

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

VOL. 22

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28th, 1893.

No. 26.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

MEETING AT BRANTFORD.

THIRD DAY, EVENING SEDERUNT.

This is the day usually devoted to a popular meeting to take up the subject of F. Missions. The meeting this year was unique both in the number of foreign missionaries of our Church on the platform and in the intense interest raised. But ten minutes were allowed to each speaker and the rule was inexorably adhered to. Two of our female medical missionaries, Miss Beatty, M.D., and Miss Oliver, M.D., of the India Mission, were introduced to the Assembly and given seats upon the platform. After addresses by the two Foreign Mission Secretaries of our Church, Rev. J. A. Macdonald, missionary to the Indians at Alberni, B. C., was called upon, and gave interesting details of work among his people in the Pacific Province.

Rev. J. A. MacVicar, who had just returned from Honan, China, was the next speaker. The story of the thrilling experience, endurance, and hardships which our missionaries in China passed through during the anxious months of last year was attentively listened to and brought vividly home to his hearers the heroism of our staff in that far-off land.

Rev. W. A. Wilson, of Neemuch, whose presence and voice during his furlough in Canada, have made him familiar to many, was next introduced. A stirring appeal for more help for India from our sixteen missionaries now there, was presented by Mr. W., and pressed home with such earnestness as only returned missionaries who know the greatness of the need, can show.

Our missionary among the Chinese on the Pacific coast, Rev. A. B. Winchester, was the next to speak. He ably took the part of the 10,000 Chinese among whom he labours: referred to the miseries inflicted on the Chinese by the opium traffic, and maintained that all we could do was but a small recompense for the evils which had thereby been inflicted upon them.

The climax of interest in the meeting was reached by the introduction of the veteran, venerable, and now far-famed missionary of the New Hebrides, Rev. Dr. J. G. Paton. The entire audience rose to welcome him, as was most meet. On behalf of the mission so dear to his heart he dwelt especially upon the desire of our Church to hand over its work in the New Hebrides, with all its honoured, martyr history, to the care of the Australian Church. From the state of things in Australia, the time is most inopportune. "If the mission was given over to the Australian Church, it would be set back twenty years. Do not dear fathers and brethren, do not, dear Moderator, do not give up such a work, but once more consider your decision and continue your work where it has been so signally blessed in the past." The appeal was indescribably touching, the pleader's voice trembling with emotion, and many were moved to tears.

The proceedings closed at 10.30 p.m.

FOURTH DAY, SATURDAY, JUNE 17th.

This was a field day for the colleges. The first to present its report was that at Halifax, presented by Rev. D. M. Gordon, of that city. This college is in a better position than ever. An appeal made to the people was so successful as to leave a balance in favour of the college of \$561.05, besides the teaching staff has been added to. The report was adopted, on motion of Chief Justice Taylor, Winnipeg, and Rev. Dr. Cochrane. The report of Morris College was presented by Rev.

K. McLennan, of Point Levis, Que. The claims of the college were referred to and the good work it does in furnishing supply of preaching in a needy region, which but for it could not be got. The college is much in want of funds, \$3,000 having been borrowed to meet expenses. The report was adopted in a motion expressing sympathy with the College in its straits, commending it to the Church's support and appointing a committee to take counsel with the Board of Governors and report to next Assembly.

The report of Montreal College was brought before the Assembly by D. Morrice, Esq., of Montreal. In the report Rev. Dr. MacVicar was highly complimented on the splendid manner in which he had carried out as Principal the great work he has had charge of in this college. Having last April completed the twenty-fifth year of his principalship, the graduates and friends of the institution took advantage of the closing convocation to present an address and a substantial recognition of his long and able services. The Board recommended that at some time convenient for Dr. MacVicar he be relieved of his duties for a time to enable him to travel abroad. During the year the scholarship fund had been increased by generous supporters, so that means to establish four new scholarships had been provided. The donors are Mr. Thomas Houston, of Sarnia; the late Miss Catherine Ross, of Renfrew, and Rev. Jas. Sinclair, of Huntley Township. The report was adopted.

The next college reported from was that of Queen's, Kingston. This was done by Principal Grant. Reference was made in the report to the steps taken at last Assembly to bring this college into closer relation to the Church than it has hitherto had. The trustees of the college were pleased with this action of the Assembly, and gladly lent their aid in bringing it about. The history of the college in the past was reviewed, its progress and noble work for the Church and the country. With regard to appointment of professors, the report states that the charter of the University requires that no one should be appointed a professor in the theological department who might be considered unsuitable by the Church, and therefore that such appointments should be reported to the next Assembly after they were made and be subject to its veto. The trustees could not appoint any person on the theological staff except a minister of good standing. The Assembly then had in the constitutional way, complete control over the theological professors. The decision in the report was deferred until the general report was disposed of, reserving that part which dealt with the relation of the college to the Assembly until the report of the committee appointed at last Assembly on the relation of the theological colleges to the Church, should come up.

The report on Knox College was presented by Mr. W. Mortimer Clark, of Toronto. Twenty-seven students graduated last year, a larger number than any previous year in the history of the college. The total number of students enrolled was 115, exclusive of about 20 more attending University College, Toronto, with a view to the ministry of the Church. The total income was \$19,970.74, and the expenditure was \$20,291.14. The work of the college is increasing, while congregational contributions for its support have fallen off to the extent of \$620. This deficiency, the Board states, is due largely to misapprehension on the part of the Church, whereby it is supposed that the returns from the Endowment Fund are adequate to meet all the ordinary expenses of the college, which is far from being the

case, even under favorable circumstances, and is still more so at present owing to the increasing difficulty of making profitable investments and the low rate of interest which it is now only possible to get on first-class mortgages. Hence, the college must still largely depend upon the increased liberality of the Church. It is a fact to be much lamented that upwards of 300 congregations in the constituency of this college, contribute nothing to its support. A matter occupying the attention of the Board, and which they are anxious to carry into effect just as soon as funds can be obtained for it, is the appointment of a permanent officer or professor to take charge of the preparatory department of the college, which the Board considers to be a greatly needed improvement. The report of the college as presented was adopted.

The afternoon of Saturday was spent by the Assembly in social enjoyment, in the shape of a drive through the surrounding country. The English Institute, the historic Mohawk church and Bow Park farm were visited, and at the latter place the whole party was entertained to luncheon by Mr. and Mrs. Hope.

The evening was devoted to a reception tendered to the Assembly by the Ladies' College, of Brantford, at which music, recitations and refreshments were provided by the students in a manner pleasing to all.

On Sabbath the Rev. D. M. Gordon, Halifax, preached in the morning in Zion church. In the afternoon the Communion of the Lord's Supper was observed by the members of the Assembly, as well as others. The Rev. Dr. Sedgwick, Moderator, presiding, and Revs. Dr. Caven and Thompson assisting. In the evening the Rev. Dr. J. G. Paton preached, giving many interesting and thrilling narratives of himself and other missionaries in their work among the heathen, and telling of the triumphs of Christianity in the New Hebrides.

A large number of the members of Assembly conducted services in the other churches of the city.

FIFTH DAY, MONDAY.

The members of Assembly entered upon work to-day with great vigour, refreshed by Saturday's outing and the Sabbath's rest and worship. Preliminary to entering upon work, the intimation was made that Rev. Dr. Thompson, of Sarnia, had presented 200 copies of his new work, "Lamb of the Fold," for free distribution among members of the Assembly. This announcement was hailed with applause, and thanks tendered to Dr. Thompson for his generous gift.

The report of Brantford Ladies' College was then presented by Rev. Dr. Cochrane, Governor. The attendance, the report stated, was the largest on record, viz., 68 boarders and 77 day pupils. The teaching staff was complete in every department, and the year's work had been in all respects most satisfactory. Rev. Dr. J. K. Smith, of Port Hope, moved, and Rev. Robt. Hamilton, of Motherwell, seconded the adoption of the report, which was carried.

Manitoba College report was laid before the Assembly by Chief Justice Taylor, of Winnipeg. It was in every respect most encouraging. In last report 135 students were in attendance in arts and theology, now, at last session, 145 were in the college, of whom 95 went up to the examinations in Manitoba University. In the theological classes now in session, 27 students are attending.

Including a balance on hand of \$1,677.08 at the beginning of the year, the total receipts have been \$16,917.97, which

includes for class fees and board, \$5,820, being an increase over last year of \$567, chiefly from fees, as the residence has only lately been occupied by students. The expenditure has been \$15,873.50, leaving on hand a balance of \$1,554.47. Paid for salaries of professors and tutors, not including that of Principal, \$7,950, as against \$6,767.70, last year. The Endowment Fund now amounts to \$45,715, and the Building Fund to \$34,641. Additions to the college have doubled its capacity, at a cost of \$44,000. Naturally in the report reference was made to the summer session, now being held, and gratification expressed at the success of an experiment which caused much anxiety to the Church. The report was adopted upon motion of Prof. McLaren, of Knox College.

Chief Justice Taylor also presented the report of the Church and Manse Building Fund. From this most useful and valuable fund, assistance had during the year been given in the erection of fifteen churches and six manses. Additional aid was given to three other structures built and assisted last year. The total amount of help given has been \$7,200, and the value of the buildings is estimated at \$30,150. Assistance is given from this fund both by loan and free grant, the latter having been \$1,450, and the former, \$5,750. The claims on this fund over the vast territory covered by its operations, are rapidly increasing, and earnest appeals for increased support come from the Committee. The report claims that no better work has been done by any of our Church's funds than by this, since it was called into existence eleven years ago. In that time, 196 churches and 56 manses have been erected by means of it, whose value amounts to \$350,000. When the Board began its work there were only 18 churches and three manses belonging to the Presbyterian Church. On motion of Rev. D. M. Gordon and Principal Caven, the report was adopted.

THE CHURCH AND HER COLLEGES.

As the result of a good deal of discussion at last Assembly, a committee was appointed to take into consideration the relation of all the colleges to the Church. This committee now reported through the Rev. D. M. Gordon, of Halifax. This report had to deal especially with the mode of the appointment of professors in the various colleges in which diversity of practice prevails, and to suggest some plan by which uniformity may be secured. Knox College, Montreal, Manitoba and Halifax Presbyterian colleges are substantially on the same footing, their boards of management and professors being appointed by the Assembly.

At the time of the union it was decided that the United Church should not be required to appoint trustees for the arts department, nor for the theological department, so that the relation of Queen's College is not now so close to the United Church as it was formerly to the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland. Its theological professors, however, must be ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. Special legislation will be required to bring this college into as close a relation with the United Church as that of the other colleges, and the committee was of the opinion that the Board of Trustees of Queen's University should be requested to consider the advisability of taking action in this direction.

A similar statement was made in regard to the relations of Morris College, Quebec.

(Continued on page 406.)