

The Presbyterian;

A MISSIONARY AND RELIGIOUS RECORD



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

CONDUCTED BY A COMMITTEE OF THE LAY ASSOCIATION.

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CHURCH IN CANADA.

LAY ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of this useful Institution was held in St. Paul's Church (basement story) on Tuesday evening, the 25th ult., the Hon. Peter McGill, President of the Society, occupying the Chair.

The meeting having been called to order, the Chairman briefly addressed the members present, urging upon them the duty of supporting and enlarging the operations of the Society. He thought it presented the means of accomplishing much good. The Bursary Scheme was an effort of much importance, and deserved their countenance. He trusted, also, the paper issued under the auspices of the Society would eventually become self-supporting. Mr. McGill, after some earnest and appropriate remarks, then concluded by expressing his regret at the discouraging lack of interest which was displayed towards the Society, although he felt encouraged to proceed with the Association, because he conceived it was effecting some good.

The Chairman then called upon the Recording Secretary to read the Annual Report, which was in the following terms:

The Officers of the Lay Association beg leave to submit the following, as the Report of the Annual proceedings:

Six years have now elapsed since the Association was called into existence with the view of aiding and strengthening the Church in Canada, then passing through a severe trial; and it is humbly submitted, that the Association has to some extent fulfilled the ends, which it was designed to serve.

The day of fiery trial to our Church has passed away, but all the members of the Church have duties to perform not the less urgent or important, because excitement has subsided—bitter

feelings have been allayed, and the every-day business [if we may so term it] of the Church, the evangelising and the preaching of the Gospel, can be calmly proceeded with. Other trials may arise, the assaults of politicians and the efforts of a secularising spirit may have to be contended with, and in such a struggle an Association, such as this, may, by the concentration of the energies of its members, effect much good. But, apart from such a view of the usefulness of the Association, it has other and high claims upon the countenance and warm support of its members. To their enlightened liberality and Christian philanthropy it has been owing, that it has been enabled to prosecute its humble and feeble, but yet useful labours, by which, during the course of its existence, many a struggling congregation has been enabled to complete the church which they had laboured long and earnestly to erect, but whose progress want of means had suspended. Many an adherent of the Church too settled [as in this part of the Province often is the case] among a people speaking a different tongue, and professing a different faith, has had his old recollections revived and his heart cheered by tidings of the progress the Church of his fathers was making in parts of the country favoured with Gospel ordinances, as dispensed by that Church. Such is a view of some of the benefits this Association has accomplished in times past, and with regard to its operations during the closing year, though much lukewarmness, much difficulty and discouragement may have been encountered, and though the sphere of its operations may have been contracted, the Officers feel that there is a field open to them, which the Association is in duty bound to occupy. The usual appropriation of Bursaries to Students at Queen's College has been made, and the recipients were the following Divinity Students: For the three years' Bursary, Mr. Peter Lindsay, Ormestown, C. E. For the two years' Bursary, Mr. John McHerras, Brockville, C. W. For the one year Bursary, Mr. James Gordon, Nelson, C. W.

The Office-bearers regard this scheme of the Society as deserving of special support. What our Church especially and urgently needs at the present time, is a supply of Ministers. There are many congregations perishing for lack of spiritual bread, and to Queen's College we must

mainly look for Pastors. This year, it is gratifying to state, three Clergymen, who had pursued their studies in that Institution, were ordained, and one of them has just been inducted to the pastoral charge of a vacant congregation. When a few years have passed away, it will be gratifying to the members of the Association to reflect, that they have been instrumental, to however limited an extent, in training-up a native Ministry to gather in the harvest, which is even now ready for the garner. The Office-bearers therefore earnestly commend this effort to the special favour of the members of the Association, feeling assured that it is eminently deserving of support.

The *Presbyterian* continues to maintain its circulation, and appears to be regarded with more interest by those within whose cognisance local matters of general interest to the Church more immediately come, as such communications have been made more freely during the past than any previous year.

The circulation might be very much extended, and the subscriptions might be remitted with greater promptitude from some quarters than has been the case; but on the whole the warm thanks of the Association are due to those kind friends, who have interested themselves in behalf of the *Presbyterian*. It is trusted that they will continue and increase their efforts, as it is very obvious that such a medium of communication with the various congregations of the Church is urgently required and may be made highly useful.

But a single application for aid has been submitted during the year, and the Association cheerfully granted the sum of £10 to assist in the completion of a church at New Richmond, in the remote and long neglected District of Gaspé, where the adherents of our communion, stimulated by occasional services from the Rev. Mr. Davidson, of New Carlisle, had organized a flourishing Sabbath School and erected a church, but were unable to advance it to such a stage of completion as would permit of its occupation during the winter.

In conclusion, the Office-bearers would confidently appeal to the Christian sympathies of the members of the Association, as well as of the Church throughout the Province, for renewed and enlarged support. They conceive that the Association is now a useful one, and to a still greater