



Rev. Dr. MacLaren

At the first annual meeting held in Knox Church, Toronto, April 17th, 1877, a Presbyterian constitution was adopted. Presbyterian organization was, however, of necessity a gradual development following wherever Auxiliaries in sufficient numbers were working within Presbytery bounds. It was not until early in the eighties that Presbyterials began to be generally formed. Between 1880 and 1890 twenty-five were organized, forming centres of operations covering almost the whole of the Western Division of the Church of that time. Glenboro' and Westminster in the West, formed at later dates, complete the present total of twenty-seven Presbyterials.*

The period between 1880 and 1890 witnessed a notable expansion of the work, Auxiliaries and Bands being greatly multiplied mainly through the efficient agency of the Presbyterian Societies and the visits of their Presidents and officers. The Presbyterian Annual Meetings have always been occasions of deep interest, and especially of late years have been most ably conducted, both in regard to business details and other features.

Visits of missionaries on furlough have been highly appreciated and an expression of gratitude is due to them for their self-sacrificing labors throughout the Society. Almost every Annual Report refers to the pleasure and stimulus received from their addresses.

In the fifteenth year the little band of fifty had grown to an approximate total of 15,951. Until quite recently it has not been possible to obtain perfectly accurate returns of the numerical strength of the Society; the tab-



Rev. Dr. Topp

* Almost simultaneously with the formation of the General Society, two Presbyterials began work separately under constitutions similar to our own, the first at Kingston and the second at Hamilton. Both eventually united with the W.F.M.S., Hamilton in 1879, and Kingston in 1885.