

OFFICERS OF THE UNION.

The Rev. Alex. McGregor, retiring Chairman, presided during the afternoon, and until the close of the Friday evening service, when the Chairman elect took his place. The following officers were elected on the nomination of the Business Committee :—Rev. Duncan McGregor, Chairman ; Mr. Joseph Barker, Secretary ; Mr. James Woodrow, Statistical Secretary and Treasurer ; Rev. Alex. McGregor, Missionary Secretary, who, with the following ministers and members of churches form the Union and Missionary Committees for the ensuing year, viz :—Hon. F. Tupper and Freeman Dennis, W. Anderson, H. P. Bridges, and Rev. Messrs. Sykes and Shipperley.

CHAIRMAN'S RETIRING ADDRESS.

The attendance on Friday evening was large. The Rev. Alex. McGregor, the retiring Chairman, delivered his address. The following reference to it is taken from the *St. John Globe* :—

“The retiring Chairman first referred to all the circumstances which did not present an encouraging aspect. As a rule, he said, it was poor policy to try and make others believe we were more successful than was warranted by facts. ‘Know thyself’ is a good motto. It was true all the churches had some tokens of favour from God ; but the ministers of the body had been reduced during the year. The Lord God, however, said Mr. McGregor, is in the midst of the churches, and is mighty to save.

“Taking into consideration the circumstances of the past history of the denomination in the Lower Provinces, he thought there must have been some fault in the mode of culture adopted or there would have been greater success. The fault was not in the polity, for it is at once simple and flexible, offering no obstacle to free action. Its forms were inviting to a people leavened with independent views, and with a pronounced repugnance to cumbrous ecclesiastical machinery.

“Referring to spiritual apathy, he said, what but this can account for the presence of so many denominational invertebrates who seem to be afraid to assert their very existence and shirk the maintenance of the things most surely believed among us, leaving one to feel there is no cluster to eat. It was Dr. Harris that said :—

“‘In proportion to the comprehension of our principles, we shall be prepared to wait patiently for their progress and triumph. Were our faith based on mere human policy, we might be excused for interpreting every delay into defeat, and for capriciously transferring our confidence from one expedient to another.’

“Mr. McGregor then proceeded to discuss the best mode of strengthening the churches. After the sowing and the weeping, then will the reaping come. Just so was it with the Reformation. It was not suddenly brought about. If we go back to the time of the Crusades we will discover the preparations for it in the labours of Wickliffe and others. So, to-day, in a similar manner, preparations for coming glory are in progress. The exercise of greater faithfulness on the part of the brotherhood, lay and ministerial, will bring about its reward. Mr. McGregor continued :—

“‘A reconstruction of our present basis of missionary effort would infuse fresh life and bring better results. I am fully persuaded that our executive power must be more centralized. Suppose we decide during this meeting to assume with the sanction of interested parties the sole responsibility of denominational missionary work, then mature our scheme of work, and appeal, if appeal we must, for aid abroad, say directly to the Colonial Missionary Society in London, or to the Canadian Congregational Missionary Society ; or failing these, to our Ameri-