

missionary tours through Upper Canada, he began his regular pastoral work in Montreal, October 2nd, 1836. From this date Dr. Wilkes' history is that of Congregationalism in Canada. He was identified with every movement of importance for half a century thereafter. He made several visits to Europe; in one of which, in 1862, I met him in London, and heard him preach. On the sudden death of Dr. Lillie, Principal of the Congregational College, in 1869, Dr. Wilkes took hold of the classes; and the next year was formally appointed Principal, which office he held for eleven years. In the meanwhile, as years increased, he had become an acute sufferer from sciatica, which in the end left him on crutches, and greatly interfered with any movement. For years he could not go up pulpit steps—had to be lifted up; and I remember a stout fellow carrying Dr. Wilkes in his arms—and he was a man of sturdy, short, heavy frame—and setting him carefully down in a chair at the Congregational Union. As he once expressed himself to me, "Once I am on my feet in the pulpit, I am all right! I enjoy preaching as much as ever I did."

In 1886, at the age of 81, he again visited Great Britain. On 11th May he presented himself to the Congregational Union of England and Wales, leaning on his crutch, and with walking-stick in his right hand; and he notes that he was much affected by the outburst of cheering that followed, and by the spontaneous rising up of the whole assembly to greet him.

But it was the last flicker of energy. The activities of the visit, and the fatigues of the voyage home, told heavily upon him; and though he preached a couple of times, and attended to his duties as Professor for a month, yet the end was coming, and he died on 17th November, 1886.

Dr. Wilkes did a special and important work for Congregationalism and for Canada. He was very near the foundation of things, and had a part in rearing the structure of our civil and religious liberties, in a way that no other of our ministers have had the opportunity or necessity of doing. He preached for fifty years, and was doing also the work of an organizer, a statesman, a diplomat, and (in the best sense of the word) a *bishop*, all at time. Dr. Wilkes' portrait is No. 11 in the Union of 1868." After his death, the Rev.

John Wood, now of Truro, N. S., published a very excellent biography, containing much personal memoranda by Dr. Wilkes himself, from which volume most of the dates, and many of the circumstances contained in this short memorial sketch are extracted.

W. W. SMITH.

THE WESTERN ASSOCIATION.

The Congregational Western Association of Ontario met in the Congregational Church, Woodstock, on Tuesday, April 3rd, at 2.30 p.m. An unusually large number of delegates of churches were on hand; the Secretary, Mr. A. L. Hay, of Hamilton, having made special efforts to secure a good representation. Indeed, it reminded many of the brethren of the meetings of the "Union"; especially when "Membership" and "Business" Committees were appointed, and other formalities of a well-organized body. The full number of delegates (including pastors) was 59.

Rev. Chas. E. Bolton, of Paris, the President, occupied the chair. Half an hour of praise and prayer fittingly inaugurated the proceedings. A considerable amount of business was done at the first session; the most important item of which was the appointment of a representative on the Executive of the Home Missionary Society, for the year beginning in June. Rev. Arch. F. McGregor, of Woodstock, was elected; succeeding (in June), Rev. Edwin D. Silcox, who asked the brethren not to re-appoint him.

The last hour of the afternoon session was profitably occupied with a discussion of revival and evangelistic work. The consensus of opinion seemed to be, that professional evangelists were to be authenticated by well-known character or actual acquaintance, before being introduced or employed; and that these rather were to be encouraged, who were in the regular employ of a missionary society or other regularly organized ecclesiastical body, and their salaries fixed by such bodies. The discussion then drifted, as it was natural it should, toward Rev. Arthur Main, the accredited and hard working evangelist of the C.C.M.S., and his work. Mr. Main was not present, and the various speakers who testified from actual experience and co-operation to his efficiency, good sense and skill