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## Contributors and Correspondents.

### SCOTLAND.

(CONTINUED FROM SECOND PAGE.)

The fact that upon the decisions of the Free Church Assembly now sitting, depended the continued unity or schism of that Church, has drawn upon it the interested scrutiny of the whole religious world of Britain, and largely beyond it. As usual, a large number of tickets to its galleries were available to the public by purchase, and scarcely was the office opened when they were all disposed of; and since its sittings began the crowds seeking admittance have been very great. The great occasion of interest was, however, deferred as far as practicable. The Union debate was fixed for Wednesday, the 28th, and meantime all diligence was given to the dispatch of other business. Thursday was given to introductory exercises, when Dr. Brown's retiring sermon was followed by a long and powerful appeal from the Moderator elect—the Church's patriarchal missionary, Dr. Duff—to the Assembly and the Church, to look beyond its unworthy strife to the greater crisis which threatened the cause of truth in the world, and unite anew in rallying to the help of the Lord against the mighty. The parts read only occupied two hours, whereas, if given entire, as it afterwards appeared in the Review, it must have exceeded twice that time. It is no disparagement to its weight and worth that its Puritan ring has called forth the scoldings of the Scotsman and others of the stripe which it denounced.

Friday and Saturday were occupied with overtures, appeals, and routine business which would not interest your readers.

Sabbath was a day more of prayer for the Assembly than discussion of its topics, and most fervent were the appeals for the wise and gracious guidance of the Great Master of Assemblies. Amongst the preachers elect were some of the younger men of the Church, from whom much is expected in the future. The sermons I heard were good, but, judging as well from the testimony of others, there is great need for improvement in the department of delivery.

Of the work of Monday and Tuesday, in which there was much of interest, time does not permit me now to speak.

Ere the mail close I can only say that last night late, after a keen debate, begun at 10 a.m., and characterized by strong feeling, but temperate expression, in which all the principal leaders on both sides took part, Dr. Candlish was privileged to solve the problem by splitting the exceedingly small point of difference, as to whether the Free Church Standards should be presented for acceptance to the U. P. brother about to be called under the Mutual Eligibility Act before the call was sustained or after, so as to come within the limits of simple protest instead of separation by the opponents. Great was the rejoicing when Dr. Begg, after consultation with his party in the left hand corner of the house, which they occupied, gave the decision which has saved the Church a rupture, the world a scandal, and Satan a triumph. More anon.

CANADIAN ABROAD.

Edinburgh, May 29, 1873.

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

CANADA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Monday, June 9.

The Moderator took the chair at eleven o'clock.

After devotional exercises the minutes of Friday evening's proceedings were read and confirmed.

The Moderator read a letter from the Primitive Methodist Conference, now in session, announcing that Rev. T. Guttery and Mr. D. McLean had been appointed a deputation to convey to the Assembly fraternal greetings.

### RECEPTION COMMITTEE.

Professor Cavan presented the report of the Reception Committee, which recommended that the applications made by different Presbyteries to receive the following ministers be granted:—By Presbytery of Brockville—Rev. J. M. Boyd, Rev. Joseph Elliott, Rev. J. Douglas, and Mr. A. Dowley. Presbytery of Hamilton—Rev. Alex. Barr. Presbytery of Stratford—Rev. M. A. Y. Hartley. The Committee could not recommend that the application of the Rev. Mr. Wright, to be re-admitted into the ministry of the Canada Presbyterian Church, be granted.

The report was admitted.

### MONTREAL COLLEGE.

Rev. Mr. Cochran reported that the Committee appointed to intimate to the Rev. John Campbell his appointment to the chair of Church History and Apologetics in

the Presbyterian College of Montreal, had to announce that Mr. Campbell had cordially accepted the appointment.

This report was also received.

A discussion here ensued as to whether it was competent for the Assembly to release Mr. Campbell from his congregational charge. The Moderator and Rev. Dr. Topp thought that it was within the prerogative of the Assembly to do so without reference to the Presbytery.

Rev. Mr. Lowrie said that no powers of the kind were mentioned as belonging to the Assembly in the book of discipline.

Rev. Dr. Topp moved that the Assembly having received from Mr. Campbell an intimation of his acceptance of the appointment as Professor of Church History and Apologetics in the Montreal College, resolve that the connection between him and his congregation be dissolved, and instruct the Presbytery of Toronto to take steps for losing him accordingly from his charge; and further that the Assembly instruct the Presbytery of Montreal to proceed to his induction as professor, when they have received notice from the Presbytery of Toronto that he has been so loosed from his charge. Carried.

### BILLS AND OVERTURES.

The report of the Committee on Bills and Overtures, recommending the order of business for the day, was read and adopted.

### COMMITTEE ON REMITS.

Rev. Mr. Cochran submitted the report of the Committee on Remits, which stated that to the remit on the standing of retired ministers, returns have been received from eighteen Presbyteries; of these fourteen Presbyteries approve simpliciter. Two Presbyteries, Guolph and Hamilton, disapprove. Two Presbyteries approve with amendments as follows:—The Presbytery of Simcoe proposes to strike out the words "in the work of the Church," and to substitute "by appointment of the Supreme Court." The Presbytery of Huron proposed to add the words "it being understood that the persons admitted to a position by such exceptional legislation in our Church Courts shall not have a right to vote." To the remit on the appointment of a mission agent, returns have been received from eighteen Presbyteries; thirteen of these recommend the appointment of an agent. The Presbyteries of Ottawa, Manitoba, Ontario, and Toronto made several suggestions as to the duties of the mission. Five Presbyteries, Kingston, Owen Sound, Guolph, Huron, and London, disapprove altogether of the appointment of a mission agent.

A discussion ensued on the report, which was terminated by the arrival of the hour of adjournment.

### AFTERNOON SEDERUNT.

The Moderator took the chair at three o'clock. After devotional exercises, The minutes of the morning's proceedings were read and confirmed.

### COMMITTEE ON REMITS.

During the discussion on the report of the Committee on Remits the following motions were made.

Rev. Mr. Lowrie, seconded by Mr. J. Gray that inasmuch as a majority of the Presbyteries of the Church have approved simpliciter of the remit respecting the ministers entitled to have their names entered on the rolls of Presbyteries, the Assembly agree that the matter contained in the remit shall be the law of the Church, and declare accordingly.

Mr. R. Moodie, seconded by Mr. Meikle, moved in amendment, that the recommendation made by the Presbytery of Simcoe to insert after the words, "the work of the Church," the clause, "by appointment of the Supreme Court" be adopted.

Rev. Mr. McMeelan, seconded by Dr. Taylor, moved in further amendment, that all professors and others engaged in special work of the Church, together with retired ministers on account of old age, be entered on the roll, and be entitled to vote in the Courts of the Church.

The consideration of the question was postponed to make way for the orders of the day.

### PRINCIPAL OF MONTREAL COLLEGE.

An overture was submitted and read from the Presbytery of Montreal, praying that the Rev. Dr. McVicar be appointed Principal of Montreal College.

The overture was supported by the Rev. Dr. Taylor, who testified to Dr. McVicar's fitness for the post, and the general wish of the Montreal Presbytery that he should receive the appointment.

Rev. Mr. Watson also spoke in support of the overture.

Rev. Mr. Burton, seconded by Mr. McQuig, moved that the overture be received, its prayer granted, and that the Rev. Dr. McVicar be appointed the reverend principal of Montreal College.

Rev. Mr. Fraser moved in amendment that in view of the union of the Presbyterian Churches, the consideration of the matter be delayed.

Mr. Hall moved in amendment to the amendment that the overture be referred to the Committee on College matters.

After a brief discussion the original motion was carried.

Rev. Dr. Topp, having directed the attention of the Assembly to the presence of the Rev. Dr. Eadie, of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland, that gentleman was invited to take a seat on the platform.

### MONTREAL AND KNOX COLLEGE.

An overture was read from the Presbytery of Kingston relative to the Union, for

financial purposes, of the two theological colleges of Montreal and Toronto.

Rev. Mr. Burton, who supported the overture, said it had its inception at the Belleville session, without outside suggestion of any kind. The Presbytery of Kingston had moved in the matter, because their being on debatable ground caused great inconvenience. He thought that a general contribution was the only equitable manner to obviate the difficulty. The Church had two colleges, with separate curriculums, and Kingston had to receive students who had passed the examination of either college on an equal footing. He would say nothing as to the expediency of having only one college, but he thought that separate collections should be abolished, and both treated on equal terms, and being granted to either college when necessary. It was not in the genius of Presbyterianism to localise its influence, and if the overture were granted it would secure union and harmony, and do away with any local strife.

Rev. Mr. Gray thought the East and West should be regarded as one, and the contributions distributed in the interests of the two colleges required.

Dr. Holden, who also spoke in favour of the overture, thought no distinction should be made between the colleges. His Presbytery wished to contribute to Knox College, but were told that they must contribute to Montreal College.

The overture was finally remitted to a Committee to be nominated by the Moderator.

### HIGHER EDUCATION IN MANITOBA.

A petition was read from the Presbytery of Manitoba, praying that the Senate of Manitoba College be authorized to open classes in connection with said college in the Township of Winnipeg.

A counter petition was read from Kildonan, signed by seventy persons.

Prof. Bryce spoke in favour of the petition, and Rev. John Black in support of the counter petition.

The matter was referred to the College Committee for them to report thereon, Rev. John Ure, convenor.

Rev. J. M. King, Toronto, introduced to the Assembly the Rev. Professor Calderwood, the Edinburgh delegate from the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland, who was requested to take his seat on the platform.

### CHURCH UNION.

The discussion on the question was resumed. The various deliverances adopted at the late St. John Joint Committee were considered by the assembly *seriatim*.

The first deliverance, which reads as follows, was adopted on motion of Dr. Topp:—The Committee unanimously expressed its approval of the said resolution, and accepted it as its own, viz: The Committee claims for the respective churches represented by it the fullest forbearance as to any difference of opinion which may exist respecting the question of State grants to educational establishments of a denominational character, and does not see, in such diversity of sentiment upon a subject on which uniformity of opinion is not enforced within any of the negotiating bodies, anything need prove a barrier to Union, or disturb the peace of a United Church.

The second deliverance was also endorsed as follows:—The Committee took up consideration of the subject of the appointment of Theological Professors, as brought before them in the deliverance of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland. After lengthy deliberation, and a free expression of opinion, it was moved by Professor Cavan, and unanimously agreed to, that it is inexpedient for this Committee to pass at present any resolution on the subject.

The third deliverance, relative to the doctrine of the Headship of Christ, was being considered when the hour for adjournment arrived, and the discussion was therefore postponed.

### EVENING SEDERUNT.

The Moderator took the chair at half-past seven. After devotional exercises,

The minutes of the afternoon's proceedings were read and confirmed.

### FORTION MISSION.

Rev. Mr. McLaron submitted the report of the Committee on Foreign Missions, from which we extract the following:—

The transfer of British Columbia by last Assembly to the case of the Home Mission Committee, left the Committee (Foreign) little to do with that field beyond closing the accounts, and hearing one-half of the expense for the past year. As a portion of the year had run its course before the transfer was made, rather more than one-half of the expense of the British Columbia work devolved upon the Foreign Mission Fund. In taking leave of this field, on which, during the past twelve years, not less than \$25,000 of Foreign Mission money has been expended, the Committee anticipates that greater results will be attained as the natural resources of the country are developed.

The Saskatchewan Mission has during the year been reinforced by the addition of the Rev. Edward Vincent, who, with his wife, reached Prince Albert on the 6th of September, and had assumed the general management of the Mission during the temporary absence of the senior Missionary, the Rev. James Nisbet. In reference to the spiritual results of the Mission it was stated that there were in August, 1872, a total of thirty-three

communicants. Of these there were 24 whites, fifteen half-breeds, and two Indians. Of these one white, four half-breeds, and six Indians were received on examination. The six Indians are converts from heathenism. In the school there are forty-four pupils, of whom eighteen are Indians, twenty-two half-breeds, and one white.

In accordance with the instructions of last Assembly, the Committee encouraged the two young women who volunteered to engage in the work of Christ among the heathen, to complete their preparation for foreign service by spending a year at the Ottawa Ladies' College. Pecuniary aid to the necessary extent was granted them to sustain them while prosecuting their preparatory studies, and it was expected they would be ready to proceed to the foreign field in the course of the present summer.

The record of the work accomplished by Mr. Mackay in the Island of Formosa, was most gratifying.

The Committee reported that the finances were in a favorable position, as the following statement of receipts and expenditures for 1872-3 will show.

RECEIPTS.	
Balance from last year	\$ 1,502 63
Receipts during the year	10,522 38
	\$12,025 01
EXPENDITURE.	
On account of British Columbia	722 50
" China	1,132 01
" Saskatchewan	4,801 50
" Misses Rodgers & Fairweather	160 41
Expenses of Committee and Convenor	104 69
Proportion of general expenses	180 10
Agent's salary	200 00
Balance in hand	5,120 50
	\$12,025 01

Last year the total receipts reported from all sources were \$11,212.32, while this year they are only \$10,522.38, or \$689.94 less. This decrease is only apparent. In the receipts of 1871-72 there is included a legacy and special contributions for Mr. Mackay's outfit, amounting in all to \$1,168. The ordinary revenue reported last year was \$10,043.82, and this year it is \$10,522.38, or an increase of \$478.56. The balance of \$5,120.50 on hand is in no respect greater than will be absolutely necessary in view of the work which your Committee must will be undertaken during the year. The contributions for the Foreign Mission Fund usually come in towards the close of the ecclesiastical year, and unless there is a considerable sum in hand at the time of the General Assembly, the Committee is compelled, in order to carry on its work, to borrow long before the new contributions replenish the treasury.

In conclusion the Committee offered the following recommendations:—

1. That the Foreign Mission Committee be instructed to select and send out to China a second missionary.
2. That the Foreign Mission Committee be directed, when they have obtained sufficient information for their guidance, to select a field of labor for the young women at present in Ottawa, and to make such arrangements as they may deem expedient for their employment in the Foreign field, and that the instructions of last year in reference to the securing of female co-operation in this department of the work be continued.
3. That the present mode of selecting the Foreign Mission Committee be so far modified that all its members shall be chosen by the General Assembly, that it shall consist of fifteen persons, and that the expenses of all the members shall be paid from the fund.

On the conclusion of the reading of the report, Rev. Mr. McLeod, late English Presbyterian Missionary in China, and now of Birkenhead, delivered most eloquent address, during the course of which he gave a glowing account of the work being done in China. He resumed his seat amid loud applause.

The Moderator, on behalf of the Assembly, expressed the universal pleasure experienced in receiving Mr. McLeod as a delegate from the English Presbyterian Church. He begged the rev. gentleman to bear with him to that body the fraternal greeting of the Canada Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Mr. Nisbet, of the Saskatchewan mission, then addressed the Assembly on the work done in his field of labor. He advocated the plan of sending missionaries to foreign fields in couples, instead of singly as heretofore. It often becomes necessary for the missionaries among the Saskatchewan Indians to do a vast amount of manual labour, principally for economical reasons. He was happy to state that this necessity would soon cease to exist, as all the mission buildings, &c., required in that district were nearly completed.

The report was received.

The Assembly adjourned at 10:15.

### SECOND DAY.

The Assembly resumed at 10 a.m., the Moderator presiding.

After devotional exercises, the minutes of the previous evening's proceedings were read by the Rev. W. Fraser, the clerk to the Assembly and after a few trifling alterations affecting the roll of the Church Synod were finally confirmed.

Dr. Waters presented the report of the Committee on bills and overtures, which recommended that the business of the day should be taken in a certain order therein stated. The report was approved, and the order of proceedings recommended adopted.

### THE PRESBYTERY OF BRUCE.

A memo was read from the Presbytery of Bruce, stating that the resolution passed by the Assembly in 1872, erecting

the Presbytery of Bruce, did not decidedly declare to which Synod it was attached, and requesting the Assembly to attach it to the Synod of Hamilton.

Rev. Mr. Lowrie moved that the petition be granted, and that the bounds of the Presbytery of Bruce be readjusted.

After some discussion, it was moved in amendment by Mr. S. C. Fraser, and seconded, that the Presbytery of Bruce be received under the care of the Synod of Hamilton, and that the matter of re-adjustment be deferred.

The amendment was carried.

### STANDING COMMITTEES.

The power of appointing the Committee to nominate the members of the Standing Committees was vested in the Moderator by unanimous consent.

### COMMUNICATIONS READ.

From the Manager of the Dominion Telegraph Company, enclosing a book of blank telegram forms, franked, for the use of the members of the Assembly.

From Mr. Wilkie, Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association, offering the privilege of the Association rooms and library to the members of the Assembly while in session.

The Clerk having been requested to convey the thanks of the meeting to the Dominion Telegraph Company and the Young Men's Christian Association for their courtesy, the Assembly adjourned till 8 p.m.

### AFTERNOON SITTING.

On re-assembling, prayers were offered up, and the minutes of the morning's proceedings were read and confirmed.

The report of the Committee on Commissions was read and adopted.

### STANDING COMMITTEES.

An overture was read from the Presbytery of Bruce, expressing dissatisfaction at the present mode of appointing the Standing Committees of the General Assembly, and praying that the members appointed by each Presbytery on bills and overtures be the Standing Committee to nominate members of all the Standing Committees of the Church.

Rev. Mr. Cameron said that the present mode of nominating the Standing Committees of the Assembly gave great dissatisfaction. If reference were made to the lists of committees notified on previous occasions, it would be found that in a number of instances ministers and elders were appointed upon two or three different Committees in the same year. In his opinion it was not possible for these persons to attend to so many Committees, and yet it would be found that many of these Committees held their sittings at the same period. He considered it highly injudicious of the Synod to impose such a multiplication of duties on the same men, especially when there were so many members of the Synod, who take interest in the proceedings of the Church, who are ready to serve on the Committees. If no man were appointed to more than two Committees, there would be some reason to suppose that the work would be attended to. There were a number of members who had been in the Church from fifteen to twenty-five years and yet had never had once the honour to sit on one of these Standing Committees. He thought that, in order to ensure harmonious working among the members of the Church, some change was necessary, and he was of opinion that the recommendation of the Presbytery of Bruce, namely, that the Committee on bills and overtures should be the Committee to nominate the members of the Standing Committees, would, if carried out, give general satisfaction. He thought that by such a method of procedure, there would be a fair representation of Presbyteries, instead of the unequal division at present seen.

Rev. Mr. Lowrie moved that the overture be dismissed, inasmuch as there was no reason to depart from the established usage of the Church.

Rev. Mr. Proudfoot seconded the motion. The work of some of the standing committees was so light that it was quite possible for one man to attend to two or three. There was also a saving of expense by the present method.

Rev. C. C. Stewart said that he was on three Committees, and he seldom found that he lost more than an hour or two.

Rev. J. Straith thought it desirable that members of the Standing Committees should be as much as possible the choice of the Presbyteries, or of parties representing them.

Rev. Mr. Hall considered that a good many of the objections raised to the present plan would be removed if the nominations of the Standing Committees were brought up at the commencement of the sessions, instead of at the close, as was the custom. The names of the proposed members could then be posted in some convenient place, and the Assembly would have time to deliberate as to their qualifications. There was no doubt that there were Ministers in the Church over fifteen years who had not received the recognition they should have had in the way of appointments.

Dr. Waters said that very few would feel disposed to come up to Toronto from a distance merely to serve on one Committee.

Rev. Dr. Topp said it was the custom of the Assembly to nominate its own Committees to do its own work, and he thought it inadvisable for the Assembly to delegate this power to the Presbyteries.

After some further discussion, the motion of the Rev. Mr. Lowrie was put and carried, and the overture of the Presbytery of Bruce accordingly dismissed.

### PRESBYTERY OF HURON.

An overture was read from the Presbytery of Huron, praying that Mr. Thomas

(CONTINUED ON 4TH PAGE.)