

CANADA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

(Continued from 1st Page.)

Tuesday June, 9th.

MORNING SEDERUNT.

The Assembly met at 10 o'clock.

After devotional exercises and the reading and confirmation of the minutes, the Moderator requested members of the Assembly to occupy alternate seats, the other seats being left vacant for members of the Synod of the Church in connection with the Church of Scotland, who were expected at 11 o'clock to take part in the Conference decided on yesterday.

Rev. A. Young presented the report of the Committee appointed to strike Standing Committees, submitting the name of the French Evangelization Committee, and recommending that their expenses should be paid, on the ground that a number of the members were from Ontario, and the Committee would have to meet in Montreal. The recommendation was negatived by 29 to 27.

Rev. Mr. Warden then moved that the report be recommitted with instructions to the Committee to strike another Committee; as it would be unjust to expect members to go from a great distance and pay their own expenses. Agreed to.

Rev. J. Gray submitted the report of the Committee on the report of the Home Mission Committee, the several recommendations of which were considered *seriatim*. The recommendation that Mr. Cochrane, the convener, should be authorized to draw \$200 per annum to pay for assistance was adopted. On the recommendation that the probationers should be paid a minimum of \$7 and board,

Rev. Mr. Thompson, of Sarnia, moved that the minimum be \$8 and board.

After some discussion,

Rev. Mr. Worden proposed that the recommendation of the original Committee, that probationers be paid in proportion of the salaries paid by the several congregations, be adopted.

The two other motions were withdrawn, and the second amendment carried.

The remaining recommendations were adopted.

CONFERENCE.

At eleven o'clock the Moderator, clerks, and other members of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland entered the Church, and were introduced by the Rev. Topp and T. Wardrope.

Rev. Principal Snodgrass proposed that the Hon. John McMurrich preside at this Conference. This was agreed to, and Mr. McMurrich took the chair.

The 67th psalm was sung. Rev. Mr. Sieveright, of Goderich, and Rev. Dr. Burns, of Montreal, offered prayer.

The Rev. Professor, McKerras, Clerk of the Synod in connection with the Church of Scotland, read the following minute of the Synod:—

Resolved,—1st. That the Synod entirely approved and willingly accept the preamble to the proposed basis of Union—(loud cheers,—both as being suitable and becoming in itself, and as being entirely in accordance with the style and language of the Church of Scotland on all great and solemn occasions in its history.

2nd. That the Synod consent to the omissions from the basis of the 4th article (cheers), as containing only a matter of detail in regard to which there is no reason to apprehend that there will be a difference of opinion in the United Church, but as said article is expressive of Christian affection towards the whole Church of God, and of a desire to hold fraternal intercourse with it in its several branches as opportunity offers, they would be glad if the substance of it was placed as originally intended among the supplementary resolutions.

3rd. That the Synod, though having been willing to accept of the resolution (3rd resolution in the remit of the C. P. Church) if necessary to the harmonious Union, have always deemed it unnecessary, and cordially agree that it be withdrawn.

4th. That the Synod record their great satisfaction with the spirit of the Conference on Saturday, and the clear and candid explanations then given of the views of the Assembly.

5th. That these resolutions be communicated to the General Assembly of the Canada Presbyterian Church by the Synod.

It was also further resolved that the General Assembly of the C. P. Church be requested to appoint a Committee to meet with the Committee of this Synod, to revise the resolution respecting the fraternal relation with other Churches, and to prepare a form of remit of the basis and other resolutions for the consideration of the inferior judicatories and congregations of both Churches, and that the members of the former Union Committee be appointed to meet the Committee which the General Assembly may appoint. (Cheers.)

Rev. Principal Snodgrass said no reference was made in the minute to the temporalities fund, but he was charged to state that the Church in connection with the Church of Scotland assumed the responsibility of disposing of that fund as to them should seem best. (Loud cheers.) He wished to say very little in reference to the resolution respecting relations with other Churches. They had given full expression to their faith in reference to the head, but they ought not to forget to give expression to the views of the United Church towards other branches. He thought the basis and resolutions would not be complete without an expression of their affection towards the whole body of Christ's Church. He was charged to say that the whole article was not considered and had never been considered to have any reference to events which took place in Scotland and in the country three years ago. He was also instructed to state that the resolution as it stood was not

intended to bind the Church in any way in its resignation in reference to any Church whatever. (Cheers.) It was not intended that the ministers and probationers of any Presbyterian Church should, as a matter of course, be admissible to the United Church, but that they should be placed on precisely the same footing and that their admission should be determined by the same process or mode of procedure. Finally, it was stated in the Conference on Saturday that this resolution referred to matter of detail, and that it expressed very exactly what was done by the General Assembly of the Canada Presbyterian Church from time to time with regard to the admission of ministers and probationers from other Churches. The hope of the Synod was that taking into account those reasons which they thought grave and important, and which had been already stated, that acceptance of the resolution, or something like it, would be more easy. The resolution had got into the basis, and the Synod was unanimous in thinking it was not in its right place. They hoped that the Committee would find a right place for the resolution, and that it would be found to be a right resolution in that place. (Cheers.)

Rev. Dr. Cooke said the Synod anticipated no difficulty whatever in regard to the answers to the remit to be sent down to the Presbyteries, sessions, and congregations, and they had passed a resolution to take the necessary steps to obtain legislation for the consummation of Union between the two bodies. (Cheers.) He hoped, therefore, that from this moment they stood together as friends and brethren. (Loud cheers.) There must be a proclamation of hands, and the necessary legal steps before the consummation of Union, but all that was essential might be achieved to be complete. (Cheers.) Surely, if any one had reason to rejoice he had. He had done everything in his own power to prevent the separation. He had always been favourable to Union, and he rejoiced and gave thanks that he had been spared to see the division which took place in 1844 healed, or so nearly healed. He believed the Union would be productive of good and strength to them all that their zeal and energy would be increased, and that they would all be encouraged to labour more for the cause of Christ and the salvation of souls. (Cheers.)

Rev. Dr. Topp said that he was sure they had all heard with very great gratification and thankfulness those words of brotherly love from their friends who had now addressed them, and he was sure they had reason to thank God they were permitted now with some measure of confidence to look forward to the consummation of this Union for which negotiations had been going on for several years.

Rev. Principal Snodgrass suggested that the Committee should be instructed to confer also with the view of preparing a remit in the same terms for both Churches, except in regard to the Temporalities Fund, on which they did not ask the Canada Presbyterian Church to send down any remit. The Committee might also consider whether it would not be advisable to have another meeting of both Courts before their next annual meeting as several important matters would require careful attention before the necessary legislation would be obtained. (Hear, hear.)

Rev. Dr. Topp said he perfectly agreed with Mr. Snodgrass as to the desirability of holding an adjourned meeting of these Courts to receive the remits and attend to these matters.

Rev. J. M. King expressed his pleasure at the contents of the minute which had been read by the clerk of the Synod of the Sister Church. He recognized the kindness and wisdom of the Synod in not accepting the preamble proposed by the General Assembly, but in consenting to the removal of the 4th article of the basis, and its reference to the Union Committee for the consideration of its terms. He hoped the action now taken would remove the last vestige of difficulty from the minds of any of the brethren. He believed that the happiest results would flow from this Union to the Presbyterianism which they all loved. (Cheers.)

Rev. Prof. Gregg pointed out that it would be necessary to obtain the acquiescence of the two Churches in the Lower Provinces to the proposed alterations in the basis and resolution.

Rev. J. McTavish said the spirit in which the proposals of the Canada Presbyterian Church had been received by the Church in connection with the Church of Scotland was one which they must all be thankful for. He did not know that the embodiment of the fourth article in the resolutions would cause any material difference amongst them. (Cheers.) He thought the impression among other brethren as to what that resolution meant differed materially from his. He had no objection to the statement of their having friendly relations with the whole Church of God throughout the world. If it was meant that there should be no discretionary legislation in the United Church against any of the Churches with whom the contracting Churches were now in friendly relations he had no objection. (Cheers.) What he wanted was that they should not be bound in any church relations with any existing church whatever. If the United Church should consider it necessary to put the minister of any other Church through a course of examination, however stringent, which it might see fit, it should be free to do so; and if the United Church chose to separate itself for any cause yet to emerge from any of those churches, he wanted it to be free to do so. In fact, he wanted the United Church to be entirely free and uncommitted. (Cheers.)

Rev. Dr. Jenkins said that regarding the spirit which had pervaded these negotiations, and the unanimity which ruled among them, he thought there was no minister or elder but would send up to God his aspirations of thanksgiving.

Rev. T. Wardrope said he was sure they all felt deeply grateful to the various Union Committees. He would remark this in all the concession which had been made he had never heard a member of either Church say we have triumphed, but he had heard men say, "What has God wrought?" (Cheers.)

After a vote of thanks to the Chairman, moved by Dr. Cooke, and seconded by Principal Snodgrass, two verses of the 99th Psalm was sung, the Moderator of the Synod pronounced the benediction, and the Conference closed.

The Assembly resumed at half-past twelve.

The Union question was taken up.

Rev. W. Reid read a minute presented by the Church in connection with the Church of Scotland.

Some discussion took place as to whether Dr. Snodgrass' statement sent the Temporalities Fund should go upon the minutes. The difficulty on the matter of form was got over by Mr. McMurrich, the chairman of the Conference, reporting Dr. Snodgrass' statement to the Assembly.

Rev. Principal Caven moved that the General Assembly respectfully receive and enter upon record the communication now made to the Assembly by document concerning the statement of the very Rev. Mr. Snodgrass, and express their great satisfaction in receiving the same, and do now proceed to consider the points submitted in said communication.

Rev. Dr. Topp moved in amendment that the Assembly having heard the communication of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, and also the statement of Principal Snodgrass regarding the Temporalities Fund, receive the same respectfully, and with much satisfaction, as showing the almost complete agreement of the said Synod with this Assembly on the various points upon which the Conference between the two bodies was sought and held; and in order that the one point now unsettled, namely, the form in which the fourth article to be removed from the basis shall be dealt with, appoint a Committee to confer with the Committee appointed by the other Synod in reference to that matter, and also with reference to the form and substance of the remit to Presbyteries, sessions, and congregations in the terms of the Act.

The question was under discussion, when, it being one o'clock, the Assembly adjourned.

AFTERNOON SEDERUNT.

The Assembly met at 3 o'clock. After devotional exercise and confirmation of minutes.

Rev. Principal McVicar moved that the decision in reference to the payment of the expenses of the French Evangelization Committee be reconsidered. Agreed to.

Rev. Principal McVicar moved that the expenses of members attending the sittings of the Committee on French Evangelization be paid out of the Fund under control of said Committee. Agreed.

The committee named by the committee to strike standing committees was then agreed to.

The discussion of the Union question was then resumed. After some remarks from Rev. J. Ross.

The Moderator said the time had arrived when the Assembly had to decide where the next meeting of the Assembly should be held.

Rev. R. N. Thornton moved that the next meeting be held in Knox Church, Montreal.

After some discussion it was resolved, on the motion of Rev. Prof. Gregg, that the discussion of the question should be postponed until the Union Committees had reported.

Rev. Mr. Ross proceeded with his remarks on Union. He opposed any pledge being given to hold ecclesiastical relations with the Church of Scotland.

Rev. J. M. McTavish pointed out that whatever the Committees might do would be subject to the adjudication of this Court, and he believed whatever Committees might be appointed it would be found that the United Church would not be bound in any official relations to other Churches. (Cheers.)

Dr. Topp's amendment was carried by a large majority.

Rev. Dr. Proudfoot moved that the old Union Committee be reappointed.

Rev. J. M. King moved that in the place of members of the Union Committee who were absent Rev. Messrs. McTavish, McKinnon, and Middlemiss be appointed.

After discussion, Mr. King's motion was carried.

Rev. W. Reid read the reports of the Committees on Assembly and Synod Records, which were adopted.

Rev. Dr. Topp read the report of the Committee on College reports and papers. The report was received. The first resolution, recommending the Bursary Fund of Knox College to the congregations was adopted; the second resolution, commending the Professors of Knox College for their exertions in reference to the building fund, which had realized \$86,000, though but half the ground has been gone over, was adopted; the 3rd and 4th resolutions, relating to matters connected with the discipline of Knox College, were adopted; the 5th resolution, recommending the increase of the Knox College Professors' salaries, was agreed to; the first resolution, relating to Montreal College, was passed; the second resolution, to the effect that the proposition of the retiring allowance of Dr. Willis, now chargeable to the College fund, should be paid for the current year out of the Assembly fund, and that a small committee should be appointed to consider the subject of retiring allowances to Professors, was under discussion, when six o'clock arrived, and the Assembly adjourned.

EVENING SEDERUNT.

After devotional exercises and confirmation of minutes.

Rev. J. M. King presented the report of the Committee on the reception of ministers which was in favour of the continuance of the *ad-interim* Act on this subject. Agreed to.

Rev. J. M. King read the credentials of Rev. J. C. Burns, of Kirklandish, and the Rev. J. H. Wilson, of Barclay Church, Edinburgh, as delegates from the Free Church of Scotland.

Rev. Dr. Topp said he was sorry to have detained the Assembly for any time, but he had been detained in the Union Committee where he believed they had come to such a conclusion as he trusted would settle the whole matter. (Loud cheers.) He then introduced Messrs. Burns and Wilson with suitable eulogistic remarks.

Rev. J. H. Wilson then addressed the Assembly giving an account of the revival in Scotland and expressed his great gratification with much he had seen and heard since coming to America.

Rev. J. C. Burns said he had been present at the birth of the Canadian Church, having been at the meeting held in Glasgow in 1825 to form the Society for promoting the religious interests of Scottish settlers in British North America. He related in a humorous manner how he had been sent by his uncle to sit in judgment on several candidates in Glasgow for colonial appointments; how he had been offered a preferment in St. John, N.B.; and how he had spent a winter in Canada twenty-four years ago. He expressed the deep interest and affection felt by the Church at home towards this Church, and said it afforded him the greatest gratification to visit an already united Church, and to see the great steps made towards further Christian Union. He referred to the religious revival which had been described by Mr. Wilson, described the success of the Sustentation Fund, and stated that while the income of the Established Church of Scotland last year was £250,000 the income of the Free Church this year has been £500,000. (Cheers.) There was now a measure before the British Parliament, which, if it had been carried 30 years ago, would have prevented disruption, for it granted all they ever contended for, and a great deal more. It gave the people the great privilege of choosing their own pastors, and the Assembly the power of making regulations for their government. It was one of Mr. Disraeli's maxims that it was the unexpected that happened, so no wonder it was the unexpected that Mr. Disraeli did. This was another in the list of his unexpected acts, and the result no one could foresee. He expressed the great delight with which he had been present this morning on the memorable occasion which he regarded as an omen of the time when Scotland would reorganize her Presbyterianism, and have one Church independent and free.

The Moderator expressed the thanks of the Assembly to the delegates and its gratification with their statements as to the state of the Church at home. He asked them to carry back to the Church they represented the fraternal greetings of the Assembly. (Cheers.)

Rev. Mr. Burns laid on the table a copy of the record of the General Assembly of this Free Church for 1873, together with other documents, and requested a return of the compliment. (Cheers.) Rev. Professor Gregg introduced Revs. H. M. Williamson and H. McMichon, delegates from the Irish Presbyterian Church, mentioning that Mr. McMicken was returning to Canada to labour as he had done before. Rev. Mr. Williamson, after alluding to the admirable manner in which the work of the Church was usually carried out in Canada and the United States, suggested that they should not give up the thorough training of their children in the Shorter Catechism as he fancied they were doing to some extent in the States. He proceeded to trace briefly the religious history of Ireland since the time of Henry II. and alluded to the dis-establishment of the Irish Church, urged for the formation of a Sustentation Fund, lamented the strength of Popery in his country, but referred gratefully to the steps which the Presbyterian Church was taking to meet that great evil.

Rev. Mr. McMicken devoted a short time to the discussion of the National and University education system of Ireland. The Assembly adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

MORNING SEDERUNT.

The Assembly met at 10 o'clock.

After devotional exercises and routine,

Rev. W. Reid read the report of the Committee on the foreign mission report, which recommended the adoption of the recommendations of the original report. The report was adopted.

An overture was read from the Presbytery of Paris anent an application from the Rev. James Howie, to be re-admitted a minister of the Canada Presbyterian Church.

The application was sent back to the Paris Presbytery to be dealt with according to the laws of the Church.

A Committee on Printing was appointed.

Rev. J. M. King called attention to the BRITISH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN newspaper, and urged ministers and elders to get their congregations to support it, so that it might be made what the Church desired it should be.

Rev. Principal Caven presented the report of the Committee on the reception of ministers; recommending that permission be given to the Presbytery of Montreal to receive Messrs. Black and McLeod as ministers; to the Presbytery of Chatham to receive Mr. P. Smith as a minister; to the Presbyteries of Hamilton, Montreal, Durham, and Toronto to admit Messrs. Bouson, Sinclair, Martin and McKevoy as probationers, and that the application of Mr. Perkins be not entertained.

The report was received and adopted.

Rev. W. Reid read the report of the Committee on the application of the Presbytery of Brockville anent Mr. McLaren, and of the Presbytery of Hamilton anent the Presbyterial connection of Mr. A. J. Caswall. The Committee recommended that the Presbytery of Brockville be authorized to place the name of Mr. McLaren on the roll of the Presbytery, and that Mr. Caswall, Missionary to Silver Islet, be placed on the roll of the Presbytery of Bruce. The report was received and adopted.

Rev. Mr. Warden moved that the names of Messrs. Kay and McKerragher be inserted on the roll of the Presbytery of Bruce.

Rev. R. Torrance moved in amendment, that the name of Mr. Kay be placed on the roll of the Presbytery of Guelph, and the

name of Mr. McKerragher on that of the Presbytery of Toronto

The amendment was lost and the original motion carried by a large majority.

The consideration of the report of the Committee on the reports of the College Board was resumed.

Some discussion arose on the recommendation that the portion of Dr. Willis' retiring allowance hitherto charged to the Colleges, namely \$800 should for one year be paid out of the Assembly fund, and that a Committee should be appointed to consider the question of the retiring allowances of professors.

The recommendation was adopted.

Rev. W. Reid read the report of the Committee on Finance. The whole amount contributed had been larger than that last year, but the contributions for Knox College had been less. The Committee had made an assessment of 8 cents, 7 cents, and 6 cents per member, according to the wealth of the congregation, in order to raise the sum of \$9,453. The amount raised was \$3,071, while the expenditure was \$4,667, leaving \$597 against the fund. The Committee recommended that the mode adopted for raising money for the past two years should be continued.

The report was referred to a special Committee.

On the motion of Rev. Professor Gregg, the Board of Management of Knox College was empowered to borrow on the mortgage of the new property on Spadina Avenue such an amount as might be necessary to complete the building.

On motion of the Rev. J. McTavish, the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund was relieved of the sum of \$400, part of Dr. Willis' retiring allowance, and the fund of Knox College was made responsible for it.

On the motion of the Rev. Principal Caven, Rev. Mr. Proudfoot was appointed lecturer on Homologies, Church Government, and Pastoral Theology in Knox College.

Rev. T. Wardrope presented the report of the Committee on the state of religion. The Committee congratulated the Assembly on the advancement made during the year, though it lamented the prevalence of interperence, the neglect of family worship and desecration of the Sabbath.

The report was adopted.

The sederunt closed with the benediction, at a quarter after one.

AFTERNOON SEDERUNT.

The Assembly met at 3 o'clock.

After devotional exercises, and confirmation of the minutes.

An overture was read from the Presbytery of Montreal, praying the Assembly to take the subject of systematic evangelistic services into consideration, and mature and set in operation such a scheme as might tend to the glory of God and the good of the Church.

Rev. W. McKenzie said he believed the work recommended would do an immense amount of good, and would tend to the soothing away of difficulties. He would be sorry if they should wait for pressure from outside before they undertook this work.

Rev. Dr. Burns did not think it necessary to delay the Court on this subject. He urged the desirableness of this work, and suggested that the question should be referred to the Committee on the state of religion, and that the details should be considered by the Synod.

Rev. Principal McVicar moved that the Assembly approve of the overture, and refer it to the Committee on the state of religion with a view to their preparing a scheme of systematic evangelistic work.

After some discussion, Rev. Mr. Rodgers moved that the overture be referred to a special Committee.

Dr. McVicar's motion was carried by a large majority.

The report of the Committee on the reports of the College Board was again taken up. The removal of the Manitoba College from Kildonn to Winnipeg was agreed to. The several other recommendations were read and agreed to.

Rev. J. Gray objected to the recommendation that Manitoba College should still be supported out of the Mission Fund.

Rev. Principal Caven pointed out that the Union was close at hand, and an alteration in the scheme was undesirable during this year.

The recommendation was agreed to.

At the request of Mr. Ure, Mr. McColl read the clause of the original report referring to the debt of the College as amended, to the effect that the debt on the building, amounted \$1,600 be assumed by the Board of Management of Manitoba College. The recommendation in the original report that three students of the College should be taught theology under the care of the Manitoba Presbytery, on which the Committee declined to make a deliverance, was, after some discussion, granted.

THE UNION QUESTION.

Rev. Principal Caven then said he should like to bring up the report of the Union Committee. (Cheers.)

Rev. Principal Snodgrass and Rev. Dr. Jenkins, of the Church in connection with the Church of Scotland, who were present, were invited to take seats upon the platform.

Rev. Principal Caven, after expressing his regret at the unavoidable absence of Dr. Topp, the Convener of the Committee, said the question submitted to that Committee had been simply with regard to the fourth article of the basis. The Joint Committee had agreed to recommend, first, that the article should cease to form part of the basis (cheers)—and, secondly, that in putting it into the resolutions it should be separated into two parts. In addition to this, the only important changes the Committee had made were a few verbal amendments in the remit which Mr. Caven proceeded to explain. Then he also prepared a resolution embodying the remit, but containing a blank for the place and date of the ad-