

Church News.

We are thankful for items of Church News...

The new church building, Norwood, is rapidly approaching completion.

REV. M. H. SCOTT, under date May 15th, writes from Quebec to the REVIEW: "Jan. Hossock, Esq., who passed peacefully to his rest on Monday was buried today at Mount Hermon Cemetery. He died at the full age of seventy-seven years, very much beloved. He was a good and faithful elder in Chalmers' church in this city, and was Superintendent of the Sabbath School for twenty-one years. His scholars are scattered in all parts of the world and some have gone before. Rev. Dr. Clark conducted the funeral services."

REV. W. MCKINLEY, who is retiring from the pastorate of Ratho and Innerkip congregations, has been presented by the Ratho congregation with a purse of money and an address expressive of the high regard in which himself and family are held in the congregation. Mr. McKinley made an appropriate reply. He referred with pleasure to the Christian courtesy which had been at all times extended to him and the hearty cooperation of the members of session, managers and individual members of the congregation in all Christian work. It was, he said, hard to part from associations where there had been no misunderstandings, but perfect harmony, peace and good-will. During his brief stay with them he had received the rite of baptism, and had united with the church and so had been called away to the spirit land. In conclusion, he urged each to be faithful unto death in order to receive a crown of life.

SYNOD OF TORONTO AND KINGSTON

CONFERENCE ON RELIGIOUS CONFERENCE - ENTERTAINING AND PRACTICAL ADDRESS FROM LEADING MINISTERS AND LAYMEN

MONDAY

The Conference in connection with the meeting of the Synod of Toronto and Kingston began its sitting in St. Paul's church, Bowmanville, Monday evening, May 13th, and remained in session Tuesday forenoon and afternoon. There was a good attendance of the members of the Synod and of the townspeople, and much interest was manifested in the proceedings.

TUESDAY

The second session of the conference began on Tuesday morning, at 9.30, with a large attendance of members of Synod, which was considerably augmented, an hour after, by the arrival of a later train from the west.

The Rev. J. B. Fraser led the opening devotions and presided. In a few words he emphasized the importance of the topics on the programme for discussion and the desirability of as many as possible giving all the benefit of their best thoughts in the briefest and most pointed manner possible, a suggestion which was not lost on the conference. The subject of BRINGING TO DECISION FOR CHRIST, was introduced in a most earnest address by the Rev. A. Jackson, of Galt, who called attention to the difference between accepting a personal Saviour and holding a creed; the importance of ministers realizing the imminent peril of the unsaved; the necessity of human agency if souls are to be saved; the conviction that God always rewards spiritual husbandry and gives us harvests according to our faith and faithfulness; the need of dwelling on, illustrating and emphasizing the fundamental doctrines of the Gospel - man's ruin, God's love, Christ's atonement, the Holy Spirit's help, of prayer for the Divine power to accompany our work and word; of all in the Church co-operating. A rescued passenger from the Danmark should lend a hand on board the Missouri to rescue the remainder of the 700. A dog even had been known to bring another with a broken leg to a doctor who months before had set its own when broken. All must work, each in his own place and way. Those who hinder or interfere with the constituted authority of the Church in leading souls to Christ are serving the Devil and should be stopped.

Revs. R. Wallace, Toronto, Eastman, Oshawa; Carmichael, Norwood, and McLuan, Lakefield, gave the conference the benefit of their practical experience. The points particularly brought out were: the necessity of personal dealing; the use of the Word of God in personal dealing; the disabusing of the youthful mind of the delusion that religion involves any sacrifice of real enjoyment, the keeping of a list of the unconverted for prayer, and personal dealing as opportunity offered. The professional evangelist has seemingly seen his best days. There was almost no reference to him as a factor in the solution of the perennial problem of how to deal with the unsaved. The next topic, HOW TO DEVELOP AND UTILIZE THE WORKING POWER OF CHURCH MEMBERS, OLD AND YOUNG, was introduced by Rev. J. M. Cameron, of Toronto, in a very practical and suggestive address. The first question he

said is, of course, how to get workers; to which the Scriptural answer is, ask for them. "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest." Then teach them to pray, singly and then in small companies. Show them clearly that the Master expects all to work. It is not, then, surely servants. "Son, go work to-day in My vineyard." Bring personally before them different lines of work, and urge them to make a choice. It is necessary, help them to do so. Follow them up by constant oversight. Remember the Spanish proverb, "The master's eye is worth both his hands." Keep constantly before them the grand motive of service - love for Christ. He expects all to work, for He gives "to every man his work." Even the children may be enlisted. A small band of little girls may be trained to sing sweet songs of Zion for the comfort of the sick. Dr. Guthrie, when dying, said, "O sing me the balmier' hymns." More should be made of Gospel songs in the service of Christ.

The discussion was continued in a practical way by Revs. Dr. Parsons and Gilray, and Mr. Yellowlees, who gave the conference the benefit of some of their experiences.

THE MISSIONARY SPIRIT.

The forenoon session was concluded by a stimulating address from Dr. Wardrope, of Guelph, on "The Development of the Missionary Spirit in Our Congregations." The first thing necessary was the frequent inculcation of Christ's parting command, "Go ye into all the world," and so forth, from the pulpit. The second is the imparting of missionary intelligence, so that the members might know what is being done. The third thing is the dissemination of missionary literature in the congregations. The doctor paid a high tribute to the REVIEW and the other denominational papers. The fourth thing was the giving of hearty encouragement to the W.F.M.S. mission bands and so forth. The fifth thing was the enlisting of our old and young men in the work. He felt sure that there were thousands who did not yet realize that God had need of them. There was a feeling in the minds of many congregations that since they had done very well they need not trouble themselves about doing more. Many who were often greatly concerned about their spiritual relation and condition would clear their evidence as to their standing in God's favour, if they would only do His will.

The chairman suggested the publication of a letter leaflet by the Missionary Committee, similar to that published by the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, so that pastors might have ready furnished to them interesting intelligence which they might give to their congregations at the Sabbath service with or without comment. There is abundant warrant in the Acts of Apostles for making the giving of missionary intelligence a part of the regular service.

Rev. Mr. Wilkie was cordially invited to address the Conference. He protested against putting Home and Foreign Missions against each other, against insisting on asceticism in missionaries, against the popular opinion that missionaries were proud and self-indulgent because they employed servants to save their time and strength for their proper work. Mr. Wilkie explained the necessity for various kinds of work, medical, educational and evangelistic, and made an earnest appeal to ministers to use every effort to develop the missionary spirit, suggesting the wisdom of a far more liberal use of printers' ink for this purpose.

In the afternoon at 2.30, the Conference resumed with devotional exercises, led by Dr. McLaughlin, M.P.P. of Bowmanville, the Superintendent of St. Paul's church Sabbath-school. The first topic on the programme was the question HOW SHALL WE INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF OUR SABBATH-SCHOOLS?

introduced by D. Fotheringham, Esq., of Toronto, in an interesting address, in which he called attention to the necessity of thorough supervision as in secular education and all successful business operations. The character of workers and work done should be closely scrutinized. Workmen should be well trained. Even Paul needed the years in Arabia in addition to what he had learned from Gamaliel. The Church should provide for the training of S.S. teachers, as well as preachers and pastors. Teachers should be instructed in Divine truth, educational principles, and in knowledge of the Church and world. Attention should be given to this in the pupil, the pastor's class, teachers' meetings and institutes. Schools should be graded. Work done should be recognized and reported.

In the discussion that followed, Mr. McAlpine, of Chatsworth, emphasized the importance of fewer classes and more competent teachers; Mr. Carmichael, of Norwood, of a larger place in the Sabbath service specially for the children; Dr. Parsons, of getting the whole church into the school; Mr. McEwan, of making Sabbath-school work supplemental of home teaching, and not substitutable for. The next topic,

HOW SHALL WE ADAPT OUR PASTORAL WORK TO PRESENT SOCIAL CONDITIONS? was introduced by Rev. Dr. Parsons, of Toronto. Attention was called to the changed circumstances of our day compared with the past. The multiplicity of meetings, the distractions of the daily newspaper, the rush of business, the employment of various members of families, sometimes not only through the day, but often in the evening, all made pastoral work at the same time more needful and more difficult. The church, in cities, towns and large villages, should be the centre for spiritual fellowship, the pastor and elders meeting with the people and talking with each other. Christian thought and sentiment, and sympathy should be voiced. A conversational Bible-class should be conducted by the pastor, in which all who take part reveal their state of mind by their questions. Three or four families or more may be gathered in one home, and the pastor invited to meet them, for personal spiritual conversation and worship. A very profitable meeting may thus be spent.

Revs. Dr. Wardrope, Dr. McTavish, Dr. Fraser, and Messrs. Sutherland and Eastman, continued the discussion. Among the valuable suggestions made were the following: Meetings in country

congregations for pastoral work have been held in rotation in homes of the people during the afternoons of the week, the people themselves taking a large part. Meetings may be held with the children in school-houses after hours. The pastor may have a day at home, in which the people may visit him. The pastor should not undertake too much outside work, and should not be discouraged by the changed conditions of the time from continuing pastoral work along the old established lines.

The Conference was brought to a close by an earnest and most admirable address from the Rev. Princlpal Caven on ENDOWMENT WITH POWER FOR CHRISTIAN WORK.

Neither the natural man nor the renewed man has this power in himself. Even the renewed man needs to abide in Christ to have life, and strength, and zeal. The stimulus of religious meetings is not the power - it is delightful and refreshing, but is not all we need. Neither is their power in the organization - there are clouds without rain, and wells without water. The power is in God. How great is God! "There is nothing great but God." All power is from God - physical, intellectual, spiritual. Through God "the weak shall be as David, and David as the Angel of the Lord." Though the Apostles were clearly convinced of the resurrection of Christ, they were not ready for service till they had received power after that the Holy Ghost was come upon them. Pentecost was not a meteor, but an abiding light in the Church of Christ. What was distinctively moral and spiritual in Pentecost is permanent and perennial, and of far higher value than gifts of tongues and of healing. All preparation without the power is not enough, but the Spirit's power is not promised to indolence or presumption. It is promised in answer to believing prayer, and always given.

The session was appropriately concluded with devotional exercises, led by Messrs. Frizzell, Carmichael and Mitchell. The interest in the Conference was maintained to the very close, and, after Dr. Caven's address, amounted almost to enthusiasm. All present felt that the days had been spent very delightfully and profitably, and a motion was unanimously carried recommending the holding of a similar conference next year.

MEETINGS OF PRESBYTERIES. PICTOU.

MET at New Glasgow, on the 7th. There was a large attendance of ministers and elders. The report on Statistics was read by Mr. Carson, that on Temperance by Mr. Cairns. Both these excellent reports were ordered to be published. Mr. Cairns reported on behalf of a special committee appointed to make arrangements for holding local S. S. Conventions. The Presbytery will co-operate in this work. Mr. H. K. Maclean reported that he had moderated in a call at Glenelg, that the call was in favour of Mr. Boyd and signed by 219 members and 123 adherents. The salary promised is \$900. Mr. Boyd accepted the call. Mr. A. Maclean reported that he had moderated in a call at Springville and that the call was in favour of Mr. J. Calder. It was signed by 330 members and 120 adherents, and accompanied by a guarantee of \$900 salary. Mr. Calder indicated by letter his acceptance of the call. Presbytery resolved to meet in United Church, New Glasgow, Tuesday, May 21st, at 1.30 p.m., to take Messrs. Boyd, Calder and Thompson on trial for ordination. In the event of these trials being sustained ordination and induction will take place as follows: - Mr. Boyd, Glenelg, May 28th, 10 a.m.; Mr. Calder, Springville, May 29th, 11 a.m.; Mr. A. W. Thompson, as ordained missionary, at Trenton, May 30th, 7.30 p.m. - J. R. MUNRO, Clerk.

ST. JOHN.

MET at Moncton, May 7th, Rev. J. M. Robinson, Moderator. After opening and routine business, Rev. Mr. Robinson reported visiting Port Elgin and finding matters in a good state. Rev. Mr. McKay reported Shediac congregation in a forward condition. A report was read by Rev. Mr. Gunn, on Systematic Benevolence, and on motion the report was adopted and ordered to be forwarded to the Synod Committee. Rev. Mr. MacNeill read the report of the Committee on Statistics, which showed that the Presbytery supplies forty-two churches and mission stations. There were 343 baptisms in the year. The total number of communicants is 4,520. One church, two halls and two manses were erected during the year. The total church receipts were \$24,454, against \$51,764 the previous year. Four churches did not report. Rev. Mr. Wylie's claim to be placed on the Aged and Infirm Fund was strongly recommended by motion to the General Assembly. Dr. Macrae read a report on the State of Religion. The report was received and ordered to be considered at the evening session. Mr. Fotheringham read a report of Sabbath-school Work, giving statistics, and regretting the incompleteness of the reports received. Rev. Mr. Shore, of St. Stephen, asked for leave of absence for four months, which was granted. Mr. Willet read the report on Home Missions. The ordination and licensing of Mr. Hamilton was then taken up, Rev. Mr. Robinson putting the questions to the applicant and Rev. Mr. Bruce addressing him. Application was read from Rev. James Barker, Congregationalist, Sheffield, wishing to join the Presbyterian body. Rev. Mr. MacNeill read a report on Temperance from nineteen congregations, showing general improvement. The report was received and adopted. Rev. Mr. Fotheringham brought up the matter of the Jesuits' Estates Bill, and moved the following resolution: - "Whereas, An act has been passed by the legislature of Quebec, authorizing the payment of \$400,000 out of the revenues of the Province, in order to satisfy a presumed claim of the Roman Catholic Church to escheated estates of the Jesuit Society, which estates have been held by grant from the Crown for the purposes of education; and, Whereas, said Act recognizes the right of the Pope to a voice in the disposal of public funds and makes this Act itself dependent upon his ratification; therefore, Resolved, That the Presbytery of St. John earnestly protest against the appropriation of public funds

to the endowment of a religious body, the diversion of these funds from their original purpose of education, and the submission of an Act of Parliament to the ratification of the Pope of Rome; also, Resolved, That a petition for the disallowance of said Act be forwarded to the Governor-General in Council, signed by the Moderator and Clerk, in the name and by the authority of the Presbytery." This was seconded by Rev. Mr. Kinread and carried. - JAS. HENNET, Clerk.

STRATFORD.

MET in Knox church, Stratford, on the 13th inst., Rev. P. Wright, B.D., presiding. A paper on the subject of "Perfectionism" was read by Rev. I. Campbell, of Listowel, and a conference was held thereon. Mr. Campbell was requested to publish his essay in the local and Church papers. A committee was appointed to draft a resolution anent the Jesuits' Estates Bill and reported as follows: 1. "The Presbytery hereby expresses its strong disapproval of the Act incorporating the Jesuits and the Act for the settlement of the Jesuits' Estates as calculated to endanger the peace and prosperity of the Dominion by giving legal status to a society which has so often proved itself to be the enemy of civil and religious liberty, and by endorsing a religious body contrary to the recognized principle of equality of Churches. 2. The Presbytery objects to this Act because it recognizes the right of the Pope to intervene in our national affairs, and because such recognition is in direct contravention of Imperial Statute, and derogatory to the supremacy of the Queen. 3. It also regrets that the Dominion Parliament has given its sanction to taking the property of the Crown in transferring it from its legitimate purpose and giving it to purposes antagonistic to the well-being of the Dominion. 4. The Presbytery expresses regret at the action of the great majority of the members of the Dominion House of Commons in voting against disallowance of the Jesuits' Estates Act, and approval of the members who voted for said disallowance. A call from the congregation of Portage la Prairie in favour of Rev. Peter Wright, B.D., of Stratford, was presented and considered. The call was placed in Mr. Wright's hand, and it was agreed to hold an adjourned meeting of Presbytery in Knox church, Stratford, on 10 a.m., on June 11th, and that the call be dealt with at the evening adjourned meeting commencing at 7.30. The matter of Mr. Stewart's resignation of Tavistock, and the re-arrangement of the fields was taken up, but owing to the fact that the congregation had not been cited, it was agreed to defer the matter until the adjourned meeting in June. Circular letters from the Presbyteries of Pictou, Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton and London were read, showing that application would be made to General Assembly for leave to receive Messrs. Murray, Beatt, Knowles and McKay, Cruickshank and Craig, respectively, as ministers of this Church. Rev. Dr. Cochran, Proudfoot, Laing, Laidlaw, McMullen and Mr. McQuig being present were invited to correspond with the Presbytery. On motion by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. McKibbin it was unanimously agreed to nominate Dr. Laing, of Dundas, as Moderator of next General Assembly. The remits from General Assembly were considered. Dr. Proudfoot cited the Presbytery to appear before a commission of the Synod of Hamilton and London, at 7.30 p.m., in re Mr. McPherson's retiring allowance. The Presbytery agreed to appear as a whole. - A. P. TULLY, Clerk.

PARIS.

MET in the First Presbyterian church, Branford, April 23rd, Rev. M. McGregor, Moderator, for the induction and ordination of Rev. Mr. Tolmie to the pastoral charge. The Rev. J. S. Hardie preached from li. Corinthians iv. 5. The Moderator narrated the steps that had been taken by the congregation for the calling of the minister-elect, put to him the questions contained in the formula, which, having been answered satisfactorily, Rev. Dr. Cochran engaged in solemn prayer, after which Mr. Tolmie was by the laying on of hands solemnly ordained and inducted into the pastoral charge of the church and congregation. The Rev. Mr. Wylie, of Paris, then addressed the minister, and Rev. W. S. McTavish, of St. George, the congregation. As the congregation dismissed Mr. Wylie accompanied the newly inducted pastor to the vestibule of the church where he received the welcome of his people. The Presbytery then resumed business, Rev. Mr. Tolmie taking his seat as a member of the court. The resignation of Mr. McKinley was further discussed and the reverend gentleman again asked if he could not see his way clear to withdraw his resignation, provided his wishes were met as to his comfort. But he could not; and finally on motion of Dr. Cochran, seconded by Rev. D. M. Beattie, his resignation was accepted, to take place on the first Sabbath in May. The Presbytery exceedingly "regretted" that while the Ratho congregation is willing to make any arrangements possible for the retention of Mr. McKinley, to whom, according to their representatives, they are strongly and tenderly attached, the Innerkip congregation are unwilling to take steps for the erection of a manse which it is admitted is urgently demanded and which would increase his comfort and render him better able to undertake the duties connected with the two congregations. The Presbytery in parting with Mr. McKinley bear testimony to his conscientious attendance upon the courts of the Church, and the active part he has taken in all matters affecting the welfare of the Church at large, and the spiritual interests of all the congregations within its bounds. They would testify to the ministerial efficiency and pastoral fidelity that has marked his conduct in the pulpit and pastoral visitations, and record with gratitude to Almighty God the success that has attended his labours in Ratho and Innerkip during the past seven years. Finally, they part with him as a brother greatly beloved, and commend him and his family to the continued care of the Great King and Head of the Church, in the full expectation that another field will soon be opened up for the exercise of his gifts and graces. The Rev. D. M. Beattie was appointed to preach the church vacant on the second Sabbath in May; and Dr. McMullen was appointed to moderate during the vacancy. Trial discourses were prescribed for Mr. Pringle, whose application for license was granted at the late meeting of the Synod.

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