

We take the liberty of adding to this notice, the *Montreal Presbyterian's*

#### IMPRESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE.

Taken as a whole, it stands out a conspicuous epoch in the religious history of the Dominion—a stand-point of review in respect of past years, and a starting-point from which, as we trust, in years to come, there shall be dated from time to time such evidences of spiritual life and Christian co-operation as shall gladden men's hearts and bring blessings to the community.

We think of some of the attendant disadvantages: that it was a Colonial undertaking: that it was the first meeting of the kind held in any of the Colonies: that it followed so soon after the great, overshadowing meeting held in New York a year ago, and that therefore it was largely an experiment. Yet it was a success. We take the papers that were read, one with another, and we regard them, in respect of scholarship and thought, fully equal to the average of similar discussions at meetings of the Parent Society. If a larger share of attention than to some might appear necessary, was given to that class of subjects respecting which religion and modern science are supposed to be at variance, recent assumptions of speculative unbelief made this inevitable, and we may rather rejoice that among us are found so many valiant defenders of the good old religion "pure and undefiled." On the other hand, it must be accounted simply an accident that none of the speakers selected as a subject worthy the highest ability, and of universal interest, that of CHRISTIAN MISSIONS.

We think of the results of this gathering under three aspects. First, as series of MASS MEETINGS. This was a striking and imposing feature. The crowds who filled large churches to overflowing long before the hours appointed, and the way in which they hung upon the lips of the various speakers, indicated unmistakably that the body of the people were in sympathy with the occasion. We refer particularly to the evening gatherings, and specially to "the meeting of welcome" held in the American Presbyterian Church, and the farewell meeting in St. James street Methodist Church. It is needless to say that Dr. Jenkins'

address of welcome was in perfect accord with the object of the gathering, and that the informal remarks which it elicited in reply from delegates in attendance made an impression on the minds and hearts of many that will not soon be effaced. As for the final meeting for leave-taking, it was just grand. There were certainly not fewer than 3,000 persons present who remained, as though spell-bound, till the close of the meeting—within a few minutes of eleven o'clock at night—an exceptional exhibition of propriety and patience on the part of a Montreal audience, we may remark in passing, explained, perhaps idiomatically, by the playful expression of one of the speakers,—“It is not every night that we kill a pig.”

Then there was, of course, a great deal of that for which the Conference was ostensibly convened, namely, THE READING OF LEARNED PAPERS on a variety of subjects, but it would be wrong to take it for granted that the audiences before whom they were read were so large as the excellence of the literary entertainments would have justified. It was not until the last days of the Conference that their attractive power was manifested, although then it was apparent and gratifying. It is not necessary that we do more than allude, and that briefly, to the names of those delegates from distant parts who came to the front, as it were, and gave tone and character to the General Conference. Conspicuous among these was Dr. John Hall, one of the ablest divines of the day, the pastor of the largest and most influential Presbyterian congregation in New York. He is an Irishman by birth and education, of commanding presence, possessed of fluency and eloquence beyond most men, and yet, whose chief excellency is his unaffected simplicity and great earnestness. Dr. Hall's addresses were delivered extemporaneously. Dr. Phillip Schaff of the German Reformed Church, also of New York, is a German by birth, eminent as a theologian and linguist. In acknowledgment of accomplished scholarship, he holds the position of chairman of the American branch of the Bible revision committee. He is a voluminous writer, and, although well stricken in years, is still a vigorous thinker. From such a man, who has examined every