

(Continued from first page.)

SUMMARY OF HOME WORK.—Number of Presbyterial Societies, 16; Auxiliary, 190; Mission Bands, 48; life members, 93; ordinary members, 5,080; members of General Society, 1,527; members of Mission Boards, 1,111; contributed by Auxiliaries, \$10,472.62; Mission Boards, \$2,425.92; revenue from other sources, \$525.01; from all sources, \$13,423.55. The society has just completed its tenth year, and during that time has contributed for work among women and children the sum of \$38,536.12.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Total receipts, \$13,822.45; expenditure, \$832.41; received since accounts were made up, \$70; balance, \$13,020.04. Miss McNeil, of London, sang, with expression and excellent voice, a solo, "I'd Tell it Out."

On motion of Mrs. Roger, London, and Mrs. Fairbairn, Peterboro', the reports were adopted, and 2,000 copies ordered to be printed for the use of the society. Mrs. MacLennan, of Toronto, moved, seconded by Mrs. Thompson, London, that we forward to the Foreign Mission Committee the sum of \$3,700, required by estimate; also a donation of \$300 for Trinidad, and \$300 for the new Hebrides, to be used for school work in both places. That we reserve \$2,000, and notify the committee that this sum is at their disposal for the proposed educational work in India and for extension of work among our own Indians. That the balance, \$759.64, remain for current expenses.

The motion being accepted, Mrs. Ball, of Vanneck, solemnly dedicated the amounts to God, for His service in the various mission fields.

The report of nominating committee was then adopted, as follows:—Messdames Blaikie, Breckenridge, Bryce, Campbell, Cassels, Cameron, Cowan, Cronbie, Clark, Ewart, Gilray, Gunther, C. Hamilton, Harris, Harvie, J. J. Reid, Kirkland, Macdonnell, McClelland, MacLaren, MacMurchy, McCracken, McHardy, McLachlan, W. H. McLachlan, McMurrich, Miligan, Mutch, J. Y. Reid, Richardson, R. Smellie, Smith, Telfer, Thorn, Wallace, and Miss Haight, to form Committee of Management, together with Presidents of all Presbyterial Societies, Auxiliaries, and Mission Bands. The session was closed with devotional exercises led by Mrs. Cooper, Chatham.

Tea was served in the basement from 6 to 8 o'clock, when

THE PUBLIC EVENING RECEPTION

was held; a large number of delegates, and friends of missions from the various churches in the city were present. Rev. Dr. Wardrop, Convener of the General Assembly's Foreign Mission Committee, presided, and associated with him on the platform were Rev. Dr. McLaren, Toronto; Rev. A. B. MacKay, Montreal; Rev. J. A. Murray, St. Andrew's Church, London; and the Rev. F. Hallantyne, South London.

During the evening some excellent musical selections were rendered by the choir. At the close a collection was taken up for the benefit of the Society.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

At 10 o'clock a meeting of the Board of Management was held. The first business after devotional exercises was the election of officers, the result of the ballot being as follows:—President, Mrs. Ewart; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. MacLaren, Mrs. Macdonnell, Mrs. Cameron, Mrs. McMurrich; For. Sec., Mrs. Harvie; Home Sec., Mrs. Campbell, Rec. Sec., Mrs. MacMurchy; Treasurer, Mrs. MacLennan.

CLOTHING FOR THE INDIANS.—Over 80 cases of clothing from Ontario alone, had been sent to the North-West, last year, some of these cases weighing 300 pounds. This had been found too much for present need, and it was therefore suggested that each Presbyterial Society send one, and not more than two, all to be forwarded through the Board, before the month of September, the Foreign Secretary to ascertain the needs of the various Reserves.

Miss Oliver's outfit was next considered, and as she would be sailing to India in October, it was deemed expedient to forward at once to her, through the Foreign Mission Committee and with its approval, the sum of \$300, for immediate and necessary expenditure.

A communication from the President of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, eastern section, asking for assistance in sending another missionary to Santo, New Hebrides, to sail with Mr. and Mrs. Annand. It was explained that the sum of \$300, contributed by the Society of the western section to the support of schools in the New Hebrides, would leave the Society of the western section free to devote a larger proportion of its funds to the support of the proposed missionary. In this way only could the Society assist.

PUBLICATION FUND.—It was agreed that the sum of \$125 be set aside for the publication of leaflets, etc., for the use of the Society.

P. A. POT'S RESERVE.—The furnishing of the building in course of erection in this Reserve, for Miss Rose's School, was next considered, when it was agreed that the Society should assist in this very necessary work, the arrangements to be made by the Board, under the direction of the Foreign Missions Committee.

SHALL CHILDREN VOTE?—A lengthy and interesting discussion arose as to the advisability of allowing children to vote in Auxiliaries or Mission Bands. It was finally decided that each Auxiliary and Mission Band should regulate its own affairs in this respect.

THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE.—At the suggestion of Mrs. Chisholm, London, it was carried with a standing vote "That in view of the fact that before the next annual meeting of this Society is held the Queen will, if spared, have passed the 50th anniversary of her reign, a committee be appointed to prepare a memorial, complimentary of the event, to be sent to Her Majesty."

WORK AMONG THE JEWS.—A resolution calling the attention of the Society to mission work among the Jews was presented by Miss Dickson, delegate from Peterboro'. After consideration it was agreed that Mrs. Byers, of Gananoque, be appointed to receive individual subscriptions for the furtherance of this most important work.

THE CONSTITUTION.—The committee appointed to amend the constitution then presented a report, which was adopted with some slight modifications. The amended constitution will be printed in the report of the Society.

AFTERNOON SESSION

opened at 2.30, President in the chair, Mrs. Grant, of Hamilton, conducting devotional exercises. Mrs. Gordon, of Harrington, then read a most suggestive and inspiring paper. Love, said the speaker, is born of knowledge, and knowledge comes by the Word of God. This is the central

idea of all our work. We are debtors to the heathen, because we are justified by Christ and by faith. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. We can thus pay our debt by carrying the Gospel to others.

CONDOLENCE.—A letter was read from Rev. J. K. Junior, informing the Society that Mrs. Junior had recently fallen asleep in Jesus, in the city of New York. It was decided to forward to him an expression of the sympathy of the Society. Mention was also made of several others who were detained from the meeting through personal illness, or the sudden death of friends, viz., Mrs. MacLaren, Toronto; Mrs. Hamilton, Toronto; Mrs. and Miss Crawford, Agincourt; Mrs. Greg, Toronto, and Mrs. D. Thompson Deems. The prayerful sympathy of the meeting was extended to these afflicted friends.

PLACE OF NEXT MEETING.—Invitations to hold the next annual meeting of the Society at Guelph and Toronto were presented. After some conversation the delegates from Guelph agreed to allow Toronto to take precedence this year, their invitation to stand first on the list for following year.

THE STANDING NOMINATING COMMITTEE was then appointed, and consisted of the following names:—Mrs. Gordon, Harrington, Mrs. Roger, London; Mrs. Smellie, Fergus; Mrs. Cameron and Mrs. MacMurchy, Toronto.

THE QUESTION DRAWER, which was opened by Mrs. Harvie, was the means of eliciting considerable interesting and useful information, as follows:—

Q. Why charge for mite boxes and not for envelopes?

A. The opinions expressed were almost evenly divided between whether they should both be paid for or remain as at present. Finally, it was concluded that as the envelopes were for personal contributions, and the mite boxes for general collections, it is advisable to have the envelopes in the hands of every member of an auxiliary, consequently they should be issued free of charge.

Q. Has any one ascertained where missionary maps can be secured, or how to make them?

A. Several ladies explained their experience in the making of maps, from which we glean the following: Enlarge the common school map of any particular country, throwing up its outline on white paper, cloth or yellow window curtaining. Insert mission stations with dots of black paint, and you have with little trouble a good missionary map.

Q. How shall we make our monthly meetings more interesting?

A. An answer to this question was received in the form of a letter from Toronto, which suggested the spending of a few minutes in prayer by every individual before going to the meeting.

Q. What is the best means of raising money in Mission Bands?

A. By the spread of missionary information, thus preventing interest from flagging. By the use of mite boxes, by encouraging a spirit of self-denial, by the use of the various talents, for plain and fancy work, possessed by the members.

Q. How is it there are more heathen in the world to-day than 100 years ago?

A. The discovery of millions of heathen within the century, in the Congo valleys alone, will account for the fact, also the decrease of mortality, wild beasts, war, pestilence, etc.

Q. Should monthly meetings continue longer than one hour?

A. Not unless under special circumstances.

Q. Why not charge for the annual report?

Several reasons, pro and con, were given, when it was finally agreed that as the report was the property of the Society it should be distributed free of charge to the members.

Miss Thomson's (of Brooklyn) paper, entitled "OUR MASTER'S LEGACY,"

aroused much interest. It was well read by Miss Boone, of London.

Mrs. J. K. Smith, of Galt, seconded by Mrs. Grant Hamilton, moved a hearty vote of thanks to the ladies of London who had entertained the delegates, to the young ladies who had assisted in dispensing the refreshments, to the ladies who had so kindly led the service of praise, and to the children who had so untiringly acted as pages during the entire convention. This motion was carried by the large audience rising to their feet. Mrs. Cooper, of Chatham, seconded by Miss Gordon, of Whitby, moved that the thanks of the meeting be presented to the Rev. Dr. Reid for his kindness in making special arrangements with the railroad companies, and to all the railroads for reduced rates. Carried by a standing vote. The meeting was closed by devotional exercises led by Mrs. Dickenson, of Woodstock, the delegates exchanged farewells, and within an hour silence reigned in St. Andrew's church, and the missionary women of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, western section, were preparing to return to their homes, encouraged to commence a new decade of work for the advancement of the Kingdom of Christ on the earth.

The Presbyterian Review.

THURSDAY, APRIL 29TH, 1886.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

We have to thank the friends who have renewed their subscriptions to the REVIEW by prompt payment in advance. We have respectfully to request that those in arrears for renewal would take advantage of our most favourable rates. The individual amount is only ONE DOLLAR, but the aggregate is very considerable. The friends who wish to assist us in producing, at as cheap a rate as possible, a good religious weekly will help us very materially by remitting in advance.

CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTION IN THE PROVINCIAL SCHOOLS.

THE GREAT DIFFICULTY AND ITS REMEDY.

THE difficulty referred to at the close of our last article is, we believe, above all others the most serious practical difficulty that stands in the way of our making public instruction throughout the Province distinctively Christian. Unhappily, a want of sympathy with the teachings of the Bible is not regarded, at least to any great extent, as constituting a disqualification on the part of a teacher. Our school law, indeed, assumes that teachers are in sympathy with the religion of the Bible. But,

as a matter of fact, those to whom the responsibility of the appointment of teachers is committed, while not apathetic in relation to everything connected with the education of the young, seem to be, with few exceptions, little concerned about the religious sentiments of the teacher. This apathy is, no doubt, owing in some measure, to the fact that the place of the Bible in our schools is a merely nominal one. Practically, the Bible, as a book, has no place in our schools. Most teachers probably refer to it with respect; and it is to be hoped that there are comparatively few teachers who, forgetful of their solemn compact with the authorities of the land, would either directly or by insinuation seek to discredit the Scriptures in the minds of their pupils. But distinctively Christian teaching has no place in the school programme. It is no part of the teacher's duty to occupy a portion of school time in teaching his pupils to revere and value the Bible as the Word of God, or in presenting to them distinctively Scripture views of God and duty, of sin and Christ and salvation. And, accordingly, an ability to do this is not looked for in the teacher; and hardly any one thinks of inquiring whether he is in sympathy with the Scriptures. It is only when a teacher so far forgets himself as to express and, it may be, to inculcate anti-Christian views, that the Christian sentiment of the public is roused to the expression of dissatisfaction. And we fear that too often a teacher's other qualifications are regarded as more than making up for what should be regarded as the most serious of all disqualifications.

While the difficulty now before us should, on no account, be regarded as an insuperable one, it is evident that it cannot be effectually dealt with by mere legislation. It is necessary, first of all, that the interest of the Christian people should be awakened. They must come to feel strongly that the best interests of the community require that our young people be thoroughly instructed in the principles of the Christian religion, and that such instruction cannot be the privilege of any large proportion of our population, unless the teachings of the Bible have a more or less prominent place in the instructions of the day school. The weekly Sabbath lesson is altogether insufficient, and if daily instruction in religion is left entirely to parents, multitudes of our children will grow up without any sense of the value of Scripture knowledge, and ignorant of the "first principles of the oracles of God." But if, under the pressure of the Christian sentiment of the country made to bear steadily on the administration of our educational institutions, its proper place be given to Bible teaching, the best results may be expected. The mere fact that the Bible is made to occupy its proper place, in accordance with the convictions of a Christian people, will have a salutary influence on the minds of the young. And a judicious and well principled teacher will, by giving daily Bible instruction, do more to promote the best interests of his pupils and the well-being of the community than by any other kind of instruction. His opportunity for good will be such as those who have the good of their fellows at heart may well envy. Were the school programme so arranged as to give a reasonable, not to say liberal, allowance of time to Bible teaching (including, in the high school and in the highest form in the common school, instruction in the evidences), we cannot doubt that, under conscientious teachers, our young people would, much more generally than they can, under present arrangements, grow up possessed of such a practical regard for the divine Word and such an acquaintance with it, as would secure them against the many dangers to which their best interests are exposed, and ensure their happiness and their usefulness as members of the community. To shut out the Bible from our schools, as is now practically done, and to cram our children with all kinds of secular knowledge, in the belief that such knowledge will qualify them for the duties of mature life, is to allow ourselves to be imposed on by a delusion. Much depends, of course, under any system, on the character of the teacher; and, notwithstanding the defectiveness of our present system, a Christian teacher will be a power for good. But, under the present system, only the few whose minds are otherwise beneficially affected by the higher influences of the Word of God, are likely to derive moral benefit from our public school instruction, and from the other means of improvement controlled by the Education Department of the Government.

DR. SMELLIE'S JUBILEE.

ON the 15th instant there occurred an opportunity of celebrating an event which is rare even amongst Presbyterians, with whom long pastorates is the rule, and especially rare in Canada,—the anniversary of a pastor's entering upon the ministry fifty years ago, over forty two of which have been happily spent in the same congregation. Such has been the singular good fortune of the Rev. George Smellie, D.D., of Fergus, Ont., and his people, the congregation of Melville church.

The opportunity of celebrating in a fitting manner this remarkable event was eagerly embraced by the congregation, by the Presbytery of Guelph, and the Synod of Hamilton and London, of which latter bodies Dr. Smellie has long been an efficient and honoured member. The celebration took the form of a jubilee, in which these various bodies had appropriate part. All the arrangements were made with such heartiness and competence as only affection could suggest, and were carried out to a most successful termination. In the town hall, which was beautifully decorated for the occasion, lunch was served to the psbytery which was spe-

cially convened to take part in the ceremonies. The psbytery having repaired to the church, which was filled by an audience fully representative of all the churches in the town, after prayer by Dr. Torrance of Guelph Rev. Dr. Middlemiss, one of the oldest friends of Dr. Smellie, the Rev. J. K. Smith, Galt, another old friend being in the chair, read an address to Dr. Smellie in behalf of the psbytery, congratulating him on the completion of his fiftieth year in the ministry, its happy and successful character, and expressing their high regard for him and his family, and good wishes for his future welfare. On behalf of the psbytery Dr. Reid, of Toronto, then presented Dr. Smellie with a beautiful clock, a souvenir of their high appreciation of him as a brother minister. On behalf of the congregation, Mr. A. D. Ferrier then read an address, and Mr. W. Castell made the presentation of a large purse of money in view of Dr. Smellie's contemplated visit this summer to his old home in Scotland. An address was then delivered by Rev. W. S. Ball, as one of the deputation on behalf of the Synod of London and Hamilton. To all these expressions of regard Dr. Smellie made suitable though at times difficult reply. In the evening another public meeting was held, in which Rev. W. McMullan, Woodstock, Professor Gregg, Dr. Reid, and Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, Toronto, and other friends, took part.

It is worthy of note, that although forty-three years have elapsed since Dr. Smellie's settlement in Fergus, there were present at the jubilee several persons who had been present at the induction, and one, Mrs. James Anderson, who witnessed his ordination service half a century ago. This fact added great interest to the occasion, and invested the whole proceedings with solemn tenderness. Although Dr. Smellie is not quite recovered from his late severe accident, and was under the necessity of being carried in a chair to the church, it is hoped that he will soon be able to make his long-contemplated journey to his native land.

We are sure all our readers will heartily join us in congratulating the pastor and people of Melville congregation in setting before the whole Church a noble example of mutual helpfulness and confidence, demonstrating to the fullest extent the inherent merit of the Presbyterian pastoral system when rightly exhibited. They will join us also in echoing the words of the congregation for their beloved pastor, that the good Lord may prosper his journey by land and sea, may watch over and protect him from all danger, and after his anticipated visit to his dear native land shall have been happily accomplished, may restore him to his home and his attached people.

REV. JAMES ROBERTSON, our Superintendent of Missions in the North West, in reply to a correspondent who had seen fit to cast doubt upon the accuracy of his statements regarding the condition of the Indians and the cause of the recent trouble amongst them, in a letter to the *Globe* vindicates his position by relating what has come under his own personal observation in the discharge of his duties throughout the whole of that country. If any one has had any doubt that the moral and physical condition of the frontier Indian is not as bad as sometimes painted he must now be undeceived. Mr. Robertson states that from a variety of causes the Indians are frequently on the verge of starvation, that often they subsist on nothing better than decomposing garbage and offal, that the mortality in some bands, as a result of their suffering, is enormous, and that in consequence of their treatment the country during the late Riel Rebellion was perilously near an Indian war. Mr. Robertson is decidedly of opinion that the failure to implement the stipulations of the treaties with them has been the cause of much misery and trouble. Nor does he leave us in doubt as to the persons in his opinion on whom the blame for this unhappy state of affairs should rest:

"No doubt the Government wishes to act justly. Deputy Ministers and Commissioners do their best. The agents of the Department, however, have been in many cases unprincipled and dishonest and the Indians make no nice distinction between Government and agent."

The picture he gives of the moral condition of the Indians who come in contact with a depraved white element is not new in the history of this continent, but is not yet so familiar to the present generation, thank God! that they can fail to blush at it:

"Railway navvies and libidinous foster men from Montana and other districts have corrupted and defiled the population. Whiskey traders and others have debauched the Indians, and it will take years to undo the evil."

Mr. Robertson further says: "The Department meant to do much better for the Indians than the record shows. It has been unfortunate in the selection of its agents. So long as political hacks are to be rewarded with positions of responsibility irrespective of competence or character so long will the Indian problem be troublesome. The bugbear of expense has hampered; better spend liberally but judiciously for a few years than have these people on our hands for ever, or send them early to the grave. There are good men in the service; give them adequate remuneration. Dismiss the incompetent and dishonest. Let schools and missions be encouraged. A good missionary is far better than a farm instructor. Had a tribe of the \$8,000,000 spent in suppressing the rebellion been expended on schools and missions the rebellion had never occurred."

The Government should lose no time in purging the Indian service of corrupt and incompetent officials and not leave the task of averting national disgrace altogether to the missionary.

It is not necessary, we trust, to invite the attention of our readers to the very encouraging reports of the annual meetings of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of our Church,