

have been preaching rabid and incendiary doctrines. There has been no effort to remonstrate with them, to show them the folly and wickedness of the course they were pursuing. Worse still, there is no record of any well-sustained attempt to reach the dangerous class with the peaceful and blessed message of the gospel of God's grace.

Does truth warrant the saying that the American people themselves have not shown the respect for law and order that would have been most impressive? The law of the Christian Sabbath has in most American cities been permitted to lapse, and by many is regarded as obsolete. In our correspondence columns an observant writer stated that in Chicago the number of drinking saloons open on Sabbath was simply alarming. Is it natural to expect that State and municipal legislation will be respected when clear and explicit precepts of the divine law, binding on all men, are trampled under foot?

The Church has a clear call to carry the Gospel to the irreligious masses who inhabit the crowded parts of all great cities. Not to speak of the obligation enforced by the highest sanctions of Christian philanthropy, but as a necessary social safeguard, the earnest and brotherly plea of the missionary is more effective than baton, bullet or bayonet. The remedy suggested is no mere rose-water sentiment. The McAll Mission in Paris is a proof of what honest and sincere consecration to a Christ-like work can effect. Mr. McAll and his fellow-labourers were not afraid to penetrate the lairs of Belleville and Montmartre. The reception they met with and the blessed results of their labours with the fierce supporters of the Commune afford fresh illustration that the Gospel is still the wisdom and the power of God to every one that believes.

Here in Canada, thank God, the same danger does not immediately threaten. Our cities and towns are increasing in population, and the so-called lapsed masses are not decreasing. Religion and patriotism urge that they be not neglected.

SYNOD OF TORONTO AND KINGSTON.

A few years ago members of the Synod of Toronto and Kingston, feeling that the pressure of ordinary and necessary business precluded a sufficient degree of attention being bestowed on the vital and most interesting work of the Church, thought of meeting earlier in Conference, when more scope would be afforded for the discussion of such topics. A gratifying measure of success and profit has attended these Conferences, and the last, in Galt, was pronounced one of the best yet held. The meetings were well attended, large numbers of the citizens being present at the evening sessions.

The Conference in connection with the Presbyterian Synod of Toronto and Kingston began in the Central Church, Galt, on the evening of the 3rd inst. The opening session was combined with the anniversary services in Central Church, and the ladies made excellent provision for the entertainment of the members of the Synod. The chair was occupied by Rev. J. A. R. Dickson, B.D.

CHURCH WORK.

Principal Grant spoke on "Church Work." He showed that the Church, to do effective work, must not stand aloof from human activities, but must make the pure spirit of Christianity felt in every department of effort. That influence must permeate everywhere—in family, industrial, commercial and political life. The distinction between sacred and secular work had been productive of most injurious consequences. Work is sacred or secular according to the spirit in which it is accomplished. The Church has to do Christ's work in the world.

INTERESTING THE YOUNG PEOPLE.

Rev. H. M. Parsons took for his theme:—"How to develop among our young people an interest in Church Work." The first thing was to bring them to Christ, then set them to work for Him. Their work must be constant and sustained. To carry out their work effectively the divine, not the human, methods must be exalted.

The topics were commented on by Rev. D. McCrae, R. Wallace, W. A. Hunter and J. B. Mullen.

TUESDAY'S CONFERENCE.

The subsequent meetings of the Conference were held in Knox Church. In the morning the chair was occupied by the Hon. James Young, and the devotional exercises were led by the Rev. A. Gilray.

PASTORAL VISITATION.

Dr. Wardrop introduced the subject of pastoral visitation. He referred to the growing disinclination to such visits entertained both by pastors and people. He showed clearly that the duty was taught by the precept and example of Christ and His Apostles. It ought to be done prayerfully, sympathetically, and in the spirit of the Master. Dr. Wardrop detailed his own methods of performing the duty.

Rev. Messrs. Parsons, Bennett, J. K. Smith and Principal Grant spoke on the subject.

Rev. R. D. Fraser, of Bowmanville, addressed the Conference on the "Spiritual Life of the Minister in its bearing upon his Work." In an earnest address he urged the necessity of living in close communion with God and with spiritual things, if a minister would be lifted above the drudgery incident to his work. Such communion was essential to his

joy and comfort, and to the fidelity and efficiency of his work.

Rev. Messrs. Parsons, Wilson, Gilray and Hunter made remarks.

THE WORK OF THE ELDER.

In the afternoon the Rev. J. K. Smith presided, the Rev. J. A. R. Dickson leading in devotional exercises.

Rev. P. McF. Macleod delivered an address on "The Work of the Elder." After defining the position assigned to the eldership in the reformed churches, he specified the duties of the elder in the session, in visitation, and in relation to the general work of the Church. An elder is never elected to the Moderatorship of the Assembly, for what reason, he did not know. Elders should receive a larger share of the responsibilities and honours of Church Work.

Remarks were made by Rev. Messrs. Wilson, Bennett, Fitzell, D. D. McLeod, and Messrs. Gordon and Cranston, elders.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY.

In the absence of Rev. A. H. Scott, Rev. J. R. S. Burnett spoke on "Individual Responsibility in Christian Work." He detailed various ways in which Church members, whatever their position, might accomplish earnest work for the good of others, bringing them under Gospel influences. A number of those present spoke briefly in enforcing the arguments employed by Mr. Burnett.

THE SOCIAL ELEMENT.

Rev. George M. Milligan, B.A., spoke with much interest and force on "The Social Element in Religious Work." By means of vivid and telling illustrations he showed that healthy co-operative work would result in incalculable blessing to the world. He combated the pessimistic views of the present condition of affairs, and showed that political corruption and social disturbances would disappear if the full social force of Christianity were properly directed. The Conference closed with prayer by Rev. John McAlpine.

THE SYNOD.

The Presbyterian Synod of Toronto and Kingston met in Knox Church, Galt, on Tuesday evening. The opening sermon was preached by Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, B.D., retiring Moderator, from Hebrews xii. 27. By reference to the context it was shown that the Jewish nation had served its spiritual purpose, and was superseded by the Christian dispensation. The mutable must be removed that the immutable may abide. Modes of worship may sometimes be changed that spiritual worship may remain. The forms of Church organization may be changed, while the Church lives and grows. Human opinions concerning the things revealed in God's Word may be shaken, but the truth may remain firm. The truth is the authority on which a faithful ministry must rest. Christ in all His fulness must be the essence of preaching.

After devotional exercises Mr. Macdonnell thanked the Synod for the honour bestowed and the kindness extended to him. He then called for the nomination of a successor.

THE NEW MODERATOR.

Dr. Torrance moved, and Rev. R. Wallace seconded, That Rev. William Bennett, of Springville, be appointed Moderator. This motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Bennett, after giving expression to the surprise the announcement of his election had caused him, thanked the Synod for the honour conferred upon him. A vote of thanks was then tendered to the retiring Moderator, and after the roll had been called by the Clerk, Rev. John Gray, D.D., the Synod adjourned.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

The first hour of the morning session was spent in devotional exercises, the Moderator and several members leading in prayer.

Applications from Presbyteries of Toronto and Kingston to take students who had completed their theological course on trial for license, were granted.

Rev. David Beattie, of Campbellford, presented a memorial, in which complaint was made against certain action of the Presbytery of Kingston. Rev. Messrs. T. S. Chambers and F. McCuaig briefly gave a history of the case so far as the Presbytery was concerned. After discussion, in which several members took part, on motion of Rev. D. D. McLeod, seconded by Rev. J. K. Smith, it was agreed that the statements reflecting on Kingston Presbytery were not sustained, that further investigation was unnecessary, and that the Synod expressed sympathy with Mr. Beattie, who has for so long a period laboured faithfully in the service of the Church.

NEXT MEETING.

It was resolved that the next meeting of Synod be held in the Presbyterian Church, Brampton, on the first Monday in May, 1897, at half-past seven o'clock p.m. Several of the members dissented from the decision to meet on Monday evening, as they found it impossible to reach the place of meeting in time.

STATE OF RELIGION.

At the meeting on Wednesday evening the report of the Committee on the State of Religion was submitted by the Convener, Rev. E. D. McLaren, B.D. Complaint was made that returns were incomplete, and that owing to this the results were not as satisfactory as they ought to be. From the returns received it was learned that there was much regularity and reverent attendance on the me of grace, though there still was room for considerable improvement in this respect. At congregational weekly prayer meetings there was a constant and fairly-large attendance, and an increasing number taking part in the exercises, and in some instances considerable effort to make such meetings more effective and interesting. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed by from seventy-five to one hundred per cent. of the membership. It was much to be deplored that in many cases family worship and the home religious training of the young were neglected. In several instances much had been done to interest the young in vital religion, and to instruct them in the distinctive doctrines of the Church. About one-third of the membership engage in

active Christian work. There was a marked improvement in contributions for religious purposes. The report concluded with a number of practical recommendations which, including reception of the report and the vote of thanks, on motion of Professor McLaren, seconded by Rev. J. R. S. Burnett, were substantially adopted.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

An interesting report on Sabbath Schools was presented by the Convener of the committee, Rev. George M. Milligan. The number of schools within the bounds reporting was 217; teachers and officers, 2,459; scholars on roll, 23,495; average attendance, over 16,000; amount raised, \$11,658, of which \$4,652 was contributed for Missions; number from schools joining the membership of the Church, 516. The report concluded by recommending: (1) That ministers and superintendents be requested to make their returns on receipt of blank forms. (2) That the class books prepared by Convener of General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee be used in the schools. (3) That Sabbath schools be a prominent feature of inquiry in Presbyterian visitations. (4) Special care should be taken by Presbyteries of Sabbath schools in vacant charges and mission stations within their bounds. Rev. D. D. McLeod moved, and Rev. John Neil seconded the adoption of the report, and thanks to Convener and committee. The motion was carried.

THURSDAY MORNING.

The Synod being constituted, a resolution moved by Rev. J. K. Smith, seconded by Professor McLaren, congratulating Dr. Smellie, of Fergus, on his attaining his jubilee in the service of the Church, having been in his present charge for the period of forty-three years, was passed with acclamation.

PRESBYTERY OF ORANGEVILLE.

On motion of Rev. D. Macdonnell, seconded by Rev. W. A. Hunter, it was resolved to form a new Presbytery—that of Orangeville, which is appointed to meet on the third Tuesday of July, Rev. A. McFaul to be first Moderator.

COMPLAINT AND PROTEST.

The complaint and protest of Rev. John McMillan and others, of Mount Pleasant, against actions of the Presbytery of Saugeen were, on motion of Principal Caven, remitted to a commission of Synod, to meet at Harrison, to issue the case before the meeting of the General Assembly in June next.

CONGREGATIONAL SINGING.

In response to an overture by Rev. W. Fitzell and others, a committee on the improvement of congregational singing, consisting of Rev. Messrs. Fitzell, P. McF. McLeod, and John M. Cameron, was appointed.

TO RESTORE AN OLD CHURCH.

Rev. Mr. Cumberland spoke in support of an overture from the Presbytery of Kingston, proposing the restoration of the old church at Frederickburg, where Rev. Mr. McDowall, a pioneer U. E. Loyalist Presbyterian minister, preached nearly a century ago. Dr. Reid, speaking in support of the overture, gave several interesting reminiscences of his early labours in Mr. McDowall's time. On motion by Principal Caven, a committee, consisting of Rev. Messrs. Bennett, Eastman, Cockburn, Drs. Reid and Gregg, Campbell and Gray, Messrs. A. H. Scott, W. A. Hunter and J. K. Smith, to co-operate with the Kingston committee, was appointed.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

At the afternoon meeting, Rev. E. Cockburn, of Uxbridge, presented the report of the Temperance Committee, from which it appeared that though the reports received were incomplete, the action of the Canada Temperance Act had on the whole been beneficial, while from various causes it has had hardly a fair trial. As an instance of improvement, it was stated that under license the commitments to Barrie Gaol, in 1884, were sixty-four, and for the corresponding period, in the following year, there were only six. Provision should be made for its vigorous enforcement by the Provincial authorities. On motion of Rev. John Smith, the report and its recommendations were adopted, and thanks tendered to the Convener and committee. The following is the substance of the resolution passed: This Synod regards the traffic in strong drink as one of the greatest hindrances to the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ; and, in view of the evils wrought by intemperance, we hail with gladness the utter destruction of intoxicating liquors as a beverage by the power of the Gospel of Christ, the force of example, the influence of public opinion and vigorous and enlightened legislation.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

Principal Caven submitted the report of the Committee on Sabbath Observance, recommending that the General Assembly, through its committee, should enter into correspondence with other branches of the Church in Canada and the United States, with a view of bringing combined Christian public opinion to bear on the question, in order that the inheritance of the Sabbath may be restored to large and important classes of the community.

THE COLLEGE QUESTION.

An overture from the Presbytery of Barrie asked that the General Assembly remit to Presbyteries the consideration of the question: How many colleges does the Church require, and where should they be located? In explanation Rev. D. D. McLeod stated that it was the object of the overture to bring about harmonious action in relation to the colleges. It was agreed to transmit the overture.

SUPPLY OF VACANCIES.

Regarding the proposed scheme for the supply of vacancies, the Synod appointed a committee to confer with similar committees appointed by other Synods, that a Scheme may, if possible, be submitted to the General Assembly.

STATUS OF MINISTERS.

An overture on the standing of ministers without charge was received, and its transmission to the General Assembly assented to.

After the usual votes of thanks, the Synod adjourned.