

AN OTTAWA MINISTER ON UNION.

On Monday evening Rev. J. H. Turnbull gave a thoughtful address on Church Union before the Young People's Association of Bank Street Church. After explaining the movement for union from its inception at a General Assembly meeting in 1899, through its various stages, the speaker outlined the documents which settled the doctrine, polity, administration, ministry and laws under which the united church would be governed, going on to say that he was in favor of the union thus proposed, and giving reasons for his position. With the large element of foreigners of different civilization to Canadians in Canada, it was necessary that there be a strong united church to overbalance their effect. He pointed out that in Montreal 40 per cent. of the public school attendance was Hebrew and in a few years at the present rate of growth, this race would hold power in the public schools in that city. He spoke of the large foreign element in other cities and emphasized that the troubles arising from this needed the united action of a powerful and united church. He pointed out great loss sustained in the past in the West by denominations overlapping in home mission work. He said that sooner or later it would be for each congregation in the Presbyterian church to vote on the question of church union, because the Presbyterian church is a democratic church and everything of this nature must be submitted to the congregations before definite action can be taken. It would be a few years hence perhaps, but the members of the congregation should study the question carefully in order to be able to vote wisely when the time comes. If there were union to-morrow, the members would hardly notice it as the change would be in the order of things, he made gradually, and it would take a generation to entirely blend the different denominations into the one proposed. He spoke of the unions among the Methodist denominations in the past and the unions in the Presbyterian church with the Old Kirk. For years it was impossible to discern where the old division lines had been. Yet they had great obstacles, as great as now separate the Presbyterian, Congregational and Methodist denominations to overcome. He therefore was confident that slowly but surely union would be arrived at between these denominations.

THE PRIEST IN POLITICS.

The much vaunted union between priests and people seems in a rather perilous condition in Mayo, Ireland. On Sunday, January 23rd, the people rushed the doors of the Roman Catholic chapel at Claremorris, overthrew the tables of the money-changers, and scattered the coppers in all directions. Archdeacon Kilkenny, the parish priest, as we learn from the "Irish Independent" of January 28, guarded by police day and night. The local reading room, which was, of course, under clerical control, was burned to the ground. There has also been much revolver shooting at night. Then the United Irish League and some of the local councils are beginning to question the divine right of the priest in politics.

DEATH OF PRESIDENT DICKSON.

Of St. Margaret's College.
(From the Globe of 22nd March.)
Yesterday morning Mr. George Dickson, president of St. Margaret's College, passed away after a short illness, at the age of sixty-four. There was no more widely known educationist in this province, for he had labored at his chosen vocation in places far apart and in positions widely varied. Born in Markham township in 1846, he received his early training in the ordinary public school of his native place and in the grammar schools of Richmond Hill and Whitby. Bent on taking up teaching as a profession he qualified for its higher opportunities by securing a university education and status, taking his degrees of B. A. and M. A. in Victoria University, Cobourg, in 1872 and 1878, respectively.

Mr. Dickson's first work as a teacher was done in 1868 in the capacity of assistant master of the Chatham High school. Two years later he joined the staff of Woodstock College, and after another two years he was transferred to Hamilton Collegiate Institute, of which he became principal in 1873, in succession to the late Principal Buchan, when he was appointed Inspector of High schools. After thirteen years of exceptionally effective administration he again succeeded Mr. Buchan, this time as principal of Upper Canada College, which position he retained till 1897. During his regime the constitution and organization of the college were greatly changed, and it was transferred to College Heights from King street west. While he occupied that position Principal Dickson gave much time and attention to chemical investigations, toward which he had a decided bias, and at which he became a facile adept.

In 1897 Mr. and Mrs. Dickson established St. Margaret's College as a secondary school for residential female pupils and also as a school for day pupils from Toronto. It was successful from its inauguration, and a few years ago it was transferred to its present commodious edifice on Bloor street east. Mr. Dickson retained till his death the position of President of the college, while Mrs. Dickson held the office of Director and Secretary. Much of the strict educational reputation of the institution was due to Mr. Dickson's personal work in the class-room in science and English, and in this way he not only built up a flourishing school, but did much to raise the character of the work done in private secondary schools generally.

In other fields than that of formally educational activity Mr. Dickson's versatility displayed itself. He conducted a private correspondence school, took a deep interest and an active part in the foundation and management of St. Andrew's College, and was for many years connected with higher education as a member of the Senates of Knox College and the University of Toronto, respectively.

Self-conceited men must generally be poor judges of human nature or they would get some idea of what people really think of them.

God's blessings are a mighty reservoir; if we would have our souls irrigated from on high, we must raise the sluice gates of prayer and let the blessings in.

The most deluded man on earth is the one who imagines that respectability is a suit of clothes.

WOMEN'S HOME MISSIONS.

London, Ont., Mar. 23.—The Women's Home Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church began its seventh annual meeting to-day in St. Andrew's Church. The President, Mrs. John Somerville, presided, and there was an attendance of about 300 delegates. After devotional exercises, followed by warm words of welcome from Mrs. (Rev.) James Rollins, president of the London branch, reports of twenty-two branch societies were presented; also reports from a number of auxiliaries and mission bands not in the presbyteries. These outlined the work that had been done by the different organizations, and showed the energetic and progressive spirit that characterized all the organizations.

The report of the Board of Managers was presented by Mrs. Donald Macdonald. The report of the Life Membership Secretary, Miss Margaret Gardner, showed that during the year 75 new life members had been added since the first of April, 1909. The report also spoke of the improvements and gifts to the various hospitals in the West, the most important of which was the building of a nurses' home at Vegreville, installing an electric lighting and hot water plant in the hospital at the same place, enlarging and improving the Mission House at Ethelbert, and the installing of furnaces and other permanent improvements at Atlin. A paid secretary for publications, the report stated, had been appointed with very beneficial results. Realizing the advantage of educational work in dealing with the incoming foreigners in the West, the board had set aside \$2,250 for that work, \$800 of which was being spent in helping Galician students studying at Manitoba University.

The treasurer's report was presented by Miss Helen Macdonald, and showed a most gratifying financial standing. The receipts for the past year totalled \$23,632.48. The expenditures were:—To the hospital at Atlin, Tuelon, \$1,320; Teulon, \$2,480; Vegreville, \$1,800; Wakaw, \$1,570; Sifton, \$1,680; Ethelbert, \$938; and general expenses totalling \$14,230.

The hospital reports were presented by Mrs. H. M. Kipp, corresponding secretary, who reported for the six different hospitals at Atlin, Tuelon, Vegreville, Wakaw, Sifton, Ethelbert. The report dealt in detail with the work being done at these institutions and showed the very gratifying results that were following the efforts of the devoted workers in these difficult fields.

The organization report which was presented by Mrs. J. A. Macdonald, of Toronto, showed that during the year 108 new organizations had been added to the Woman's Home Missionary Society. Of these 5 are Presbyterian societies, 59 are auxiliaries, 35 are mission bands, and 9 are affiliated societies.

The report showed 22 Presbyteries in the general society. The five new Presbyteries are:—Chatham, Kingston and Barrie, in Ontario; Portage la Prairie, in Manitoba; and Lacombe, in Alberta. Red Deer, Alberta, was reported organized as a Presbytery society in 1906, but as no meeting was held, it was asked to drop its name from the list of Presbyteries.

The new Presbyteries of Kingston and Portage la Prairie show the largest increase of auxiliaries during the year, ten being added to each. Among the older Presbyteries, Hamilton leads with an addition of nine. Of the 22 Presbytery societies, 18 give a total increase of 69 auxiliaries. Chatham remains the same as last year, and Paris, Stratford, and Westminster show a total decrease of 8.

The report of Miss Margaret Gardner, the Life Membership Secretary, showed that during the year 75 members had been added to the roll, and since the close of the year six more, making 81 in all since the last report was given.

The Library Committee reported that many mission fields and hospitals have been supplied with books and reading matter.