

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL MISSIONARY BOARD.

(Continued.)

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Rev Dr Sutherland: Last year this Board made grants for missionary work in the various districts, aggregating \$140,192. The actual amount expended was \$140,090, leaving an unexpended balance of \$102. Our income for the past year shows a falling off in the ordinary sources of between \$9,000 and \$10,000. There was, however, a considerable increase of what we call miscellaneous income, so that the actual deficiency on the year is only between \$400 and \$5,000. Appended to the balance-sheet is the statement of the auditors, as follows:

"The undersigned have examined the books of the Methodist Missionary Society for the year ending 30th June, 1879, and find they agree with the vouchers and accounts as submitted to us, and that the above balances are correctly set forth. We beg further to say that the expenditure for the year has been \$4,855.62 in excess of the income, and that the balance against the Society now appears by the books to be \$87,940.64.

(Signed.)  
JAMES C. SLATER,  
THOS. S. KEOUGH, } Auditors,  
WM. ANDERSON,

Rev Mr Huestis: I should like to ask Dr Sutherland if he has noticed the letter of a missionary in the WESLEYAN, asking for information respecting the expenditure of the Society?

Dr Sutherland: Yes; I saw it.

Dr Douglas: Have you any questions to ask the Secretary respecting this sheet.

Rev Mr Duncan: New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island is represented as having made an expenditure of \$169 for district and Conference Committee expenses. I think the total expenditure was only \$129.

Dr Sutherland: It is taken from your accounts as they are sent up.

Rev Mr Huestis: I see that the amount appropriated for domestic work for the Nova Scotia Conference was \$4,804, while the actual expenditure was \$8,082. I cannot understand this.

Dr Sutherland: You turned into your domestic work a considerable amount of what was appropriated for rents and removals. The amount appropriated for rents and removals was \$2,667, while you expended only \$1,483.

Rev Mr Huestis: The charge for rent is included, with the Children's Fund claims, in the salary of the brethren. It does not, therefore, appear in the amounts paid for rent, but is included in the total expense of the mission, and is paid. I am confident that there must be a mistake in the account, as the whole amount was disbursed for rents and removals.

After considerable discussion,

Dr Rice said he thought it would be far better for the Nova Scotia Conference to keep their accounts in the same way as the other Conferences did, and make a distinct entry of each item for a particular service.

Dr Douglas: After this conversation we may go on, with the hope that uniformity may prevail throughout the entire church. What is the next item?

Rev Mr Duncan: I find under the head of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Conference a claim of \$86.65 for travelling expenses of the deputation from Ontario. It seems to be a large amount. There was only one man, Rev Dr McDonald.

Dr Sutherland: It is the same for New Brunswick as Nova Scotia, and I presume that they just divided the expenses equally.

Rev Mr Huestis: I cannot understand how it comes out \$86.65. I settled with Dr Williams; and there was not a word about the expenses of Dr McDonald.

The item \$160 probably includes all that was paid to the brethren down there—the total expenses of the deputation.

Rev Mr Huestis: I should like to ask why it is that expenses of missionary meetings in the West are so largely in excess of the expenses of similar meetings in the East? What is the system of estimating the expenses? The question has been asked in our paper, and I should like to know how to answer it.

Rev Dr Rice: As a rule, the more we expend, the more we gain. We may not have the material on hand to awaken interest in the missionary cause, and go a distance for a deputation. The cost of raising money in the West is vastly less, in proportion to the amount collected, than it is in the East. We go to a great expense to make a meeting interesting, and as a result we get a larger amount of money out of the people by arousing their interest.

Dr Sutherland: The question was asked in the WESLEYAN with special reference to Montreal. Now, this expenditure is one that might legitimately come up in certain places; but when a place like Montreal, that is giving

year after year \$8,000 or \$9,000 to the Missionary Fund, and drawing nothing out of it, I think about the least thing domestic missionaries can do is to be thankful for the help they get, without calling in question the expense incurred by the churches in raising it.

Dr Douglas: Our experience has been that the finest investment the Missionary Society can make in Montreal is to expend \$100 or \$200 in connection with our anniversaries, otherwise they are total failures. Now we import such as Butler, Dr Jeffrey, Bishop James, and Dr Newman, and in the depth of Montreal's financial agony the anniversary was a financial success.

Dr Rice: There has been a disposition in the West to belittle the Missionary Meetings, by not getting the very best available talent to make them a success.

Mr Gray: There are mistakes made sometimes; men are brought from a distance, at great expense, and they do not pay.

Dr Rice: It depends upon how it is done. For instance, you get a first-class Missionary Meeting one year; next year you go to less expense, relying upon the effort of the previous year, and it does very well; but try it the third year and then you come right down to "hard pan."

Rev Mr Huestis: On this point are we not learning something for the Relief and Extension Fund? When we were starting this movement, it was resolved that we would not have any expensive deputations; that we would throw the burden on each district and on each pastor. The result is, I find, that in the West, most of the meetings have been held on the Sabbath, and it has been so in the East. There has been very little expense in deputations, yet we are getting, in many places, three or four times the amount that has been collected in any one year.

Dr Douglas: This appeal comes once in a life-time; may never have to be repeated.

Rev Mr Huestis: I am not so sure but that if we put this matter before our people solemnly on Sabbath, we would do better than by special meetings and expensive deputations. You may import an eloquent speaker, who will talk of faith, hope and charity; but he will not go into the financial aspect of the movement.

Rev Dr Rice: If the United States brethren had our system of gathering missionary money, they would report as much per member as we do, but because they take the plan suggested by Bro Huestis they fail very largely in the amount they collect. They obtain only a little more than four times as much as we from a million of members, while we have only one hundred thousand. They cannot understand how we accomplish as much as we do.

RENTS AND REMOVALS.

Rev Dr Sutherland: I think it would be advisable for this Board to pass under review, first of all, the claims for rent and removals; especially rent—both as to the individual claims, and with a view to ascertaining if we cannot, in any legitimate way, reduce this heavy annual item of expenditure.

TORONTO CONFERENCE.

For Toronto Conference, the first item is \$2,000 for Teachers, Interpreters, and Native Assistants. The appropriation is \$150 less than last year. The item was granted.

Children's claims, Indian Missions, \$600.

Item granted.

Dr Sutherland: The next item is travelling expenses, incidentals, school-books, etc., on Indian Missions, \$100. The item was agreed to, on the understanding that the Secretary was to use his own discretion in the payment of travelling expenses.

The item of \$250, for Chairmen's District expenses, Conference Committees, &c., was granted without debate.

LONDON CONFERENCE.

The following items were granted without debate:

Teachers, Interpreters, etc., \$1,900  
Children's Claims, Indian and German Missions, \$750.

Travelling expenses, Incidentals, &c., \$100.

District and Conference Committee expenses, \$200.

MONTREAL CONFERENCE.

The following items were granted without debate:

Teachers, French Missions, \$700.  
Children's Claims, German Missions \$120.

District and Conference Committee expenses, \$200.

On the item, "Repairs of Oka School-house," Rev Mr Gray enquired if the Indians could not repair their own school-house?

Dr Sutherland: They have no means of doing it. They could not cut a stick of wood without danger of being put in jail for it.

The item was granted.

NOVA SCOTIA CONFERENCE.

District and Conference Committee expenses (including disbursements on drafts)

The item was granted.

N. B. AND P. E. I. CONFERENCE.

District and Conference Committee expenses, \$150.

Rev Mr Huestis: I move the item be \$120, the same as the grant for Nova Scotia.

Rev Mr Duncan: We expended only \$180 last year, and I am willing to take the same this year.

Rev Mr Huestis: What is meant by "Chairmen's District Expenses?" In the East the work it is a new thing for the chairmen to have expenses when visiting his work, and I cannot see why the brethren in New Brunswick should have anything more than the chairmen in Nova Scotia.

Rev Mr Shaw: Do they pay their own expenses when they visit their missions.

Rev Mr Huestis: I don't know a case where a district chairman visits a mission in our Conference. I should like to know if the chairman in the Western Conferences visits their missions.

Dr Rice: Is there any reason why these heavy amounts should appear in the expenditures of some Conferences and not in others?

Rev Mr Duncan: The sum of \$23 for chairmen's expenses, Fredericton District, includes the amount incurred in going to the meeting of the local Missionary Committee, and that, I take it, is the same with regard to the other items.

Dr Rice: You must expend money in the East for purposes that we do not expend it for in the West; that is, you are acting under a different idea from what we are acting.

Rev Mr Duncan: Fredericton District is almost entirely made up of missions, and if the chairman is to make himself familiar with the work of his district he must travel a good deal.

Dr Sutherland: Can you explain why it is that Miramichi District, which has only two missions, has such a large amount for travelling expenses?

Rev Mr Duncan: I cannot explain it. The brother said he had expended it. It was felt to be a large sum, and he claimed to have a large district to travel over.

Dr Sutherland: I am a little apprehensive that in some cases chairmen unknowingly include in their district expenses items that are not missionary expenses—that is, all the expenses in visiting any part of their district, in carrying on their work, part of which is not missionary work.

Rev Mr Huestis: In Nova Scotia there are only two funds that charge expenses, and we cannot really understand why these large amounts are charged by the small districts in the New Brunswick Conference. Nova Scotia brethren are asking me every day, why is it that these chairmen in New Brunswick are receiving these large sums. They say, "We are not getting our rights, and we will put in a bill too."

Dr Sutherland: I think in the first instance the appropriation was made with the idea of covering stationery, etc. When a chairman went to any mission within his district his expenses were paid by that mission. The best thing would be to grant a uniform sum—say five dollars for postage, etc.—on districts where there are missions, and all other expenses ought to be charged to the field where the chairman of the district goes.

Dr Rice: I have been chairman of a district for many years and have visited missions, but I have never in my life charged a cent for it. In former times—before we had these gentlemen at head quarters—I was accustomed to supply all my missionaries with money, for which we charged a discount, but it was the only thing we did charge. It appears to me that one of our errors is to multiply little items of expenses, and they are the very thing that eat us out of house and home. Take a place like Algoma, where you have to coast with Indians for long distances, it is a different thing, but in districts like ours in Ontario, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, I do think there ought to be no charge for chairman's expenses.

Rev Mr Huestis moved that the appropriation be reduced to \$120.

Rev Mr Duncan said he would like to have a little more information as to the expenses for the New Brunswick Conference. He was confident the amount expended did not exceed \$180, and he was astonished to see a charge of \$169 against them. He agreed to accept \$120 for this year, and the amendment was carried.

NEWFOUNDLAND CONFERENCE.

The item for District and Conference expenses in the Newfoundland Conference, \$150, was agreed to without debate.

DIRECTIONS FOR COLIC IN HORSES.—Contents of small bottle Pain-Killer in quart bottle, add pint warm or cold water sweetened with molasses, shake well until all mixed and drench well. Give about half at once, then balance in ten or fifteen minutes, if first dose is not sufficient. This will be found a never failing remedy.

THE POETRY OF ASTRONOMY.

THE FIRST OF PROF. RICHARD A. PROCTOR'S COURSE OF LECTURES.

THE OLDEST OF SCIENCES BRILLIANTLY ILLUSTRATED AND EXPLAINED—THE GREAT DISCOVERIES THAT MEN MADE—COMETS AS SEEN BY THE ANCIENT AND AS SEEN IN MODERN TIMES.

Prof Richard A. Proctor, the distinguished English astronomer, whose many books on the science of the stars and whose popular lectures in this city five years ago have made his name familiar in this country, began a new course of lectures on astronomy in Chickering Hall last night. His subject last night was, "The Poetry of Astronomy."

He said there are two objects that may be made to the association of poetry with astronomy. The first is that the student of astronomy may appreciate the connecting of the two because he fears that the imagination of the poet may interfere with the exact methods of science; and the second is that the poet will be apt to feel that the processes of scientific investigation may take away from the charms of nature. The speaker thought that both these objections might be done away with. Science owes much to poetry, and poetry is also indebted to science, which opens up new fields of beauty for it to delight in.

Astronomy, especially among the sciences, is naturally associated with poetry, for astronomy has the most poetical aspirations, while at the same time it requires the closest scientific scrutiny. This association of poetry with astronomy runs through all the old systems of the science. How the spirit of poetry permeates it everywhere is well shown in the romantic notions of the star gazers, who imagined the planet Mercury threading its course back and forth through the heavens as the Mercury of the gods, the fleet-winged messenger, carrying messages to and fro among the deities of heaven.

After geographically, though briefly, describing the ancient theory of the heavens, with its masses of cycles and epicycles, the speaker pictured the coming of Copernicus, who swept away the old tramping of the theorists, and caused new and mainly correct views of the universe to be taken. The depths of space, boundless in their extent, were regarded in a new light, and the planets were seen to be swinging through orbits that have the sun, not the earth, for a centre. After this great step had been taken men began to ask questions about the laws that controlled the heavenly motions, and Newton came with his sublime discovery of gravitation, making the answer to those questions plain, and at once the world seemed filled with light. Gradually the mysteries that had puzzled men were unveiled, and one gave place to another, which, in its turn, was explained, until the mind of man had penetrated far into the depths of the universe.

Prof. Proctor said he regretted that it was not in his power to do more than indicate the poetical aspect of this great science. We wished that Tennyson or some of the other great English poets, or our American poet, Oliver Wendell Holmes, who has done so much toward the expression of astronomical truths with poetic fervor, would take the subject in their hands.

After this general introduction, the great hall was suddenly plunged in darkness, and upon the huge screen, placed across the stage a circle of light was thrown from a stereopticon in the gallery. Then across the screen there was made to pass a succession of colored pictures, representing some of the great wonders of the heavens, and, as the bright procession ran along, Prof. Proctor, almost invisible to the audience, and armed with a long wand to point out the pictures, continued his talk, passing from subject to subject and keeping step and time with the appearing and vanishing forms on the canvas.

The first picture represented the brilliant phenomenon of the solar halo, frequently witnessed in the arctic regions, and the icebergs that towered in the background reminded the speaker of the strange accident that befell the Arizona on Friday night in mid-ocean. His mind, he said, had been filled all day with that accident, and he could not help reflecting that it is the duty of science to prevent such catastrophes as this. The lecturer's reference to "your great inventor Edison," was greeted with applause, and when he suggested that the wonderful tasimeter, which detects the slightest change of temperature and the piercing electric light, placed on the bows of a steamer, might make her path free from such dangers, the applause was redoubled.

A series of photographic views of the sun accompanied the lecturer's description of the wonderful appearances that are seen on its face. The latest investigations, he said, show that what we see of the sun, and the part that gives us light is only the outer envelope of vaporous matter, and that the true working body of the sun lies tens of thousands of miles below this vaporous surface. The vast dimensions of the sun, the enormous numbers that express his bulk, more than 1,200,000 times greater than that of the earth, do not, however, impress us so deeply as the fact that this body which at the distance of nearly 92,000,000 of seem to us so quiet and so still, is a scene of turmoil and uproar, in comparison with which all that we know of tremendous forces and noise is tame and weak.

One of the most beautiful pictures exhibited represented Prof. Langley's view of a great spot on the sun. The view was so perfectly formed on the screen that the black depths between the ragged edges where the sun's envelope seemed rent asunder sank away with a stereoscopic effect that gave a most vivid impression of the true meaning of the now familiar astronomical dictum that the black spots that the telescope shows on the sun's disk are enormous chasms, reaching down into the depths of the solar globe, some of which are wide and deep enough to swallow up many worlds like ours.

In speaking of the sun spots, and their unexplained connection with the appearance of aurora borealis, Prof. Proctor explained a mistake that he, in common with others, fell into when he was before in this country. On his former visit he

had said that with the dark portion of the solar spots there was a seeming perfectly black part lying at the greatest depth, which yet was not black, except by contrast with the vivid light of the rest of the sun's surface. An observation of Prof. Langley was supposed to have shown that this apparently black surface, when viewed away from the contrast of the surrounding full sunlight, glowed with a violet light. Since then Prof. Langley has applied the same method of observation to the black body of Mercury in transit across the sun, and found that it, too, seemed aglow with violet light. A little investigation showed that this appearance was due to our own atmosphere and so the lecturer and others were mistaken when they said that the apparent bottom of the vast sun chasms did not appear perfectly black.

A view of Janssen's photograph of the sun's surface was then shown. Strangely enough, the speaker said, this photograph showed the true condition of the solar surface much more perfectly than the most powerful telescope in existence could do, because the tremendous vibrations of our atmosphere will not permit of the use with good effect of high telescopic power in viewing the sun. The photograph looked very much like a mass of irregular cobbles. These are called the granules, and the smallest of them are only 200 or 300 miles in diameter.

A series of brilliant colored views thrown upon the screen were used to give a vivid idea of what is meant by the spectra of various substances, and to show how the presence, or absence of certain dark lines in the spectra of the sun and stars have led to conclusions that they contain oxygen, or hydrogen, or iron, and other substance that are known to us upon the earth. Subsequently the lecturer said that the recent discovery by Prof. Young of Princeton of the fact that some of the lines in the spectrum that have always been regarded as single, are really double, may do away with some of the conclusions reached by the spectrum analysis, and render a reinvestigation of the whole subject necessary.

Other pictures represented the appearance of the rose-colored prominences and the wonderful corona that is seen around the sun in total eclipses. The prominences are among the most beautiful phenomena in nature, and they have been compared in appearance, as they jutted out around the edges of the black body of the moon covering the sun, to garnets set about a brooch of jet. The appearance of the corona, reaching out millions of miles from the edges of the eclipsed sun, was shown in several photographs of the eclipses of 1869, 1871 and 1873; and then an imaginary picture by Vasmyr, showing the sun eclipsed by the earth, and viewed from the moon, with a great wing of light rushing out on each side, was exhibited to show, by comparison with the actual views of the corona, the great probability that the corona is only a part of the zodiacal light, which may be seen in a spring evening after sun-set stretching like a cone toward the zenith. This would probably, some astronomers have said, give to our sun, viewed from the distance of the stars, the appearance of a star surrounded with a nebula like some of those we see in the heavens.

A series of large views of Saturn, showing his system of rings, and of Mars with his oceans and continents, were next exhibited. The lecturer said the poet Holmes, in describing the melting of the snows of Mars, and the coming of the crimson summer there, was mistaken. In the lecturer's opinion there was no entire melting away of Mars' snows, and the "crimson summer" could not exist in the times and places described.

Prof. Proctor paid a neat compliment to Prof. Hall of Washington for his discovery of the moons of Mars. He said that although the American astronomers had only two or three months in which to observe these moons, after their discovery, yet they calculated their periods of rotation so accurately, that when the European astronomers came to look for them this summer they found the outer moon exactly in the place predicted, and the inner one was only forty-four minutes behind time. The lecturer then controverted the notion that these moons can be as large as a hundred miles in diameter. If they were as large as that he said, our telescopes would show the black spot of shadow cast by them upon the planet when they come between us and it, just as in the case of Jupiter. The probability is that they are only a few miles in diameter, among the smallest of celestial objects.

Comical pictures of comets as they appeared to the imaginations of the ancients and the true pictures of some of the great comets of modern times followed upon the screen. One ancient comet looked precisely like an old woman's thimble cap, with a long lace collar dangling down for a tale.

Views of nebulae and charts representing the multitudinous of the telescopic stars, with accompanying descriptions, closed the lecture.—N. Y. Sun.

By the use of Fellows' Syrup of Hypophosphites the nerves become reinforced in strength, the stomach is made capable of digesting the food, the food changes to blood, the heart becomes strengthened to pump the blood, the lungs distribute and oxidize the blood, healthy blood displaces unhealthy muscle and tuberculous matter, the patient becomes vigorous, and then by using his constitution as intended by a beneficent Creator, he may live up to a ripe old age, when like the cock ready for harvest he drops from the bush.

C. M. KYLE, of Uxbridge, writes Oct. 3rd, 1879, and says:—"I testify to the excellent qualities of ALLEN'S LUNG BALSAM as a remedy for all diseases of the throat and lungs. I know it to be all it is recommended to be."

If any person would see the difference between real worthlesses let him buy a small pack of Sheridan's horse and cattle powders and feed it out to his horse. The increase of eggs will surprise you.