

### HOME MISSION COMMITTEE.—WESTERN SECTION.

The Home Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Canada met in the lecture-room of St. Andrew's Church last Wednesday. The Rev. Dr. Cochrane, of Brantford, Convener, and Rev. R. H. Warden, of Montreal, Secretary. The attendance of members from all sections of the Church was large, including Revs. D. King, D. J. Macdonnell, of Toronto; McLeod, Kinsbury, Quebec; Farries, Ottawa; McGillivray, Williamstown, Ont.; Dr. Smith, Kingston; Cleland, Port Hope; Carmichael, Columbus; Cockburn, Uxbridge; Moodie, Staynor; Somerville Owen Sound; Campbell, Harrison; Torrance, Guelph; Laing, Dundas; Ratchiff, St. Catharines; Rennie, London; Walker, Chatham; Hamilton, Stratford; Turnbull, Goderich; Cameron, Lucknow; Tolmie, Southampton; Roberston, Winnipeg; and Mr. Daniel Mackenzie, Sarnia. Grants to the amount of about twenty thousand dollars were made for mission services during the past half-year. A donation of £250, and £100 for Manitoba College, was received from the Irish Presbyterian Church. A gentleman in Ottawa notified the committee of his intention to support a missionary in Manitoba at a cost of six hundred dollars per annum, supplemental to the contributions of the congregation in which he labours. The committee spent considerable time discussing the state of the field in British Columbia, where the Church of Scotland have supported a number of missionaries for many years. Correspondence from that Church was submitted indicating its willingness to transfer its congregations in that Province to the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The committee took steps towards the appointment of at least one additional minister to British Columbia.

At next day's meeting the following resolution was adopted: The Committee having had its attention called to an anonymous communication, which was admitted by the Editor of the *Toronto Mail* of Friday, the 23rd of March, was allowed without due consideration to appear, reflecting injuriously on the Committee's administration, and throwing very grave and slanderous aspersions on the character of the Superintendent of Missions in the North-West, resolves as follows:—(1) That the statement contained in the letter respecting the working of the Home Mission field, both in the North-West and in Ontario, are in many particulars misleading and untruthful. (2) That Mr. Robertson, the Superintendent of Missions, has proved himself to be an intelligent, indefatigable, and self-sacrificing agent of the Church; that during the short period in which he has filled the position he has been generally successful in developing the liberality of the people in Manitoba and the North West, both in the support of ordinances and in the creation of churches and manses building fund; in securing the accession to the field of valuable labourers both ministers and students, and generally in promoting the rapid extension of the work therein. (3) That the Committee has seen with pain and indignation this attempt to damage the ministerial standing and personal character of Mr. Robertson, not refraining from invading even the privacies of domestic life; that it assures him of its deep sympathy with him under an attack at once so undeserved, so malignant, and so cowardly; that it embraces the opportunity to express the high esteem in which its members hold him for his mental vigour, his breadth of view, his devotion to the Church's interest, and his zeal in discharging the duties of his difficult position, and to assure him of its hearty support in carrying on the work to which the highest court of the Church has called him.

Arrangements were made to supply the fields in the Lake Superior district, in relation to the North-West Territories, and it was resolved to send missionaries immediately to Calgary, Moose Jaw, Wolseley, Virden, Elk Horn, Medicine Hat, Swift Current, Maple Creek, Regina, Fort Qu'Appelle, Touchwood Hills, Saskatoon, and many other points on the line of the Canada Pacific Railway between Brandon and the Rocky Mountains. The Committee agreed to appoint two ordained missionaries to itinerate in the settlements to be occupied by immigrants this season with a view to organizing stations throughout the newer parts of the country. Applications were received from a large number of ministers and others for appointments to the North-West. The names of about one hundred and forty student missionaries were received as eligible for work during the summer half-year.

Applications were received from Presbyteries for nearly a similar number of men.

The following appointments for the summer season of 1883 were made:—

Quebec—Messrs. John McLeod, R. Gamble, A. W. McConachy, and Rev. T. Fenwick. Montreal—Messrs. A. Lee, J. L. Morin, R. Stewart, A. Groulx, W. D. Roberts, and Rev. J. Stewart. Glengarry—Messrs. Neil Campbell and D. McLean. Ottawa—Messrs. P. M. Pollock and A. Scrimger. Lanark and Renfrew—Messrs. Jacob Steele, F. W. Johnston, W. A. McKenzie, S. A. Thomas, Revs. M. Turnbull and G. T. Bayne. Brockville—Mr. James Sutherland. Kingston—Messrs. J. Rattray, Robt. Gow, W. Hay, S. Childerhose, C. J. Cameron, J. Henderson, G. R. Lang, J. W. H. Milne, and D. J. Hyland. Peterborough—Messrs. R. B. Smith, W. Fairbairn, D. C. Cameron, and Hugh Ross. Lindsay—Messrs. H. C. Howard, M. McKinnon, W. G. Hanna, and W. Patterson. Toronto—Messrs. John Mutch, T. Nixon, J. H. Jaffray, J. Malcolm, and Robert Classford. Barrie—Messrs. Duncan McColl, J. S. Hardy, J. McD. Duncan, Thomas Thompson, T. J. Barrow, G. Kinnear, D. H. Hodges, Alex. Currie, J. S. McIlraith, S. G. Murray, H. Knox, and Rev. A. Hudson. Owen Sound—Messrs. A. Blair, J. M. Gardiner, James Murray, A. S. Grant, Revs. J. Ferguson, and E. B. A. Millard. Saugeen—Messrs. D. Forrest, J. C. Tolmie, D. A. McLean, John Moore, James Somerville. Guelph—Mr. James A. Grant. Hamilton—Messrs. John A. Ross, W. A. Duncan, R. McIntyre, Ed. Snyder, and J. H. Simpson. Paris—Mr. W. S. McTavish. London—Mr. Robert McNair and Rev. G. Crombie. Sarnia—Messrs. James Ballantyne and J. W. McKenzie. Chatham—Messrs. W. M. Fleming and P. Uelle. Stratford—Mr. John Campbell. Huron—Mr. A. McGillivray. Maitland—Mr. James Bennett. Bruce—Mr. Chas. Rutherford. Manitoba—Messrs. Angus Robertson, Thomas Davidson, G. B. Greig, W. McFarlane (Toronto), J. E. Freeman, J. Dow, A. R. Linton, P. Langill, A. McLaren, D. G. Cameron, J. Kellie, J. McArthur, D. McLean, J. F. Dustan, W. Nicholl, Jas. Todd, and J. L. Simpson.

### AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS' FUND.

MR. EDITOR,—I have noticed lately in THE PRESBYTERIAN lamentations as to the low state of the funds of the scheme in aid of our Aged and Infirm ministers, and there is no doubt good excuse for these lamentations. It is one of our most important schemes, and one of our most poorly supported ones. I believe our ministers themselves are a good deal to blame. In the first place, out of a very natural but false delicacy, they don't bring the subject before their people in a sufficiently plain and energetic manner, and secondly, they don't all pay their annual contributions to the fund in accordance with the rules of the scheme. As a member of the Committee I would respectfully suggest that subscriptions should be taken up in every congregation to establish a respectable fund, and that the representative elder be required to solicit such subscriptions. If this is done, and if all the ministers, young and old, pay up regularly, the fund will soon be on a sound basis with prospects of a greatly increased income for the future. Our Convener, the Rev. Mr. Middlemiss, does his best for the scheme, but the average attendance of members of Committee is about three or four at the outside, except at the first meeting generally held at the opening of Knox College, when sometimes there are *actually* six or even eight members present. CANADIAN PRESBYTERIAN.

26th March, 1883.

P.S.—The above refers to the Western Scheme.

### PHILOSOPHICAL AND LITERARY SOCIETY, PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE, MONTREAL.

The annual meeting of this Society was held in the Principal's class-room on Friday evening, March 16th. The retiring president, Mr. W. T. Herridge, B.A., who occupied the chair, opened the meeting with devotional exercises. The minutes of the last annual meeting were read, and confirmed, the roll called, and the annual report of the executive committee submitted by the recording-secretary, Mr. W. Fraser. The ability displayed in the preparation of this report called forth a compliment from the chair. It noted a very satisfactory state of affairs. During the session eight meetings were held, at which the different members appointed to take part in the programme acquitted themselves with credit. One meeting, held in the David Morrice Hall was thrown open to the public, and proved a great success, both in point of attendance and excellency of programme. The constitution of the Society has recently been raised, and 300 copies printed in handsome form. Although this has incurred a heavy expenditure, the treasurer's report shows a balance on hand of \$36.30. Great unanimity of feeling and purpose has prevailed among the members, and it is felt that the Society has conferred much benefit upon those who attend its sittings. The report con-

cluded by exhorting the students to greater zeal and ambition, in equipping themselves for the grand work of proclaiming liberty to the captive, and sight to the blind.

The election of officers for next session was then proceeded with, and resulted as follows: President, D. Currie, B.A.; 1st Vice-President, J. Morin, B.A.; 2nd Vice-President, R. Gamble, B.A.; Rec-Secretary, R. McKnight, B.A.; Cor.-Secretary, J. H. Macvicar, Treasurer, A. Scrimger; Secretary of Committee, G. A. Thompson; Councillors, S. Rondeau, W. M. Rochester, M. L. Leitch, G. Whillans, B.A., and W. K. Shearer.

The president elect upon assuming the chair briefly addressed the meeting. He spoke in laudatory terms of the administration of his predecessor, to whom the Society tendered a hearty vote of thanks. Mr. Herridge in replying offered many suggestions of a practical nature, and was loudly applauded. Messrs. Gamble, McKnight, and Cameron being called upon for speeches, responded in a cheerful manner, after which the meeting closed with the L.M. doxology and apostolic benediction.

J. H. MACVICAR,  
Cor.-Secretary.

### EVANGELISTIC WORK.

MESSRS MOODY AND SANKEY—BELFAST.

Each day served to deepen the impression and increase the multitude desirous of attending the meetings. Many, it is to be regretted, who had travelled long distances, were unable to obtain admission. God seems to have made the wrath of man to praise Him. The months of horror and darkness and bloodshed through which we have passed as a nation seem, contrary to the expectation of many, to have cast us upon God, and caused many to seek after Him.

As already noted, the thirst for hearing the word of God was something exceeding anything Mr. Moody has witnessed since he began these missions for God. Had he known the depth of the desire of the people he would have arranged to have spent some three or four months in Ireland.

The numbers, ready before all men to express their desire to seek and find Jesus, increased greatly towards the end of the week. These included persons in all ranks of society, and of all denominations, Roman Catholics as well as Protestants. The harvest was greater than could be reaped. Although we had many and excellent workers, they were not enough to overtake the difficult, delicate and anxious work of rightly guiding the awakened inquirers to "the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world."

Sabbath, the 18th, was the last day of the mission. Arrangements were made by Mr. Moody to endeavour to overtake the pressure of desire to hear "More about Jesus." At eight a.m. a meeting for Christians was held in our largest church. The doors were opened by six, and shortly after the building was densely packed, and the overflowing crowd filled the adjoining church. This meeting was indeed remarkable, and will have its history read and rejoiced over, I believe, in the annals of eternity. At two o'clock, in the same church, a meeting for women was held. What heart, however callous, would not have been overcome by the solemnity of the sight, by the unearthly stillness of its close, and by the universal consciousness of the Spirit's presence, as hundreds, upon bended knees, sought Jesus and His peace? If the sight of even one man at the mercy seat, as he pleads for his life, and deals with God, fills the mind of an onlooker with awe and reverence, how much more the sight of that prostrate multitude! Dealt with afterwards by the workers, as best as they could in the short time at their command, they slowly and reluctantly retired.

But the day's work of seeking to harvest and gather the sheaves was scarcely yet begun. At seven p.m. the Ulster Hall was set apart for a meeting for those who had professed to have received spiritual benefit, either as having been led to accept Jesus Christ, or as having been awakened to a sense of their lost state and as anxiously seeking Him. Admission was by ticket. The Hall was soon well filled. Some two thousand five hundred sought admission by ticket. These tickets were carefully given out, after strict inquiry. They who sought for tickets, either as professing conversion or as seeking earnestly after Christ, were of all classes, of all ranks, and of all characters. Some from the most moral and respectable community, others from the most depraved—just as of old—scribes and pharisees, publicans and harlots. So also