

the largest in the Presbyterian Church, and he possesses the joy of knowing that every member is as loyal and true to him as he has been throughout to each one of them.

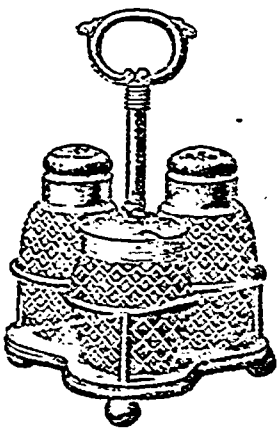
"The reverend gentleman apart from his duties as pastor has taken part in every good work which has had for its aim and object the advancement of the city of Brantford, and we may be allowed to say the Dominion of Canada as a whole. The amount of work he performs is simply marvellous, and the *Courier*, in conjunction with countless others, hopes that he may long be spared to continue doing good here and elsewhere throughout the Dominion."

ENGLISH PRESBYTERIAN SYNOD.

Newcastle-on-Tyne was the scene of the meeting of this Synod. Since the days of Knox Presbyterianism has had a footing in the place and now it is influential in the city and surrounding district. The Presbytery to which it belongs contains 45 congregations, a membership of 12,556 and an income for all purposes of over \$162,000. The attendance this year is very large including 300 ministerial members, and of 297 congregations, 293 have sent elders. The Rev. Dr. Muir, of Egremont, the retiring Moderator, preached from Acts i. 8, "Ye shall receive power," etc. "The presence and power of the Holy Spirit the Church's supreme need" was the subject, and the discourse was admirable. The Rev. Richard Leitch, M.A., of Newcastle, by a cordial and unanimous vote was chosen Moderator. He was long an intimate friend and co-worker with the late Rev. Principal Cairns. According to the prevailing custom among Presbyterian bodies in Britain he delivered an elaborate opening address taking for his subject, "A needed revival of English Puritanism," the occasion for his taking this subject being the harmful influences of the Sacerdotal Revival, which has taken place in England within the past fifty years. "A revival of English Puritanism," he said, "meant a revival of all that was purest and best in reformation theology, of doctrinal preaching, of Christian heroism, of family worship, of self-sacrificing zeal for God, of a love for the Bible and the Lord's day, and of those great truths which are embodied in our Protestant creeds and confessions, and which form the staple of God's revealed mind and will." When these disappeared, theology languished and spiritual religion became almost unknown. One of the great needs of the present day was a revival of the preaching spirit and power of Puritanism. If our churches ever become mere music halls, and our religious services, religious concerts, then the power of the church would wane, and (he added with an emphasis which the Synod audibly endorsed) it would deserve to wane.

On the morning of the second day, Tuesday, the Synod observed the Lord's supper. After that delegates were received from the Free and United Presbyterian Churches of Scotland, and the Calvinistic Methodist Church, of Wales and the Rev. Principal Douglass, D.D., of Glasgow, for the Free Church; the Rev. John Young, of Glasgow, for the U.P. Church, and the Rev. William James, B.A., of Manchester, of the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Church, spoke for their respective bodies. The rest of the day was given up to reports on home missions, on morals and religion, and on work among the Jews. Among other things the first proposed the setting apart of five ministers for evangelistic work during the year their efforts to be concentrated on one Presbytery. It was resolved in connection with the second to petition Parliament in favor of a day closing and local option. The starting of a new mission among the Jews in Aleppo was also sanctioned.

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In the evening a missionary meeting was held, and on this account the Synod met in a much larger church, which was filled with an interested audience. The Foreign Mission Committee reported through its convener, Mr. H. M. Matheson, who spoke in a hopeful spirit of the church's work in China, and of the effects of the war upon the mission. The Rev. Mr. Ewing, of Birmingham, spoke on Jewish missions, the Rev. Dr. Munro Gibson made "a most eloquent and telling speech" on behalf of the New Church Building Fund, and Dr. Anderson of Formosa dealt in a very interesting way on the probable effect of Japanese rule in that island. During the earlier sittings of Synod, Mr. H. M. Matheson gave notice of the following resolution:—"That the Synod gratefully recognize the generosity of Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Gibson in their offer of a site at Cambridge, and a sum of money toward the erection of college buildings there. In view, however, of all the circumstances of the case, the Synod deem it inexpedient to remove the Theological College of the Church from London."

The Rev. John Watson (Ian MacLaren) on Thursday made a motion of some length the substance of which was to remove to Cambridge and supported it in an able speech, seconded by Mr. Henry Robson, of London. Mr. Hugh Matheson and Rev. J. Douglas Watters, M.A., spoke ably against removal. The debate which was on the most exciting subject before the Synod was marked by great ability, moderation, wisdom and Christian spirit. Upon division the motion to remove to Cambridge was carried by a majority of thirteen. Mr. Matheson and others who at first dissented, after conference with the majority withdrew their dissent, and this crucial question was happily settled.

A strong resolution was moved and carried by acclamation condemnatory of the barbarous atrocities of the Turks against the Armenians.

The home mission work of the Church was reported on by Sir George Bruce. It appeared that interest in this work is far from being what it ought to be, many churches doing nothing, other strong churches doing little, and the fund generally falling behind. It was agreed in this connection to appoint if the Home Mission Committee saw fit an agent to raise £50,000 for church building and debt extinction. On this subject Dr. Gibson, whose own congregation raised a large sum for home missions, made a powerful speech and used with telling effect what our Church has done in the North-west.

The Rev. W. Hutton Brakenhead reported on "The State of Religion and Morals." It stated that the total membership of Temperance Societies and Bands of Hope was 27,423. His address referred sadly to the growing prevalence of gambling and betting in connection with games and races and the injury this was working in society.

The Foreign Mission report dealing with work in China stated that the native membership stands at 4,464,199 more than in 1893. Native pastors, entirely supported by their own congregations, are two more than last report, the increase being in Swatow. Native preachers, 117, against 110. Theological students, 40—4 less than in 1893. Organized congregations, 45; preaching stations, 101—total, 146, the same as in last report. The income, however, has been below expenditure to the extent of £3,000, which has been made up only by falling back upon a reserve fund for that amount. The statistics of the church showed 297 congregations, membership, 68,997 and a total congregational income of £234,543.

Ministerial support in this Church includes, (1) a Sustentation Fund from which there is an equal of £200; (2) an Aged and Infirm Minister's Fund, 10 annuities receive from this fund £50 and £40 each per annum; (3) a Widow's and Orphan's Fund, from which there is derived an actual revenue of £2,105.

A committee on Public Praise reported favorably of work accomplished. Reference to the common hymn book for the federated Presbyterian Churches called forth strong opposition to the idea, and a motion to continue the committee to do this work showed 131 against to 151 for.

Instruction of Youth Committee reported 209 taking part in the Bible Band examinations, 1,200 in the Sabbath School examinations; 450 Sabbath Schools in connection with the church, \$2,596 scholars and 7,532 teachers; 1,020 scholars had during the years become communicants. As amongst ourselves many congregations show only a very languid interest in the schemes of this committee.

A proposal to dispense with the opening session at Synod meetings was referred to the Presbyteries to consider and report at next meeting, which is to be held in London. The Synod closed with votes of thanks and an address by the Moderator.

PRESBYTERY MEETING.

BRANDON. This Presbytery met at Oak Lake on Tuesday, May 12th. Rev. W. Beattie, Moderator. Reports of standing committees were considered. Mr. D. H. Hooges presented the report on Sabbath Observance. Among the recommendations adopted was one advising that steps be taken to prevent the distribution of mail matter on the Sabbath, and that Sabbath traffic on railways be restricted as much as possible. The convener of the committee on Sabbath Observance was instructed to arrange for a conference on the subject at next meeting. Mr. T. R. Shearer read the report on Statistics and Finance. A decrease in the number of communicants added to the Church, and in the amounts raised for all purposes, was reported, although in other respects the report was fairly satisfactory. Mr. W. H. Irwin presented the Sabbath school report,

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

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BIRTHS

At the manse, Burlington, May 30th, the wife of Rev. Dr. Abraham, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES

At 353 Dovercourt Road, on May 23rd, by Rev. Robert Hughes, Rev. John Maxwell, of Lyons Head, to Miss Isabella Smart Love, eldest daughter of John A. Love, Esq.

DEATHS

At Kincardine, on the evening of June 6th, John Watson, aged 58 years, 9 months, widely and greatly respected.

which was fuller and more accurate than that of last year, a larger proportion of Sabbath school having forwarded their statistics than ever before. A very interesting and profitable discussion followed the reading of this report, and a conference on Sabbath school work was arranged for the September meeting of this Presbytery. The report on the State of Religion was presented by Mr. W. G. W. Fortune after which a public conference took place on this important subject. A paper on "How the elders may help the ministers" was read by Mr. T. R. Shearer. Another on "Hindrances in Church work and how to overcome them" was read by Mr. T. Beveridge. These papers evoked a full and free discussion and many helpful suggestions were made by ministers and elders present. The Presbytery conferred with the Oak Lake congregation, regarding the finances of the congregation. No definite action was taken by Presbytery at this meeting in the matter. Supervising pastors were appointed to all the mission fields within the bounds, and their duties more clearly defined. The list of standing committees were also revised and re arranged. — T. R. SHEARER, Clerk.

THE McALL AUXILIARY.

The monthly meeting of the Toronto Auxiliary Canadian McAll Association was held on Thursday last week in the Y. M. C. A. library, the president, Mrs. Howitt, in the chair. The meeting was rendered interesting by letters from Rochefort (one of the mission stations supported by the Canadian Association) and from Mr. Grieg, chairman of the committee of directors in Paris. Mrs. George read a most pathetic little sketch founded on the city mission work, which gave an insight into some of the ways and means used by the McAll workers in reaching the poor and distressed. Mrs. Howitt told in a few words of a very successful meeting held in Lindsay recently, which had resulted in the formation of an auxiliary there.

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