

Kingston, who on this, as well as on other occasions, worthily sustained the credit of the Canadian contingent. It would be easy to enlarge on the delightful character of this reception meeting but we must pass on to the practical business of which it was but the prelude.

Eleven o'clock on Tuesday morning found such an assembly in old St. Giles Cathedral as had never been within its walls before. Moderators and ex-moderators of the Scottish Assemblies and leaders of the Presbyterian Churches from all lands were there, along with a great company of worshippers. As they united their voices in the opening Psalm—the Old Hundredth,—the volume of sound that rose to the vaulted roof was almost overpowering. The preacher of the day was a young man of hard features and unprepossessing appearance. But before he proceeded far with his discourse, Professor Flint justified the honour that had been put upon him. As he warmed to his work, the genuine *pervividum scotorum* radiated from his face, and gave such force to his utterances as made one feel that the spirit of John Knox himself was in the pulpit. His text was the passage in our Lord's prayer, John xvii, 20-21., and his theme, the mystical unity of Christ and his believing people by whatever name known among men. It was an admirable sermon and a fitting key-note to the discussions that were to follow.

The first meeting for business was held in the Free Assembly Hall in the afternoon of the same day. The attendance being restricted to members, an excellent opportunity was afforded of taking in at a glance the *personel* of the Council. The Hall itself is worthy of a passing remark. It accommodates about 3000 people, and is remarkable for its excellent acoustic properties. Dr. Howard Crosby, of New York University was appointed our first Chairman. The peculiarly American promptness with which he *rushed* the business through, joined to his acknowledged tact and ability, took our good Scotch friends not a little by surprise, and excited the risible faculties of some to a degree that was quite amusing to witness

Dr. G. D. Mathews, also of New York, and in every sense of the word a first class man, was associated with Dr. Blaikie as joint clerks, and Rev. Mr. Gillies as assistant. A large business committee was appointed upon whom devolved the entire responsibility of not only shaping the proceedings of each day but of controlling the minutest details. Nothing could be said or done in Council, except by the leave of this committee. At their discretion a man was allowed to speak for five minutes or for thirty minutes, but not a minute beyond his allotted time. Woe to the speaker who wasted his breath on apologies and "introductory remarks!" He was sure to come to grief. In the middle perhaps of an oratorical flourish, at the ring of the bell, he must cover his retreat as best he could, and make way for the next speaker. Three of our Canadian delegates were honored with seats on the business committee. At each succeeding diet it was arranged that a new Chairman preside, and it is further to the honour of the Canadian Church that Principal Caven, of Toronto, had the distinction accorded him of occupying the Chair at one of the seditious, which I need scarcely add, he filled with credit to himself and "the Colony."

It is not to be supposed that in so large an assembly every one could take a prominent part. The principle was largely acted upon that those who came from foreign countries should have the chief share of the speaking. Canada being rightly considered a part of the Empire, our men were content to occupy a subordinate place. Nevertheless we *looked* well, and listened well, if we did not say much. At the same time it is well to state that Professor McLaren made a statement respecting the mission work of our Church, which was well received, and Rev. John Burton, of Belleville, read a paper on the Christian training of the young, which met with frequent applause. One of the pleasing features was that of meeting with men of mark from other churches than our own, such as Dr. Fische, Theodore Monod, and Dr. Preesense, from France; Dr. Godet from Switzerland, not to speak of the galaxy from the United States who were quite the