

Book Reviews.

MEMOIR OF NORMAN McLEOD, D.D., by his brother, the Rev. Donald McLeod, B.A., Toronto: Belford Brothers, 484 pp.

This is by all odds the most popular book of the season. The Canadian edition, published by Belford Brothers of this city, has been a grand success. In anticipation of the appearance of this edition we devoted several columns of the *BRITISH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN* of 21st April, to a review of Dr. McLeod's life. It is unnecessary now to do more than recommend any of our readers who have not yet bought the book, to do so at once.

VISITOR'S GUIDE TO THE CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION AND PHILADELPHIA, 1876. Toronto: Belford Brothers.

We predict for this useful little work a large sale. No one can afford to leave for Philadelphia without buying a copy. It contains full particulars about routes, fares, the Centennial Exhibition, Exhibition Grounds, hotels and rates of charges, value of foreign coins, places of Amusement, etc. Excellent maps of Philadelphia and the Exhibition grounds are also given. The book is neatly printed, and, altogether is very creditable to the publishers.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA.

(Continued from third page.)

Rev. Andrew Wilson asked how that information had been obtained.

Rev. Dr. Cochrane said it had come through private letters and parties from Manitoba.

Rev. Principal Bryce (Winnipeg) thought it rather remarkable to attach so much importance to private letters when the writers might have made indiscreet statements, and it was well known that there were dissatisfied people everywhere. The statements might have been received from some of those people who were dissatisfied with Manitoba and everything connected with the north-west. He was sure he could satisfactorily reply to all the statements which had been made against the college. He was overwhelmed with astonishment to hear it said that there was any want of harmony between the two professors. About an hour previously some one had mentioned it to him, and that was the first time he had heard anything of the kind. In regard to any other matters he thought it would be better for him to answer any questions which might be asked; the charges were so vague that he did not know how to reply to them. In reply to an enquiry he said that at the time the college closed this year there was an average attendance of 82 or 83.

Hon. John McMurich asked how it was with regard to the previous year.

Principal Bryce said that that year there was a class for occasional students which there was not last year, and instruction in the junior department continued after that in the senior, which accounted for the small attendance at the time referred to.

Mr. McMurich asked if the occasional students were returned as such.

Principal Bryce said they were.

Rev. Prof. Hart said he was surprised to hear it stated that there was any want of harmony between Professor Bryce and himself. It was well known that things had taken place in the past in regard to which he had had reason to express opinions differing from those of Professor Bryce; but although there had been points on which they had agreed to differ, there had always been the utmost harmony between them in their intercourse and in their work. The Board of Management had changed the time for commencing and ending the classes last year, making it a month earlier in each case, and the report being made up to the end of March, several students did not appear in it who were on the roll.

Mr. James Croil was sorry that importance had been attached to private letters. In conversing with Governor Morris lately, that gentleman had told him that the college was an absolute necessity; but that it was not quite as effective as it might be. He (Mr. Croil) thought the college was doing very well under very difficult circumstances.

Rev. J. M. King thought also too much weight had been attached to private letters. He considered that in the state of Manitoba up till recently it would have been impossible for any human being to avoid offending some one. He believed that, as stated, Manitoba had full confidence in the college; but it was necessary that the same state of feeling with regard to it should exist throughout the church; and therefore he suggested that a committee should be appointed to confer with the professors and to take the whole situation of the college into consideration; and he thought as they could not report to this Assembly they should be empowered to act cautiously in the premises.

Rev. G. M. Grant moved "That the recommendations of the Montreal Committee on Manitoba College, and the reports now submitted, be referred to a small committee, with instructions to confer with the Professors in Manitoba College, consider the whole question and bring in a finding with regard to its present position and future support which may be satisfactory to the Assembly."

Rev. J. M. King seconded the motion. Rev. Andrew Wilson deprecated the interference in the affairs of the college, with the exception of those relating to its finances.

Rev. Dr. Waters objected to the amendments which had been made upon Dr. Cochrane's conduct in regard to this matter. Dr. Cochrane had only done his duty as a servant of the church. If private information was not accepted, they would have to depend entirely upon what was received from the college itself.

Rev. Principal Snodgrass made similar remarks with regard to Dr. Cochrane. Rev. Principal Caven contended that no

action should be taken with regard to any college except on official documents. He would not continue to serve any college for a year if every report of it which was brought in was made a ground for criticising his conduct in regard to it. He did not consider that the fact that there were fewer students one year than another should tell against a college.

Rev. Mr. Dick said he could not ask his congregation to contribute to the Home Mission Fund when colleges were supported out of it, and he would not do so.

Hon. John McMurich held that the funds for Home Missions and education should be kept entirely distinct.

Rev. Dr. Cochrane said in reply to the personal remarks with regard to him, that he had been urged to bring this matter up.

The motion was carried and a committee appointed.

WIDOWS, ORPHANS, AND MINISTERS.

Rev. Dr. Waters moved that a recommendation made by the Committee on Bills and Overtures be adopted, viz.: That the portion of the report of the Committee to prepare business for the next General Assembly; with reference to Ministers' Widows, and Orphans' Fund, and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, be sent down to Presbyteries for consideration, and that the existing committees be continued until next year.—Carried.

ANSWERS TO REASONS OF DISSENT.

Rev. Dr. Robb presented the second report of the committee appointed to prepare answers to the reasons for dissent in the Macdonnell case. It submitted the third answer in the following amended form:—

This reason rests on two assumptions, neither of which seems to your Committee to be well founded. First, That the chief end aimed at by the Assembly in the action complained of is to bring Mr. Macdonnell's views into accord with the doctrine held by the Church; whereas that end is secondarily and not directly aimed at. The granting of time for consideration was the result and desire to deal tenderly and leniently with a brother, as there seemed still some reason for hope that on more full consideration he would be able to define his position as to make further dealings unnecessary; and the fixing of the limit at one year arose from the circumstance that it was the shortest possible time in which a report can be presented to the Supreme Court; and, secondly, if the Committee understand this reason, it proceeds upon the assumption that the fixing of a time limit, within which Mr. Macdonnell is to report tends to hinder his mind from acting freely and fairly. This, your Committee affirm, cannot be since men are constantly called upon to decide important questions of truth and duty within very definite time limits. In illustration it is only necessary to cite Jonah iii. 4, "Yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown;" Hebrews iv. 7, "Again, He limiteth a certain day, saying in David, to-day after so long a time; as it is said, to-day if you will hear His voice." Your Committee would further add that the absence of such a time limit as that complained of would leave it open for a minister to remain permanently in the Church, whose avowed mental attitude towards an important doctrine of God's Word is not such as the Church demands in her accredited teachers.

Rev. Principal Caven was a little surprised at the portion of the answer, to which he had taken exception on the previous day, being returned when, as he thought, there had been a pretty general opinion against it expressed. His difficulty with regard to that still remained, and consequently he could not accept the answer.

Rev. Mr. McTavish said the Committee did not wish to draw any parallel between God's action and man's, but to show that the argument against the time limit was based on a fallacy, viz., that the human mind could not act freely and fairly when made subject to a time limit. The Committee wished to bring out the fact that the human mind could act and must act in many instances under a time limit.

Principal Caven said that if that part of answer were retained he would be obliged to move that it be recommitted again. The argument of Mr. McTavish to be of the slightest validity must be, that inasmuch as it was proper for God to prescribe such a time limit it was proper for them to do it. He (Principal Caven) believed in a time limit, but he would not rest it on that ground.

Rev. Prof. McLaren thought Principal Caven had merely overlooked the form in which the answer was given in. He (Prof. McLaren) did not think it was open to the objection Principal Caven had stated.

Rev. Dr. Robb said the question was as to whether the action of the human mind could be free and fair under a time limit; and they found men in the providence of God obliged constantly to act under a time limit. They found also that that obligation was perfectly consistent with the freedom of, and fairness to, the human mind; and not only that, but that such obligation was sometimes useful. The answer carefully avoided the introduction of the name of the Deity; it merely presented the human mind as acting under certain constraints.

Rev. Prof. McLaren remarked that it was necessary to answer the objection to a time limit in the "reason."

Rev. Mr. McTavish moved that the answer be adopted, and said that if it were recommitted he hoped another committee would be appointed, for he could find no other answer.

Rev. Dr. Patterson moved that the part of the answer in question be struck out.

Rev. Principal Caven withdrew his motion in favour of Dr. Patterson's. He suggested that the word "primarily" be substituted for "directly."

Rev. Dr. Robb accepted the last suggestion, but said that if the other portion of the answer were struck out, it would not be a reply to the reason of dissent.

After a little further discussion, Principal Caven said he would accept the answer if the illustrations were struck out.

Dr. Robb—You don't want the Scripture. (Laughter.)

The illustrations were accordingly struck out, and the answer, with the other verbal amendment, was then adopted.

It being one o'clock the Assembly adjourned.

AFTERNOON SEDERUNT.

The Assembly met again at three o'clock.

REGULATIONS.

Several regulations relating to procedure in connection with the Church were adopted *ad interim* with the understanding that they be dealt with at the next Assembly.

MEMORIAL FUND.

The following recommendation of a Committee appointed to mature a scheme for a Memorial Fund in commemoration of the Union was adopted:—

That thanks be tendered to the sub-Committee on a Memorial Fund for their diligence; that this Committee, however, do not recommend to the Assembly the prosecution of the object referred to, but rather that it should be urged upon all our congregations that the true memorial of the Union, in which we rejoice, would be in the quickening of the Church's life, and in the intensifying of its interest, and enlargement of its liberality in regard to all the schemes of the Church.

ACCOMMODATION.

Rev. Dr. Waters moved the adoption of a recommendation of the Committee on Bills and Overtures, that the Accommodation Committee be empowered to draw upon the General Fund of the Assembly to the extent of \$600. He remarked that a member of the Committee had stated that while the citizens of Toronto had done very well, there were still certain expenses which the Committee must meet. The motion was adopted.

BOUNDARIES OF PRESBYTERIES.

Rev. Mr. McTavish presented the report of the Committee on Boundaries of Presbyteries. It recommended:—

1. That the boundaries of the Presbyteries of Toronto and Barrie be not changed.

2. That the Presbyterial relations of

Tara, Tree, St. Johns, Walkerton, and North and West Brant remain as they are at present.

3. That the Assembly grant the separation of Calvin church, Rothsay, from Palmerston, and its connection with Moorfield, the united charge to be within the bounds and under the jurisdiction of the Guelph Presbytery; also the transference of Fenselton Falls and Somerville congregations, and of the congregation of Haliburton, from the Presbytery of Peterboro' to that of Lindsay; also the transference of the congregation of Colquhoun's Settlement from the Presbytery of Glengarry to that of Brockville.

4. That the Assembly sanction the erection of a new Presbytery to be designated the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew, to include all the congregations and mission stations within the Counties of Lanark, Renfrew, and Pontiac, the congregation of Kitley in the County of Leeds, and the Palmerston mission stations in the County of Frontenac.

5. That the Assembly declare that the boundaries of the Presbyteries of Brockville and Ottawa remain as at present, except in so far as they may be affected by the formation of the new Presbytery.

Rev. Mr. McTavish said with reference to the first recommendation that the Committee had met several times, and no one representing the Presbytery of Toronto or that of Barrie had appeared before them, and the Committee had not thought that they should go and look for information.

Rev. J. M. King said he had understood that the Committee would have invited to the parties when they were ready to deal with any particular matter. He moved that the overture from the Presbytery of Toronto asking that the bounds of that Presbytery be defined lie on the table till next year. Carried.

On motion of Principal Caven it was agreed that St. Johns, Walkerton, and North and West Brant be transferred to the Guelph Presbytery.

It was decided not to adopt the first change proposed in the third recommendation this year, and not to take any action with regard to the erection of the proposed new Presbytery this year.

The rest of the report was adopted.

MANITOBA COLLEGE.

Rev. G. M. Grant presented the report of the committee appointed in the forenoon with reference to the Manitoba College. It stated that after as much enquiry as possible under the circumstances the Committee found that the failure of the Ladies' College in Winnipeg had acted injuriously upon the Assembly's College, and they would recommend that the friends responsible for that enterprise endeavour to settle its affairs satisfactorily as soon as possible. The Committee found the affairs of the Manitoba College in a satisfactory state, and recommended that it be maintained in efficiency until the Government of the Province provided for higher education; also that no professor of the institution should accept any public appointment without the consent of the College Board, that a committee should be appointed to issue a circular to congregations throughout the country asking them to contribute to the support of the college; and also that the parent churches in Great Britain and Ireland be solicited to make grants in aid of it.

The report was adopted with some slight verbal amendments.

It being six o'clock the Assembly adjourned.

EVENING SEDERUNT.

WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

The report of the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund for the late Canada Presbyterian Church was read, and showed the total receipts last year to have been \$27,874.40, the amount paid to annuitants \$4,171.59, and the balance unexpended at the end of the year \$6,226.24. The state of the fund at that time was as follows:—Invested in municipal debentures, \$57,100; invested in mortgages, \$21,527.76; cash and temporary loans, \$6,226.89—total, \$84,854.15. The number of annuitants at the date of the report was thirty-two, and the death of the Rev. Mr. McAl' has added

another since. After deducting all expenses the fund increased during the year \$4,006.10.

The report of the same fund in connection with the late Church of Scotland showed that the amount of collections received from pastoral charges last year was \$1,758.08, while the previous year they reached \$2,101.52, several former liberal contributors having withheld their support last year. The total receipts were \$8,872.41, and after deducting expenses there was a balance on hand of \$2,000.08 to be added to the endowment fund, which at the date of the report amounted to \$82,169 invested in first class mortgages. There were thirty-five widows and thirty-six orphans entitled to participate in the fund.

The report of the Church of the Maritime Provinces showed the total receipts during the year to have been \$2,239.32; annuities paid, \$934; and the amount of the Endowment Fund was \$19,437.27. To the latter amount is to be added \$1,238.84 of interest on building society shares and certain dues payable, which brings the total amount of the fund up to about \$21,000. The reports were adopted.

Rev. Dr. Paterson moved that all ministers on the roll of the late Synod of Maritime Provinces in connection with the Church of Scotland, at the date of the Union, be entitled to the same privileges in connection with the fund upon fulfilment of the usual financial conditions. Carried.

AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS' FUND.

Rev. Mr. McTavish presented the report on the above fund in connection with the Canada Presbyterian Church. It showed the names on the roll last year to have been eighteen. The total of the payments to ministers was \$8,848.49. The total receipts during the year, including a balance of \$1,806.20 at the commencement, was \$5,155.05; at the end of the year there was a balance of \$1,817.12 over expenditure. The amount invested at the date of the report was \$5,500, exclusive of this balance of \$1,817.12.

Rev. Dr. Paterson submitted the report of the Church of the Maritime Provinces. The receipts during the year were \$601.50, and the payments \$250. The state of the fund at the end of the year was as follows: Amount invested, \$6,080.67; cash on hand, \$447.67—total, \$6,528.34.

The Assembly adjourned until this morning at nine o'clock, and it is expected it will finish its business in another sederunt. The Assembly met this morning, 28th June, at nine o'clock.

COLLEGE REPORTS.

The forenoon was occupied in receiving reports on the state of the various colleges.

In the course of conversation it was remarked that the financial position of the colleges were alarming, and that increased endowment of them was absolutely necessary.

Rev. Principal Snodgrass, in submitting the report in regard to Queen's College, pointed out that one of the subjects of matriculation at that institution was the Westminster Confession of Faith; and remarked that he had students well up in that admirable compendium of Christian doctrine when they entered the college.

Rev. M. Laing observed that of course they understood it thoroughly at the end of their course.

Rev. Mr. Mitchell (Mitchell) moved that an additional professor be appointed in the faculty of theology in Queen's College, in accordance with a recommendation in the report.

Rev. Mr. Laing moved an amendment to the effect that in view of the deficiencies in income reported by the several colleges, the many special claims on the liberality of the Church during the coming year, and the present depressed financial state of the country, it was not at present expedient to sanction the appointment of another theological professor, whereby the pecuniary obligations of the Church would be increased.

Rev. Principal Snodgrass thought it would be hardly fair to Queen's College to adopt such a motion as the latter in view of the fact that a report had been adopted, in connection with which considerable additional expenditure in connection with Knox College had been foreshadowed.

Hon. John McMurich cautioned them against incurring additional obligations at present. Economy was necessary all round. He looked with no small degree of alarm on the present financial condition of the Church.

After a long discussion it was ultimately decided, on the suggestion of the Rev. Principal Snodgrass, to adopt no resolution with regard to the appointment of an additional theological professor this year.

It being one o'clock the Assembly adjourned.

AFTERNOON SEDERUNT.

The afternoon session opened with about twenty members present.

It was recommended that Rev. J. Springer be re-appointed exegetical lecturer for Montreal College.

Principal Snodgrass was opposed to the proposition, and moved that the appointment be not made.

Rev. Mr. Blaine seconded the motion.

Rev. Dr. McVicar characterized the motion as vexatious, and urged that before that step were taken there should be an enquiry into the state of the colleges before the opinion was expressed that the colleges were not doing their work properly.

Rev. Dr. McKerrass asked why two professors were not enough for Montreal College while there were only two at Queen's College.

Rev. Dr. Waters thought that with such a thin house it would not be well to adopt any such resolution.

Rev. Professor McLaren moved in amendment that the recommendation be adopted.

The amendment was carried.

The recommendation that the Rev. C. A. Doudiet should be French Professor was next considered.

Prof. Campbell moved that Mr. Doudiet be French lecturer.

The motion was carried.

RECEPTION OF MINISTERS.

The report of the Committee on the Re-

ception of Ministers from other bodies was read by Dr. Reid. It recommended the reception of the following as ministers:—J. Russell, late minister of the Congregational Church, recommended by the Presbytery of St. John; Rev. W. Stephenson, formerly Methodist minister, recommended by the Presbytery of Hamilton; Rev. D. M. McGregor, formerly a Congregational minister; Rev. D. W. Cameron, formerly a minister of the Presbyterian Church of the United States; Rev. T. T. Johnston, formerly minister of the Presbyterian Church in the United States; Rev. J. D. West, B.A., from the Church in the United States; Rev. James B. Lantyne, late minister of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland at Kingston, Jamaica; Rev. John Nicholls, formerly Primitive Methodist minister at Montreal; Rev. E. Hawthorne, of the Presbyterian Church of North America; Rev. David Mann and Rev. Charles Brunnett, of the Presbyterian Church; Rev. W. F. Clark, formerly Congregational minister. The applications of Rev. Elijah J. Rock and J. K. Ross were not entertained. It also recommended the reception of Mr. J. A. Andrew, formerly Methodist minister, to be admitted as divinity student of the first year. Mr. Benjamin Ourler, formerly French Romish priest, to be associated with the French Evangelization until he has gone through a prescribed course to qualify him as a minister; W. O. Armstrong to be a licentiate of the Church, and W. Frazel to be a licentiate.

The report was adopted.

STUDENTS.

Rev. Principal Caven read the report of the Committee on the licensing of students, which was read and adopted.

THE RECORD.

The report of the committee on the *Presbyterian Record* was received and adopted, and the thanks of the Assembly were given to the committee and to the editor.

FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

Rev. Professor Campbell read the report of the committee appointed to frame a deliverance on the French Evangelization work. The report recommended that the General Assembly should record its gratitude to God for the signal success of the work during the past year, and that in order to continue it Rev. C. A. Tanner should be retained, and that an additional agent be appointed. Professor Campbell appealed to the Assembly for the help of an additional agent, which was necessary in order to secure the success of the scheme.

The recommendation was agreed to, on motion of Principal McVicar, seconded by Rev. Dr. Robb.

On motion of Rev. Professor Campbell, Rev. R. H. Warden was appointed to fill the new office.

BURTON MISSION.

The report of the Committee on the Burton Mission was read by the Secretary. It stated that the receipts of the year in aid of that mission were \$778; and there was a balance in hand of \$10.

The report was adopted.

FINANCE.

The report of the Finance Committee on the various schemes of the church already published was read by Rev. Dr. Reid, and received.

ST. ANNE'S, ILLINOIS.

The application for the transfer of St. Anne's Church, near Chatham, to the Presbyterian Church of the United States, was granted.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

The report of the Committee on Sabbath Observance, which recommended the use of the term Sabbath, or Lord's Day, instead of the heathen term Sunday, and the petitioning of the legislatures to prohibit traffic on the canals, was read and received.

THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

A memorial from the Dominion Temperance Alliance was read, calling the attention of the Assembly to the liquor traffic, and soliciting its aid in the suppression of the traffic.

Principal Caven moved that the document should be received, and that the Assembly should express its desire to take part in any well-directed efforts for the removal of the evil results of intemperance. The motion was adopted.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

A communication from the Synod of the Diocese of Toronto was read on the advisability of petitioning the Legislature for a shortening of the school hours, in order to give an opportunity for religious instruction in the public schools.

It was referred to the Committee on the use of the Bible in the Common Schools.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

Overtures from the Presbyteries of Ottawa and Guelph, and the Synod of Hamilton and London, anent the use of the Hymn Book, were laid over till next year.

Several other overtures, including one concerning a sustentation fund for the ministry, were laid over.

The application of the Rev. A. B. Kennedy to be admitted to the ministry, was allowed to be withdrawn, as Mr. Kennedy wished to attend a session of Knox College.

A Committee was appointed, consisting of the Moderator, Principal Caven, Principal Snodgrass, and Professor McLaren, to draft an address to the Governor-General.

The Committee on Correspondence was re-appointed, with power to appoint delegates to the Home Church.

After some further routine business, the General Assembly adjourned to meet next year at Halifax.

Nothing so strongly indicates the man of pure and wholesome thought as habitual purity of speech. By his conversation among his own kind, you may always pretty accurately form an opinion as to the moral worth of a man. It is there where no restraint is supposed to be placed upon his words, that you discover his true nature. If he is given to looseness of discourse, or his mind wanders in mixed discussions of subjects prescribed in mixed company or respectable society, you may justly mark him as one with whom association is undesirable.