5.63; Sherbrooke, \$4.79; St. Catharines, \$4; Winnipeg, \$3.

In conclusion, the Directors beg to congratulate the Corporation on the general strengthening of the Society; and they hope that with God's blessing on the future it will still increase the area of its benevolence, and be the means of bringing material comfort into many desolate homes.

The whole respectfully submitted.

CHARLES R. BLACK,
Sec. Treasurer.

The receipts of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund branch was shown to be \$1,836.07, disbursements, \$1,637.48; leaving a balance on hand of over \$198. Re-irring Ministers' Fund branch receipts, \$603.42, disbursements, \$8.16, leaving a balance of \$595.26.

On a ballot being taken, the Rev. Messrs. Sanderson, Ebbs, and Kinlock were received into the Society.

After discussing various matters appertaining to the Society, the Union adjourned. In the evening a

SOCIAL GATHERING

was held in the Lecture-room of the

Church. On the invitation of the Reception Committee a large number of the ministers and delegates were present from the churches of the city and neighbourhood. After partaking of the good things provided by the ladies, the company adjourned to the church, where the Rev. Dr. Jackson, in the absence of the Rev. H. D. Powis, the Pastor, took the chair.

After the singing of a hymn Rev. Mr. McGilly offered prayer, and the chairman referred to the illness of the pastor, which, however, he was glad to say, was not serious, and said that if there was one man in the Union whom they all loved and respected that man was the honored pastor of Zion Congregational Church. He then referred to the programme, which was an interesting one, and called upon the choir for a *Te Deum*.

Rev. Charles Duff then delivered a short address, referring to the many ways in which it was the Almighty's pleasure to manifest Himself in His works. He mentioned the attempt of the Church of the past to mould the human mind after one pattern, and this, he said, could never be accomplished, and this fact he would like to impress upon the young men and women of our land. He spoke of society in the Province of Quebec under the teaching of Romanism, with the same in Ontario under the teaching of Protestantism, and compared the two.

"I'm not ashamed of Jesus," was then sung by Miss Scott.

Rev. J. L. FORSTER, of Calvary Church, Montreal, proceeded to read the report of the Manitoba Missionary Committee. This report refers to the good work done by the Rev. W. Ewing, B.A., who entered upon that important field two years ago, and its present prosperous condition. Last year this gentleman resigned the pastorate of the Church in Winnipeg, with the intention of opening up other promising fields of Christian labor. After considerable difficulty the services of the Rev. J. B. Silcox were secured to supply the place of Mr. Ewing. The appointment of this gentleman is proving eminently satisfactory, and the church promises at no distant day to be independent of external aid, and entirely self-supporting. The congregation in Winnipeg have only a public hall in which to worship, and as this cannot long be retained by them, they feel the urgent need of a church edifice of their own. An eligible site has been secured for this purpose in the most central part of the city, and the members are contributing most liberally to the undertaking. Some of the Montreal brethren, recognizing the important character of the North-West as a mission field, are willing to subscribe liberally towards the construction of a church at Winnipeg, and the committee renew the appeal made some time ago to the churches of Ontario and Quebec to assist in this all-important matter. In acknowledging the generous donation of \$500 a year from the Colonial Missionary Society of England, the committee have still to regret the inadequacy of the income to the requirements of this important work. New and promising fields for missionary labor are being constantly brought under the notice of the committee, but they cannot enter upon them for want of funds. Rev. Mr. Brown, late of Lanark, has organized a church at Pilot Mound, about forty miles from Nelsonville, in the Pembina mountain district, west of Emerson, where a large number of Ontario families are settled. Rev. Mr. Ewing has established churches at Pembina, West Lynn and St. Vincent. In conclusion, the committee earnestly request the pastors to lay the claims of this great country before their respective congregations as early as possible, feeling confident that if the requirements of this important field be fairly presented, there