

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

THE WESTMINSTER TEACHER for May is out in excellent time—contents eminently useful as usual.

CHRISTIAN GIVING ILLUSTRATED AND ENFORCED BY ANCIENT TITHING. By Jno. Jenkins, D.D., LL.D. —We must apologize for not having before this called attention to this vigorous and timely discourse by the much respected pastor of St. Paul's Church, Montreal. We give the concluding paragraph:

"As God hath prospered him!" We can easily reckon up this matter as to the past. Have we given in proportion to our past prosperity? We know what we have done; how we have succeeded; what we have made. We know how much we have added, from year to year, notwithstanding all that we have spent and lost, to our capital; how, beginning with nothing or with next to nothing, we have worked ourselves up to a position of opulence in some cases, yes, in many cases. What have we done in the matter of giving? Did we ever sit down and set apart a fifth of a year's profits and distribute it in Christian work and charity? Did we ever, when we reached a capital of fifty thousand dollars, sit down and tithe it? or when we reached a capital of one hundred thousand sit down and give even a tenth of this? 'Of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto Thee.' There were years in which many of you made ten thousand dollars, others fifteen, twenty, forty, fifty thousand. Who helped you to make it? And yet you kept nearly all of it! 'Will a man rob God?' I will not throw such a slight on your intelligence and your conscience as to argue with you that a man with twenty thousand dollars a year contributing a tenth, does not give as much or in as Christian a proportion, as a man who out of an income of two thousand dollars gives two hundred. A tenth for the wealthier man is no sufficient proportion, if a tenth is the true gauge for the poorer man. Others, too, among you, can review the past. Your salaries increased from six dollars a month to eight or ten, or from five hundred dollars a year to six hundred, or from a thousand to fifteen hundred, and so on. Did you increase your giving? I say not in amount, but in proportion to the increase in your income? If you used to give fifty dollars out of five hundred, the setting apart five hundred out of five thousand could not be called giving in sufficient proportion. Certainly it would not be laying by in store, as God prospered you."

HAMILTON AND LONDON SYNOD.

The annual Synod of Hamilton and London, of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, convened in Zion Church (Dr. Cochrane's), Brantford, on Monday evening, the 11th inst. The representation of ministers and elders was large, and the business under consideration of a very important character.

The opening sermon was preached by Dr. Bell, of Walkerton, the retiring Moderator, and will be found elsewhere in this paper. Dr. Bell was accorded a vote of thanks for his services as Moderator and for his sermon. At the close of this service, Dr. Cochrane, Synod Clerk, called the roll, and read a tabulated list of changes in the Presbyteries during the past year. On motion of Rev. W. T. McMullen, of Woodstock, Rev. John Thompson, of St. Andrew's Church, Sarnia, was unanimously chosen Moderator for the current year. The appointment of committees followed.

TUESDAY MORNING.

The Synod convened at half-past nine, the Moderator presiding. The first hour was spent in devotional exercises, in which a number of objects, such as missions, Sabbath schools, etc., were made the subjects of special prayer. A petition and memorial was presented from the Molesworth congregation, to be transferred from the bounds of the Presbytery of Stratford to that of Huron. The Rev. Mr. Johnston supported the application. Rev. Mr. McPherson, of the Stratford Presbytery, opposed the granting of the petition. Rev. Mr. Inglis, of Ayr, seconded by Rev. Dr. Thompson, moved "that the prayer of the petition of Molesworth be granted," and added some forcible arguments in its support. Rev. J. Little, of Princeton, opposed the motion. He moved "that the petition be not granted." Mr. Little's amendment was submitted and lost by a vote of 30 to 50. The original motion was adopted, and the prayer of the petition was granted. The Rev. Mr. McPherson gave notice of appeal to the Assembly against the decision of the Synod.

The Rev. Mr. Donald, of Pictou, N.S., Rev. Mr. Inglis, of THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, and Rev. Mr. Heron, of the United Presbyterian Church of British North America, were invited to correspond.

The protest and appeal of the Rev. Mr. Henderson, of Komoka and Hyde Park, against the decision of the London Presbytery in refusing to accept of his resignation as pastor, was next taken up. The Moderator retired from the chair, and called upon Dr.

Bell to occupy it during the consideration of the case. The Rev. Mr. Henderson expressed his deep regret that it was needful to appear as an appellant against the action of the London Presbytery, but he felt fully warranted in assuming such a painful position. He recited his version of the case, and he argued that the whole question resolved itself into one of whether the Presbytery had guaranteed a certain stipend, or had not; whether his contention was based on a surmise, or on a minute of Presbytery. Mr. Henderson contended that the union of Hyde Park and Komoka was conditional, and his acceptance of the pastorate also conditional on a grant of \$200 from the Home Mission Committee, and that the giving of a less sum relieved him of his obligation. Mr. Henderson read from the rules regulating the jurisdiction of Presbyters over stipends, to establish his case. Mr. Weir, Hyde Park, addressed the Synod on behalf of the appellant. Mr. McKenzie came next, and he went into an explanation of the relations of the Hyde Park congregation with the matter at issue. He gave Mr. Henderson credit for creating the fields of Komoka and Hyde Park, and he argued that the action of the Presbytery in permitting his salary to be cut down was niggardly. The church, manse and sheds cost nearly \$5,000, and the debt is nearly paid off—and he argued that it was impossible for them to do more than they were doing towards Mr. Henderson's salary. The union with Komoka was a source of weakness, and he felt that the liberality of the families at Hyde Park should elicit the sympathy of the Synod. Mr. Dewar, a delegate from Komoka, expressed his attachment to Mr. Henderson. Rev. J. E. Duncan, of Forest, was heard on behalf of the London Presbytery. Rev. Mr. Currie, of Thedford, followed in the same line. He went over the ground already taken, and made a strong appeal to the present Court to aid them in doing justice to all concerned. He argued that the obligation originally assumed by the Presbytery with Mr. Henderson could not be made permanent. The law of the Church was against it. Mr. Currie took the position that to give Mr. Henderson \$800 a year would be an injustice to other contributing churches and pastors who are living on \$700. Dr. Cochrane explained the action of the Home Mission Committee in this matter, and adduced reasons why the case of Hyde Park should be considered a special one. The Doctor added that he disapproved of the London Presbytery in refusing to accept Mr. Henderson's resignation. The matter was voted on in its various aspects, with the result of the adoption of the following motion: "Moved by Rev. Mr. Fotheringham, seconded by Rev. J. Gordon, That we find that the union of Hyde Park and Komoka, under the pastorate of the Rev. Mr. Henderson, was sanctioned by the London Presbytery, on the condition that Hyde Park should contribute \$400 stipend a year, Komoka \$200, and the Home Mission Committee \$200. That when the last of these conditions failed, it became necessary to decide upon new conditions, or make new arrangements, and that Mr. Henderson was entitled to insist upon this or tender his resignation, and for these reasons we sustain the protest and appeal, but at the same time approve of the aim of the Presbytery of London to unite contiguous supplemental stations, and to bring the arrangements at Hyde Park and Komoka into conformity with the rules of the Church as to supplements. And finally we remit the case to the London Presbytery to take action in the light of this decision."

TUESDAY EVENING.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON STATE OF RELIGION.

The Rev. Mr. McEwen, of Ingersoll, presented the report of the committee appointed to collate the returns from the various sessions as to the condition of religion in the churches. It was very full, but complaint was made of the paucity of some of the sessional statements. A very interesting discussion followed, which was participated in by a large number of members of the Synod, after which the report was received and adopted.

SABBATH SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The Rev. Mungo Fraser, of St. Thomas, presented this report. The Sabbath School Committee reported most favourably as to the condition of the various schools making returns, but complaint was made that many schools made no return at all. The report was adopted.

The Synod joined in singing a hymn, and the Rev. Mr. Laing, of Dundas, offered prayer.

WEDNESDAY.

Applications were read by the Clerk from the Presbytery of Hamilton, for leave to take on trial for license Mr. David James, and from London for Messrs. McColl and Stalker. —Granted.

BUXTON BUILDING FUND.

Mr. J. R. Battisby presented the report of the Buxton Building Fund, to the effect that the books of the Treasurer were found correct. The Synod has under its control in this matter the sum of \$3,000 invested. A detailed account was given of receipts and expenditures. Report adopted.

The Moderator left the chair, which was occupied by Mr. Robert Hamilton, and addressed the Synod in reference to a movement of the Alumni Association of Knox College, for the increase of the library of that institution. The following motion was adopted:—"That this Synod recognize the fact of the library of Knox College not being in a satisfactory condition from the want of new books, and also the necessity of something being done to make it more complete by the purchase of such; they express their sympathy with the movement inaugurated at the late meeting of the Alumni Association, by which it is sought to raise \$12,000, at least \$2,000 of which is to be spent immediately on the purchase of books, and the other \$10,000 to be invested as a permanent fund, and the interest arising therefrom to be spent annually in making additions of such works as may be deemed most necessary to secure. This Court would heartily recommend the scheme to all the ministers and congregations within their bounds, and earnestly request that all the members will use their influence in carrying forward so desirable a project to a successful issue."

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

The committee, through Mr. R. N. Grant, convener, appointed to report on this matter, gave some plain comments on existing evils. Sabbath desecration on railways and canals was scathingly rebuked, and loafing at church doors got some deservedly severe blows. The committee added some practical suggestions as to the best means to secure the object in view.

Dr. James presented the report of the committee appointed to take steps to do away with the evils of Sabbath desecration on railways and canals. In the discussion that ensued Mr. McEwen alluded to the unnecessary Sabbath funerals, and especially those in which bands of music parade the streets, much to the disturbance of the services. He concluded by moving the adoption of the reports.

Dr. James suggested that church-door loafers could be dismissed by some one preaching to them a sermon. Sunday temperance meetings were strongly condemned by the doctor, and also promenading by young people.

Mr. Laidlaw, of Hamilton, thought the Synod should be very careful not to express censure in reference to Sunday temperance meetings, as the action might be misconstrued into an evidence of hostility to the cause itself.

Dr. McDonald, of Hamilton, illustrated the difficulties surrounding the Sunday railway traffic by stating that street cars were run for the convenience of church-goers.

The Rev. Mr. Bruce, of St. Catharines spoke of the difficulty of dealing with the complex question of Sunday traffic on the Welland Canal. He felt a delicacy in this court legislating in reference to Sunday temperance meetings. He preferred leaving the matter to be determined by the good sense of Christians.

Rev. Mr. Inglis moved, seconded by Rev. Mr. Laing, That a committee be appointed to prepare a pastoral letter for submission to the churches, dealing with the evils alluded to in the reports. The motion was adopted and a committee was appointed in accordance with it.

The petition of Rev. D. Mann was referred to the following Commission, viz.: Rev. Messrs. McMullen, Laing, McEwen, Dr. Cochrane, Whimster, Dr. James, Dr. Bell, McQuarrie, Hon. A. Vidal, and D. McDonald, to meet in Knox Church, Stratford, on May 11th, at two o'clock p.m.

The rest of the report of Synod proceedings we are compelled to hold over till next week.

WE see it stated that the Presbyterians of Embro are contemplating making a thorough change in their large church, lowering the pulpit and galleries and making other necessary improvements.