

Our Contributors.

Synod of Toronto and Kingston.

On the evening of Tuesday May the 10th the Synod of Toronto and Kingston opened its annual session in Knox church, Toronto, when the retiring moderator, Rev. Dr. John Neil, preached an appropriate and practical sermon on these words: "And for their sakes I sanctify myself that they also may be sanctified through the truth;" after which Rev. J. A. McKeen, M.A., of Orono, was, on motion of Rev. Wm. Cooper, of Port Perry and Rev. Dr. Gilray of Toronto, elected to the Moderator's chair.

The new moderator is a Nova Scotian, a native of Tatamagouche, and was trained under the ministry of one of the church leaders in the Maritime Provinces, Rev. Dr. Thomas Sedgwick. He is a graduate of Dalhousie University and of the Presbyterian College, Halifax. He took a post graduate course in theology in Edinburgh, and for eight years was minister at Hamilton, Bermuda. Sixteen years ago he returned to Canada, and was settled in the pastorate at Orono, where he still labors, with growing effectiveness, and appreciation. He is scholarly in his tastes, and has been active in general public work, not only in the Presbytery of Whitby, of which he is clerk, but also throughout the Synod. He is fifty-two years of age.

A letter was read from Rev. Dr. John Gray, clerk of the Synod, expressing gratification at the appointment of Rev. R. C. Tibb as his assistant, and of the kindness shown him by the Synod. Rev. Dr. Neil expressed thanks for the assistance that he had received as moderator, and asked for the same indulgence for his successor. There were no burning questions to come before the Synod. They would have to consider the proposed enlargement of its powers, the moral welfare of the country, and matters of importance in connection with the home missions in new Ontario.

Being elected unanimously as moderator, Rev. Mr. McKeen was escorted to the vestry by Rev. William Cooper and Rev. Dr. Gilray, and rebled, and later appearing before the Synod, expressed his appreciation of the honor shown him.

The report of the committee on bills and overtures was taken up and adopted, and leave given to several presbyteries to license students.

Wednesday's Session.

At the opening of the session on Wednesday morning, Rev. W. R. McIntosh, convener of the Committee on Young People's Societies, presented his report. He said that 166 societies reported, six less than the number reporting to the last Synod. Almost one-half of the number have remained Christian Endeavor, the tendency to depart from the Endeavor constitution being more marked in the larger centres. The total membership decreased slightly during the year, but the finances showed a decided improvement. The varying character of the societies was not, in the committee's opinion a bad sign. "Uniformity is not good Christianity any more than good art," said Mr. McIntosh, "and it is an evidence that the ministers are endeavoring to work out the problem according to local conditions and their own type of mind."

The committee recommended: That the General Assembly's committee be requested

to give directions for the organization of the different societies that have been found successful; that where a Presbyterian union is impracticable there should be institutes in all congregations in the interest of young people's work and an annual conference in connection with a meeting of Presbytery for the discussion of young people's problems; that efforts should be made to develop the missionary spirit by co-operation with the Presbyterian Volunteer Union in the organization of missionary societies; that in communities where there are many young men the formation of young men's guilds or clubs be recommended; that the Assembly's committee in preparing a schedule specifying what organizations are expected to report as young people's societies use one column for the givings to all the schemes other than those of home and foreign missions, and indicate a place for the recommendation of Presbytery.

Rev. Dr. McLeod suggested that the word "or clubs" should be struck out of the fifth recommendation, and, with this change, the report and recommendations were adopted.

The report of the augmentation fund followed. Rev. Wylie C. Clark, who presented it, said that of 690 congregations in the Synod, 340 congregations only contribute to the fund.

Rev. Dr. Lyle's appeal for increased contributions to the fund was most effective. He explained the fact that only fifty per cent of the congregations were contributing by stating that many of them were poor and struggling, but were giving liberally for their own minister and were also making comparatively large contributions to foreign missions and other schemes of the church. Dr. Lyle spoke at some length on this subject and Rev. Prof. MacLaren and Rev. Dr. Wallace moved a resolution placing the Synod on record as being in favor of raising the minimum paid to augmented in charge.

The Conference.

Rev. George Bruce, D.D., opened the conference with a thoughtful paper, which he called "Ministerial Adaptability." He said that he wished to call attention to a lack of power and adaptability which he had found in himself and in others during his experience. Christ had compared the vocation of the minister to the labors of a fisherman, and Paul was carrying out the idea of the possession of the tact and skill of the fisherman when he declared that he was all things to all men, that by these means he might save some. The church was losing time, energy and money through the inadequacy of the present methods. One great drawback of a minister often was his failure to understand the lives of the men and women to whom he spoke every Sunday. The minister's education consisted almost entirely of study at a university and theological college. This did not fit him for practical work. The commanding phase of Christ's life and preaching was His wonderful illustrations from nature and lowly life. Just so the minister should use God's world to illustrate God's Word. To secure this power the present training was not sufficient. It was necessary that a minister should be able to comprehend the lives of those around him, and find an avenue through which to reach them. It was by this means that the Salvation Army

was able to carry on its grand work among the submerged portion of the people.

Dr. Bruce said that he had devoted himself for years to work among a city's poor, and without boasting he would say that he had never met an Army officer where he himself had not been before. No resort could there be so dark and vile as to keep the minister away. The lawyer, said Dr. Bruce, studied men, as well as books. The physician studied the man as well as the disease, and the minister, if he performed all of his work, had to understand the spiritual constitution of each man, woman and child, in his charge, and so reach their souls.

The Minister's Problems.

A most interesting discussion of the duties of churchmen came before the Synod in the form of a paper by Rev. George C. Pidgeon, B.D., on "The Epistles to Timothy." After maintaining the correctness of the Pauline contention, the speaker drew some lessons from Paul's words, especially relating to "the minister's care of himself," and "the practical problems which the minister has to face." Paul's instructions to Timothy included such considerations as the care of his health, his intellectual training, his spiritual development, and many other injunctions. Among the practical problems with which the Epistles dealt were public worship and the place of women in the Church, the need of fidelity to the great doctrines of the Church, the necessity of discipline in moral questions, the necessity of organization—mentioning in particular the two orders of bishops or elders and deacons—and the necessity of providing for the poor.

Home Missions.

Rev. S. Childerhose read the report on home missions. The greater part of the work in connection with the missions is carried on by the Presbyteries. In spite of the fact that the great mission field of the Church is in the west, the report called the attention of the Synod to the presence of 177 mission fields within its boundaries. In the north money was not lacking, but they felt sorely the need of men. Mr. Childerhose said that the most difficult work was among the unattached class. These included those engaged in railway construction work, the shanty-men and the train crews.

Church Work.

The report of the Committee on Church Life and Work dealt with services, organizations and methods, and recommended that sessions should use great diligence in training the young for service, that more attention should be paid by Presbyteries to the offerings of the congregation, and that all proper means should be used for the suppression of the liquor traffic. Another recommendation was added urging that the clause of the statute permitting betting on a race course where racing is in progress should be repealed.

An excellent report from the Committee on Sabbath Schools was presented by Rev. J. B. Fraser.

Thursday's Meetings.

The first business of the morning was the discussion of plans for the extension of synodical powers. Rev. R. C. Tibb presented the report, which had been prepared by the Assembly's committee for consideration at the next meeting of that body. The recommendations are that Synods, in addition to their present powers, shall be enabled to deal with the reception of ministers from other churches, the presbytery applying having sent notice of its intention to all other presbyteries in Canada two months ahead; the granting of leave to ministers to retire; the erection of new presbyteries within their