

WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The 7th annual meeting took place at Hamilton, on Tuesday and Wednesday, 8th and 9th April. The meetings were held in the beautiful new school-room of St. Paul's Church and nothing could exceed the kind hospitality with which the Hamilton ladies welcomed the many delegates from different parts of Ontario and Quebec, as well as the ladies who represented the sister societies in other churches.

The first meeting was opened at half-past ten on Tuesday morning by devotional exercises conducted by the President, Mrs. Ewart, assisted by Miss Stewart of Hamilton, and Mrs. Harvie, of Toronto. The business of this meeting consisted of the Address of Welcome, by Mrs. Fletcher, of Hamilton and reply by Mrs. Stewart, of Uxbridge, the President's Address and the appointment of the Nominating Committee, and the consideration of several recommendations submitted by the Board of Management.

The afternoon meeting was opened with devotional exercises, led by Mrs. Cranzell, of Ottawa. The Foreign secretary, Mrs. Harvie, presented the report of the society's foreign work during the year. The society now supports three lady missionaries at Indore, Central India, aids in the maintenance of five schools for the Indian children of our own North-West Territory, and a girl's school has this year been erected in Tamsui, Formosa. This building is of cut stone and is situated near Oxford College; it was lately opened for work.

An address was delivered by Mrs. Crombie, of St. Anne's, lately returned from China, on Mission Work there. The following delegates then presented greetings from the societies which they represented and gave some interesting particulars of their work:—Mrs. Blackstock, of Toronto, from the society of the Methodist Church; Mrs. Stewart, of Hamilton, from that of the Baptist Church; Mrs. Archibald Campbell, of Montreal, from the Montreal Woman's Missionary Society, and Miss Haight, of Toronto, from the Canadian Woman's Board of Missions.

The Home secretary, Miss Topp, presented the report of the home work. There are now (as far as reported) 2,515 members (of which 940 are members of the General Society); sixteen life members; six Presbyterian Societies; sixteen Mission Bands, and eighty-nine Auxiliary Societies.

The Financial Statement was presented by the treasurer, Mrs. King, showing the following accounts:—

Contributed by Auxiliaries.....	\$6,068 87
Contributed by Mission Bands ..	1,285 72
Contributions from all sources ..	7,656 62
Expenses.....	350 23
Balance on hand.....	7,306 39

The report of the Board of Management was read by Mrs. MacMurchy. These reports and statements were received and adopted by the society. The report of the Nominating Committee was then brought in and unanimously adopted by the society, as follows:—

President, Mrs. Ewart; vice-presidents, Mrs. McLaren, Mrs. McMurrich, Mrs. McDonnell, Mrs. W. Reid, and all the presidents of Presbyterian and Auxiliary societies and Mission Bands. Recording secretary, Mrs. MacMurchy; Home secretary, Mrs. H. Campbell; Foreign secretary, Mrs. Harvie; treasurer, Mrs. MacLennan.

General Committee.—Mrs. Morrison, Ormstown; Mrs. R. Morrison, Beaverton; Mrs. McCaughey, Seaford; Mrs. McMurry, Port Perry; Miss Harmon, Ottawa; Miss E. Young, Hamilton; Mrs. Bryce, Parkdale; Mrs. Mutch, Brockton; Mrs. H. H. McLachlan, Mrs. Gregg, Mrs. H. Miller; Mrs. J. M. Cameron, Mrs. Milligan, Mrs. Thom, Mrs. Crombie, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. McLachlan, Mrs. Kirkland, Mrs. W. M. Clark, Mrs. J. Y. Reid, Mrs. J. Kerr, Mrs. Telfer, Mrs. Blaikie, Mrs. McCracken, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Gilray.

Mrs. Gordon, of Harrington, conducted the closing devotional exercises of this meeting.

In the evening a social meeting was held in McNab Street Church school-room, which was tastefully decorated with flowers and mottoes by the thoughtful kindness of the young ladies of the Hamilton Mission bands; the good cheer provided and the hospitality of the enterprisers were beyond praise.

A public meeting followed at which addresses were delivered by Rev. Dr. McLaren, Rev. J. W. A. Stewart, of Hamilton, and Rev. Dr. Wardrope, convener of the Assembly's Foreign Mission Committee, who occupied the chair. A very large audience was present at this meeting, as well as at all the others.

The newly elected general committee held its first meeting on Wednesday morning, some business in regard to various matters being transacted.

The closing meeting held on Wednesday afternoon was opened by devotional exercises, led by Mrs. John McEwen, of Toronto. The reports of the Presbyterian societies were presented by their respective representatives, as follows:—Miss McIlwraith, Hamilton; Miss Gordon, Whitby; Miss Haultain, Peterborough; Miss Jackson, Lindsay; Mrs. McKenzie, Lanark and Renfrew; Mrs. Steele, Glengarry.

The Home secretary read the reports of the Auxiliaries and Mission bands.

Mrs. Wilson of St. Mary's, read a paper on the subject of "Brahminism." Three invitations were then presented to the society for the next annual meeting, from London, Toronto, and Ottawa. After some consideration, it was decided to accept the invitation from Ottawa.

Some general business was brought before the society and it was decided that the presidents of the Mission bands should hold the same position on the Board as the presidents of Auxiliary societies. After informal conversation in which a number of the ladies joined, votes of thanks were passed to the Hamilton ladies, the Rev. Dr. Reid, the managers of St. Paul's and McNab Street Churches, and the Grand Trunk Railway. A collection was taken up, by which the sum at the disposal of the society was increased to \$7,390, which it was decided to remit to the Assembly's Foreign Mission Committee, through Rev. Dr. Reid. This amount, together with a sum of over \$400 remaining

in the hands of the Foreign Mission Committee since last year, more than completes the \$7,800 which is the estimate of the sum for the society's work in 1884.

The interesting and successful sessions of the eighth annual meeting were closed with devotional exercises, led by Mrs. McLaren, of Toronto.

SYNOD OF TORONTO AND KINGSTON.

The Conference on the State of Religion was held at Belleville on the 7th inst. Rev. S. Houston, of Kingston, spoke of consecration in ministers' life and work, and Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, of Toronto, on consecration in the life and work of membership. An interesting discussion followed, in which Rev. D. Mitchell, Belleville; Rev. P. McF. McLeod, Toronto; Messrs. A. G. Northrup, J. S. Campbell, Belleville; Rev. D. Wishart, Madoc, and Rev. J. Carmichael, Norwood, took part. Rev. P. McF. McLeod, Toronto, introduced the subject of what was the best method of ascertaining the state of religion in their congregations. The question as to what place the exposition of the Scripture should hold in public worship was treated by Rev. J. Somerville, of Owen Sound. "The Circulation of Religious Literature in and by the Church," by Rev. J. M. Cameron, Toronto; "How to Increase the Efficiency of the Eldership," by Mr. Thomas Yellowlees, Bowmanville; and "The Sovereignty of God in Relation to Revivals," by Rev. J. Little, Bowmanville.

The Synod met in St. Andrew's Church, Belleville. The Rev. A. A. Drummond, of Newcastle, the ex-moderator, preached the annual sermon. He prefaced the discourse by a reference to the Rev. James Cameron Chatsworth, the moderator appointed at the last meeting, but who had been removed by death some time ago. He chose for his text "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear then He shall receive a crown of glory," 1 Peter ii. 4. The Rev. Alexander Young, Napanee, was elected moderator.

WEDNESDAY.

The first hour was spent in devotional exercises. The applications of the respective Presbyteries for leave to license students were granted.

The action of the Owen Sound Presbytery in reference to the induction of a member was sanctioned.

The appeal of the Rev. T. S. Chambers against the decision of the Kingston Presbytery in dealing with the charge preferred against Rev. J. Gallagher, pastor of St. John's Church, Pittsburgh, was brought up. Mr. Gallagher was charged with marrying last September John F. Gibson to Sarah Sharp, sister to his first wife, deceased, contrary to the law of the Church, both parties to the marriage being in full communion of the Church. The principal appellant, Mr. Chambers, was heard. He regretted that he had to lay this charge, but stated his action was merely governed by a pure sense of duty. He related the facts of the case connected with the marriage.

The Rev. F. McQuail, the other appellant, stated the grounds upon which he became a party to bringing the matter before this court.

Rev. Mr. Wilkins said the Presbytery of Kingston had not definitely disposed of the case, as they were still awaiting the report of the Committee of the General Assembly.

Rev. Mr. Gallagher declined to discuss the question, as he had not been summoned to the bar to defend the charge laid against him by Mr. Chambers. He said he was still awaiting the decision of the Presbytery.

Rev. H. M. Parsons, Toronto, moved that the appeal be dismissed, and that the Presbytery go on and deal with the case.

Rev. D. J. Macdonnell seconded the resolution. He thought the Presbytery had taken a very reasonable view of the case, inasmuch as the General Assembly had been for some time, and was still, considering what was the law of the Church in regard to marriage with a deceased wife's sister.

Rev. Prof. Gregg, Toronto, was sure a breach of the law of the Church had been committed by Mr. Gallagher. In view of the action of the House of Commons on the subject, he thought it was all the more important that this court should deal with the question without further delay. He thought that Mr. Gallagher should acknowledge he had done wrong. If he did not do this the Synod should express its disapproval of his action in marrying Mr. Gibson to his deceased wife's sister. He moved the amendment that the Synod disapprove of Mr. Gallagher's action in the matter.

Rev. A. Wilson seconded the amendment. Such a charge hanging over the accused should be disposed of without delay. It had been admitted on all hands that Mr. Gallagher was in the wrong, therefore he should be taught that the standards of the Church were not to be tampered with. He thought that in this case the Synod ought to have no hesitation in expressing their disapproval of Mr. Gallagher's conduct.

Mr. James Brown, elder, thought the charge was a serious one. If the appeal was dismissed the Synod would be opening a road for similar violations of the law of the Church.

Rev. P. McF. McLeod thought Mr. Gallagher should not be dealt with too harshly here, when he had so willingly left his case in the hands of the Presbytery, whose decision he was still awaiting.

The original motion was carried and the appeal dismissed. Dr. Gregg stated that he dissented from the finding of the Synod on the ground that they permitted an admitted violation of the laws of the Church.

Revs. D. J. Macdonnell and P. McLeod were chosen to support the finding of the Synod before the General Assembly.

The action of the Presbytery of Lindsay in setting aside the call from the congregation of Barrie to the Rev. E. Cockburn, of Uxbridge, was then discussed. The matter was finally disposed of by the Synod expressing its disapproval of the action taken by Lindsay Presbytery.

The Synod on invitation extended by Rev. D. L. McCrae, decided to meet next year at Cobourg on the first Tuesday in May.

At the evening session, Rev. A. Wilson presented the report of the Committee on Sabbath Observance, which made several important recommendations, and denounced in a vigorous manner many customs, such as social visiting, Sunday funerals where unnecessary, public processions with banners and drums to attract public attention as not calculated for the proper observance of the Sabbath. The Committee protested against railways running trains on Sunday, and made reference to many fatalities that have occurred since the new departure. A Dominion Act regulating Sabbath observance was recommended.

The report on the State of Religion was read by Rev. D. Mitchell in the absence of the convener. The report dealt with the importance of Sabbath school work and the conversion of the young. It was held that revivals as a special means of grace had been fraught with a great deal of good. Intemperance was the principal evil, and home religion was found to be neglected. One Presbytery strongly reported to the Committee the evil arising out of Sabbath desecration by beating drums and tambourines on the street on Sunday. Rev. Mr. Milligan, Toronto, presented the report on Sabbath-schools, which was not as satisfactory as the Committee wished for. The religious training of the young was sadly neglected, as well as Sabbath School Conferences.

THURSDAY.

The consideration of the Overture on College Consolidation from the Presbytery of Whitby was considered. The overture was supported by Rev. S. H. Eastman, Oshawa, and Rev. A. Leslie, Newtonville. The proposal was energetically opposed by Principal Grant, of Kingston, who stated the difficulties in the way of securing the object contemplated by the Overture. The cost he said of amalgamating Knox and Queen's Colleges at Toronto would be at least a quarter of a million to the Church for the privilege of breathing the pure air of Toronto. He had no objection to the Whitby Presbytery taking their overture to the General Assembly, but they should not come before the court with it. If they wished the Assembly to take hold of the matter the prosecutors should present some tangible scheme, if they wish their petition to receive any notice whatever. In concluding he said it was an outrage on civilization for men to say that the Presbyterian colleges were running behind. Presbyterians should be above making such an assertion.

Rev. R. Wallace, Toronto, heartily endorsed Dr. Grant's views. Rev. Dr. Reid was opposed to agitation to reduce the colleges, especially as no tangible scheme for effecting a change was presented. When such a scheme is put forth, even then a Church Court is not the place to agitate the matter. Rev. G. M. Milligan asked Rev. S. H. Eastman to withdraw the overture from the Whitby Presbytery. Rev. J. G. Campbell moved that the overture be not transmitted to the General Assembly. Rev. Dr. McLaren would rather see a college endowment inaugurated than an agitation started for the consolidation of colleges without some practical scheme being submitted. The gentleman who attacked the colleges through the press some time ago received a rebuke from Dr. McLaren. Rev. Mr. Eastman replied briefly to Dr. Grant, after which he withdrew the overture.

Mr. James Brown submitted the treasurer's report of the Synod for the year, showing that the expenditure for the year was \$201, leaving a balance on hand of \$47.60.

Rev. Dr. McLaren presented the report of the Committee on St. Andrew's Church, Darlington and Bowmanville. The Committee recommended that if necessary the Rev. A. Drummond should defend a suit in court to retain the church property. The report was received and adopted.

In order to ensure proper legislation for the observance of the Sabbath, Dr. McLaren moved that a committee be appointed to confer with the other Synod of the Dominion and to have a bill sent to the Dominion House to secure the better observance of the Sabbath. This was carried.

The committee appointed for the purpose submitted a draft minute referring to the death of the late moderator, the Rev. James Cameron. The minute was adopted. A copy of the resolution was ordered to be sent to the bereaved widow.

Rev. J. Cumberland presented the sixth annual report of Committee on Temperance. The report was not as satisfactory as the committee intended, owing largely to the lateness in sending out the circular calling for the reports of the sessions on this subject. Only forty-four sessions out of over two hundred had reported to the committee. Most of the officers of the Church were reported to be total abstainers, which the committee thought would in time wield a power of influence with other members of the congregation. The report also advocated the extension of the franchise to women in temperance questions. The report was received and the recommendations adopted.

Rev. P. McLeod advocated the formation of temperance societies in connection with their churches. Rev. R. Wallace said that through these societies the Church of England in the Dominion had gained a position in reference to the temperance question never before held by them. Rev. Dr. Reid agreed that these societies had done a vast amount of good, but if the ministers urged the formation of Bands of Hope their action would be more in accordance with the past history of the Church. Rev. G. M. Milligan would exceedingly regret to follow the Church of England on the temperance question. The ministers should be left to pursue whatever course they chose as they had reason to be encouraged by their past history. The clause in the report recommending ministers to join in the temperance agitation was withdrawn by Rev. J. Cumberland, when Rev. P. McLeod moved, seconded by Rev. R. Wallace, "That the General Assembly be asked to authorize Presbyterian temperance association on the lines adopted by Presbyterian polity." Carried.

Rev. P. McF. McLeod laid before the Synod an overture from the Committee to the General Assembly, requesting them to appoint a Committee to consider the advisability of establishing a Presbyterian publishing house in the Dominion. The memorial was agreed to without discussion.

After disposing of several items of business of an unimportant nature the Synod adjourned.