

## BRUCE NOTES.

The jubilee of Knox Church, Paisley, was celebrated on May 5. It was in the year 1857 that the congregation was organized by the Rev. John Scott, at that time pastor of St. Andrew's church, London. Paisley was then within the bounds of the Presbytery of London, and there was no railway communication nearer than Guelph. But the sturdy settlers in the "Queen's Busle" had pushed far beyond the line of railway, and in considerable numbers were toiling at the removal of the forest. A large portion of the settlers about Paisley were Presbyterians of Scotch and Irish stock, and as soon as circumstances would permit, steps were taken to have regular gospel ordinances maintained among them. The Rev. Dr. McMullen, of Woodstock, but at that time a student in Knox College, was sent to hold religious services at Paisley as a student missionary in the year 1856, one year before the organization of the congregation.

Just 51 years afterwards Dr. McMullen conducted the Jubilee services of this congregation, and though time has wrought many changes in the vigorous young student of long ago, he was able to present both morning and evening the good old story with unabated zeal and vigor.

The first ordained pastor of the congregation was the Rev. Geo. Bremner, now deceased, who was settled in 1860, and with great faithfulness preached the gospel to the people of Knox church for ten years.

He was succeeded by the Rev. John Straith, who is also deceased. Mr. Straith continued pastor of the congregation for eleven years. As a result of his energy and leadership, the present fine edifice in which the congregation now worships was erected.

In 1884 the Rev. G. B. Greig, who had recently graduated from Knox College, became successor to Mr. Straith, but after a pastorate of two years and a half resigned to take up work in connection with the church in Australia. The present pastor is the Rev. J. Johnston, who succeeded Mr. Greig in 1888. During Mr. Johnston's incumbency a very large number of those associated with the early days of the congregation have passed away and only a few were left to take part in the Jubilee who sat at the first communion service.

On the following Monday evening a social meeting of the congregation was held, at which Dr. McMullen dwelt very beautifully on some of the reminiscences of early days. Several of the pioneers of the congregation also spoke of the old associations so dear to those who remember the experiences of half a century ago.

These Jubilee services remind us of the constant march of successive generations to another world, and may they also impress us with a due sense of the importance of the few years upon which a future eternity depends.

Viscount Milner's "Reflections" on the Colonial Conference, contributed to the National Review, are reprinted in The Living Age for May 11, and although they were written in anticipation of the meeting, they are not less illuminating, read in the light of what has been taking place during the sessions.

The article by Professor McComb on "The Modern Attitude Toward Belief in a Future Life," which The Living Age for May 11 reprints from the London Quarterly Review, is an extremely thoughtful and interesting review of the subject.

## SYNOD OF MONTREAL AND OTTAWA.

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is men and women whose lives shall stand for the highest and best types of manhood and womanhood." Mr. Reid thought the statement was correct, and that the gravest demand of the age was for men. The placard, "men wanted," could be hung over against every department of human activity. Men in the truest sense of the word. He claimed that the pulpits of our land with few exceptions are faithful in holding up and pleading for high ideals in human character.

He next dealt with temperance in its broadest sense, as applying to anything and everything that is being carried to excess. Possibly the greatest excess of these times is the get-rich-quick craze. The speaker said there was nothing wrong in making money. But when the desire to do so caused men and women to act unwisely and imperil their hard earned savings, by taking too long chances, then it was time to call a halt. Such a time is on us now, said the speaker, indeed to such an extent is it gripping hold of the people, as to exercise a demoralizing influence. It is the duty of the pulpit, as the great educator of the masses, to cry out with no uncertain voice that "it is not material prosperity but righteousness that exalteth a nation."

Peace and good will is another demand of the age, and in this connection it was stated that the church has always proclaimed the gospel of peace and that we are reaping the fruits. Mr. Reid exclaimed that we have broken with the past and that for the future the interest of Britain is in peace. He prophesied that the potent voice of the future should proceed from study and pulpit, meeting hall and platform, rather than from camp and battlefield. The time is almost at hand when we can say:

"Ring out the thousand wars of old,  
"Ring in the thousand years of peace."

Dealing with the religious demands of the age Mr. Reid said that the demand is for evangelical Christianity. That preacher is doing the best work for his Master whose preaching is the most evangelical. The gospel which is having the most telling effect is that whose central theme is Christ, and the love of Christ, as set forth in the atonement. He contended that never in the history of the world have the instrumentalities for good been so potent as to-day. That never has the great spirit of human brotherhood been so prevalent as to-day, and that these conditions are due to the fact that, having due regard for human limitations, the church has faithfully carried out its missions.

## A Veteran Minister's Protest.

Rev. N. H. MacGillivray's statements of alleged short-comings of ministers called forth a protest next morning from Rev. Dr. Campbell, of Montreal, one of the clerks of the General Assembly, and himself a pastor of nearly 50 years' standing. He said: From the general drift of Mr. MacGillivray's remarks, the impression might be gained that ministers generally were men who come far short of the qualifications that ought to be shown in their office. This was the more unfortunate that the address was delivered to a Synod in the presence of a miscellaneous audience. Fortunately the two brethren in the town, representing the Presbyterian churches, were too well known in the community to permit of any harm following the address, so far as their influence is concerned, but the friends present

might assume that the personality of the clergy elsewhere in the Synod was very poor. He, with well on to 50 years experience and observation, had formed a different estimate of the clergy generally, and Presbyterian ministers in particular, and whilst far from claiming perfection for them, for he acknowledged they were all earthen vessels, yet he thought better of his brethren in the ministry, including Mr. MacGillivray, than to allow the remarks made go unchallenged. He believed the address exaggerated any failings that existed among his brethren, while no redeeming features were mentioned.

## Young People's Societies.

The report on Young People's Societies was presented by Rev. W. D. Reid of Montreal. The report, owing to incomplete returns from many congregations, only gave an approximation as to the real condition of the work. In some respects the stock-taking has been encouraging and in many instances the reverse.

From Quebec and Montreal Presbyteries come reports of a mixed character. Many congregations are growing less by the removal of Protestant families, but those remaining are doing splendidly. With all the discouragements there are 1845 members and \$5,304 has been raised for all purposes in Montreal Presbytery. Of course this represents but a little over half the congregations within the bounds of the Presbytery. Gengarry is satisfactory, Ottawa has a good report; only two societies disbanded. Lanark and Renfrew is bad, showing a decline in membership and finances. Brockville increased in membership and finances 50 per cent.

It was recommended that Presbyteries be organized wherever feasible and at least one general Presbyterial rally be held every year. It was further recommended that the general assembly be petitioned to appoint a permanent travelling secretary to devote his whole time to organizing, etc.

All ministers within bounds were earnestly requested to make reply to the convenor.

That Presbyteries be especially requested to place the very best men possible for the position in the convenorship of the committee.

When the Synod had completed the work before it Rev. A. H. Scott, of Perth in appropriate terms moved a vote of thanks to the congregations of First and St. John's Churches; to the officials of St. John's Church; to the choir of St. John's Church; to the reporters and papers; to the homes for entertaining; to the citizens generally.

In a few graceful words the Moderator put the motion, and thereafter closed the proceedings with the benediction.

## General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The General Assembly will meet in Erskine Church, Montreal on Wednesday evening June 5th, 1907, at eight o'clock. The opening sermon will be preached by the retiring moderator, Rev. Alex. Falconer, D.D.

The clerks of Assembly, the clerks of Synods and Presbyteries who are commissioners will meet in Erskine church at 4 o'clock p.m. on the opening day to arrange the business of the first sederunt. Travelling arrangements have been made for commissioners, and others who have business with the assembly, and notice has been sent to all commissioners through the clerks of Presbyteries. Commissioners will receive standard railway certificates at the starting point where ticket to Montreal is purchased, and these with a card giving the name and status of the commissioner will be handed in at the General Assembly office in Erskine church, and a copy of the stitched reports will be given to those entitled to receive them.

JOHN SOMERVILLE, }  
ROBERT CAMPBELL, } Joint Clerks.