

Dominion Presbyterian

\$1.00 Per Annum.

OTTAWA, MONTREAL, AND WINNIPEG.

Single Copies 5 Cents.

ECHOES FROM GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

We make the following extracts from the clever "gallery" notes which appeared from day to day in the London Advertiser:

One of the notable figures at the assembly is the Rev. Dr. D. D. McLeod, of Barrie. He is the only man in the church, as far as this contributor remembers, who can wear D.D. at both ends of his name. He is a D.D. whichever way you take him. Dr. McLeod is a strikingly handsome man and a fine debater. Anyone who has listened to a debate in the British House of Commons knows what is meant by a true parliamentary style. We don't know any other minister of the church who possesses this style in a higher degree than Dr. McLeod.

An interesting feature of every General Assembly is the devotional hour with which the second day of the meetings always begins. This hour is given up entirely to praise, prayer and the reading of the Word of God, and is taken part in by a large number of the members. It is a most impressive hour. The singing is without instrumental accompaniment, and impresses one with the thought, that after all, there is no music like that of the human voice. To hear more than 400 men sing the grand old historic psalms and hymns of the church is "like the sound of many waters." If one has any music in him at all, he is thrilled and inspired in a way he cannot soon forget. What an uplifting power cultured congregational singing would be if we could only have it in all our churches!

The Province of Quebec is not all of our way of thinking, nevertheless up comes Principal Scrimger, of Montreal, who knows Hebrew, Greek, systematic theology, how to translate the Psalms in meter, and many other things; John Mackay, the brilliant young scholar and orator of Crescent Street Church; Rev. Dr. Scott, the staid editor of the Record; Dr. Mowatt, the man of weight; W. R. Cruickshank, the man of "sweetness and light," and S. J. Taylor, the secretary of French evangelization, who, though an Ontario man, preaches as delightfully in pure French as he does in English. We notice David Morrice, the big cotton man, and Mr. Justice Archibald as two greatly respected Montreal elders.

One can't look at these fathers and listen to these debaters without feeling profoundly that this is a gathering not only of earnest men, but of brainy men. It has been said that the Maritime Provinces have given more brainy men to the Canadian Parliament than any other part of Canada. These provinces have certainly given their full share of brainy men to the church.

Dr. Sedgwick is one of the splendid "young old men." He has been 46 years in the ministry, and can tell more really good stories than perhaps any other wise man from the east. He is a son of the muse, and a recognized authority in ecclesiastical law and procedure. His brother is a judge of the supreme court of Canada, at Ottawa. He has recently been acting as deputy governor-general, during his Excellency's absence from the Capital.

One of the new officials whom the General Assembly will get acquainted with at this meeting is the Rev. J. C. Robertson, the general secretary for Sabbath school. Mr. Robertson is evidently the right man in the right place, and his appointment by last year's assembly has already been amply justified. He will be heard in connection with the presentation of the Sabbath school report.

Manitoba comes up with a perfect whirlwind of great names. Besides those already mentioned, we have Rev. Principal Patrick, a splendid Scotch importation; Dr. Baird, Dr. Hart, Dr. Gordon (Ralph Connor), Mr. J. Brown, the new leader of the Liberal party in the Legislature; the Hon. Colin H. Campbell, attorney-general of the province, and Hon. D. Laird, a former minister of inland revenue in the Dominion cabinet, all from the Presbytery of Winnipeg. Rev. M. C. Humball, of Morden, the strong, all-round pastor and preacher, and Rev. R. W. Dickie, of Brandon, "a lad o' pairts," and a preacher of power, from our own province.

This great conclave is met primarily and paramourly for the forwarding of the kingdom of God. It says, to every member "If you have anything to say, say it, and be done." Occasionally a speaker even among the grave and reverend fathers and brethren comes to the platform and pitches into a contested subject as if he would raise Cain. But that audience will soon quiet him down. He must either quiet down or sit down.

There is a delightful breeziness about the speeches and manners of the western commissioners. The free air of the great prairies and mountains is fatal to all stiltedness and tediousness, either in manner or speech.

Alberta sends Rev. Dr. D. G. McQueen, of Edmonton, perhaps the most influential minister in the whole province. Dr. Herdman, the missionary superintendent, is not only a man of missionary zeal and statesmanlike outlook, but a noted mountain-climber, and a man of the finest literary taste. From Saskatchewan Rev. Dr. Carmichael, another missionary superintendent, went from Columbus, Ont., to Regina many years ago. He resigned his pastorate there to accept his present position. He was born in London Township, and like most people born in this part of the country, has sound sense and weight of character. Hon. W. R. Motherwell is a member of Premier Scott's cabinet as minister of agriculture for the new province. Mr. Motherwell had a somewhat hard row to hoe in the beginning of his political career, but as he believed in the "perseverance of the Saints," he got there, and he stays there. One of the youngest elders at the assembly is George E. McCraney, LL.B., M.P., of Prince Albert. Mr. McCraney is a son of the former member of the Commons.

The vast amount of work which the Presbyterian Parliament sets itself to accomplish in eight days may be inferred from the fact that on the docket of business there are reports from no less than 34 standing committees. Each deals with an important department of church work. The stitched reports of these committees, together with special reports and other items of business which have been printed and distributed to the commissioners takes up 751 pages.

There are actually 131 items of business noted on the docket as presented by the clerk of the assembly, many of these being matters of vast and far-reaching importance. And all of them to be taken up, considered and disposed of in eight days! Who will say that the members of our church parliament are not a body of hard and diligent workers?

One of the most striking figures of the assembly is the senior clerk, Dr. Robert Campbell, of St. Gabriel Church, Montreal. He is a Canadian born, was the first medalist of Queen's College, Kingston, was ordained in 1862, the same year as the new moderator, and has been in his present charge since 1865. He is the author of essays and reviews in various magazines. Dr. Campbell is a great botanist, a prominent member of the Natural History Society of Montreal, and makes frequent excursions to the Mountain Park, Black River, and other rural scenes about the metropolis, in pursuit of his favorite pastime. He is one of the best versed ministers in ecclesiastical law in the church. As clerk he is precise, accurate and always courteous and obliging to all, especially to newspaper men. In private he is a lively and delightful conversationalist and companion. Mrs. Campbell is a sister of the late revered and beloved D. J. Macdonnell, of St. Andrew's church, Toronto.

Among the laymen present is Sir Thomas W. Taylor, formerly chief justice of Manitoba, now for some time retired from the bench. Sir Thomas is a staunch Presbyterian, and is an elder of St. Paul's Church, Hamilton, of which congregation the Rev. D. R. Drummond, so well and favorably known in London, is pastor. He is most courtly in his bearing and speech and takes the deepest interest in the whole work of the assembly.

One was impressed with the dignity and decorum with which the business of the great conclave was conducted. The occasional flashes of wit and humor tended to relieve the tedium of long and strenuous days and nights of hard work. Most of these commissioners seem to be possessed of a "saving sense of humor," which helps to solve or at least relieve many a difficult situation.

There have been many great General Assemblies in the history of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, but with the exception of the great union assembly of 1875 in Montreal, the London Assembly of 1906 will go down in history as the greatest of them all. The names of Principal Patrick and the brilliant young member Rev. John MacKay, of Montreal, the leaders for and against union, will be memorable in the history of the church. And the rest of them who participated in the great debate were scarcely behind them.

We came into contact continually with nearly all the commissioners and we did not hear a single complaint of any kind. On the other hand, we heard constantly expressions of appreciation of the perfect arrangements and the generous hospitality of London Presbyterianism. The commissioners were charmed with their hosts and hostesses and the hosts and hostesses were charmed with their guests. New friendships were formed, and old friendships renewed. The assembly has every reason to cherish the most pleasant memories of the good city, and we have every reason to cherish pleasant memories of the assembly.