

Thos. Nicholson, A. Farquharson, W. Bennett, J. S. Burnet, ministers; Messrs. W. Robb, J. Armon, Walter MacKenzie, A. Tupper, A. D. McNaly, K. Wilson, and A. MacTavish, elders.

Committee on Returns to Remits.—Revs. John Gray (Orillia), John Burton, K. MacLennan, J. A. Murray, Dr. MacIver, James A. McNeill, Jas. Thomson, G. Smellie, E. McCrae, M.A., Dr. James, James Dick, ministers; Messrs. J. Luff, J. C. Thomson, W. B. McMurrich, T. W. Taylor, D. McVicar, John Renton, Robt. Cassells, George McKay, elders.

Rev. Dr. Robb moved, seconded by Principal Grant, That the Committee to receive applications of ministers to retire from the active duties of the ministry and continue their names on the Presbytery rolls, be added to the Committee on Remits.

A discussion took place on various points of order, after which the Moderator ruled that the motion could be put to the House.

On a division Dr. Robb's motion was carried.

Rev. Mr. McLeod was appointed leader of Psalmody during the Assembly's sitting, and the session closed shortly after one o'clock.

#### AFTERNOON SEDERUNT.

The Moderator took the chair at three o'clock.

After prayers, Rev. Mr. Ross presented the report of the Committee on Communications, recommending that the name of Rev. Thomas Smith, of Kingston, be put on the roll in the place of Rev. Dr. Neil, of Seymour, who was unable to be present on account of sickness. The report was adopted.

#### DELEGATE FROM THE UNITED STATES.

The Moderator invited the Rev. A. Nevin, B.D., LL.D., delegate from the Presbyterian Church of the United States, to take a seat on the platform. The rev. gentleman was received with applause.

Rev. Dr. Nevin, who was asked to say a few words, said he had a severe cold and therefore could not speak at any great length. He was, however, in a happy frame of mind, because he recognised in the new Moderator an old friend, and because he was among such a happy set of brethren. He was, he said, a native of Cumberland Valley, and was a Scotch-Irish Presbyterian, a class of Presbyterians whom he had lauded in a volume he had written, so far as a proper regard for the truth would allow him. He came from a place where the religious worship was neither a rigid formality, nor of the enthusiastic wild-fire class. He had listened with pleasure to the psalms which had been sung, and he might say he thought the time had come when the Church could afford to be a little liberal in the matter of singing, as well as with respect to many other things; he therefore did not object to singing hymns, though they might have been one or two removed from inspired psalmody. He then gave an account of the meeting of the old and new school Presbyterians at Pittsburg prior to the union, and the gathering afterwards, stating that it would have done his hearers good to have been present. That gathering he said was a conservative body, and had done much in the direction of preserving the orthodox belief. He looked for a joining of this Assembly with that of the United States. Why should not the Presbyterians of this continent be joined? There was only the Suspension bridge dividing them, and although he came 600 miles geographically to attend this Assembly, he did not come half an inch theologically. He was formerly in favour of union, although perhaps he had better not say anything about that down below. He once gave the hint of union to the Dutch Reformed Church, but they did not take the hint, and joined the Southern Church. With regard to the body to which he belonged, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the North—he might say that it comprised 37 Synods; 175 Presbyteries; 5,153 churches; 43,068 were admitted on examination; 20,702 were admitted on certificate; there were 581,600 Sabbath school members; and the contributions during the last year, which was somewhat affected by the stringency of the times, amounted to \$8,295,361. In conclusion, he expressed his high opinion of the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, stating that although the Churches were divided, he heard here in Canada the same singing, the same class of prayers, and the same character of preaching.

Rev. Dr. Bell moved the following resolution:—"That having heard Rev. Dr. Nevin, delegate from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, the Assembly record their thanks to Dr. Nevin for his excellent address, and request him to convey to his Assembly the cordial, brotherly greetings of this Church, and the prayer that they and we may abound yet more fully in advancing the Lord's work."

Rev. Professor Gregg seconded the motion, which was carried.

The Moderator, in presenting Rev. Dr. Niven with the thanks of the Assembly, said he had, as stated by the rev. delegate, laboured in the Presbyterian Church of the United States, and he could say that it was the most conservative of the English speaking Presbyterian Churches in the world. This Assembly knew all about the union of the churches across the border, and it would have done Dr. Nevin good had he also seen the union of the Presbyterian Churches in Canada. That union had accomplished for Presbyterians in Canada all that the union in the United States had accomplished for Presbyterians there. He hoped that God would bless both churches. In conclusion, he asked Dr. Nevin to convey to his Assembly the best wishes of Canadian Presbyterians for the continued success of the Church in the great country which was his sphere.

#### STUDENTS ON TRIAL.

Rev. Dr. Reid read the list of applications to take students on trial for licence.

The applications were referred to the proper Committee.

#### APPLICATIONS TO RECEIVE MINISTERS.

Rev. Dr. Reid read the list of applications for leave to receive ministers as follows:—

From Lunenburg and Yarmouth, for leave to receive Mr. Roberts, formerly a minister of the Baptist Church.

From Paris, for leave to receive Rev. R. Stranger.  
From Toronto, for leave to receive Rev. Dr. Coll' s, formerly of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland.  
From Truro, for leave to receive Rev. A. W. Macleod.  
From London, for leave to receive Rev. J. H. Paradais and Rev. Mr. Cameron, of New Jersey.  
From Montreal, for leave to receive Mr. Cornell.  
The applications were referred to the Committee on Applications for leave to receive ministers from other churches.

#### RETIRED MINISTERS.

An application was read from the Presbytery of Glengarry for leave for Rev. J. S. Mullan to retire, with his name on the Presbytery roll.

Applications for leave to retire were also read from the following Presbyteries:—

Whitby Presbytery, asking for permission for Rev. Alex. Kennedy to retire.

Pictou asking for permission to Rev. Geo. Walker to retire.

Owen Sound, for permission to Rev. Mr. Dewar to retire and for his name to remain on the Presbytery roll.

Quebec, for permission to Rev. P. Lindsay to retire from active duty.

Bruce, for leave to Rev. W. Graham to retire.

The applications were referred to the Committee appointed to consider applications for leave to retire.

#### ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN AND GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

The Clerk read replies to the addresses forwarded last year to her Majesty the Queen and to the Governor-General. In reply to the former the Secretary of State for the colonies stated that the address had been laid before her Majesty and her Majesty had expressed her gratification at the sentiments of loyalty and attachment to her throne and person expressed therein. The reply of the Governor-General, which has already been published, expressed thanks for the kind expression in the address of the General Assembly.

#### THANKSGIVING DAY

The correspondence with the Premier of the Dominion with regard to Thanksgiving Day was read.

#### THE PAN-PRESBYTERIAN COUNCIL.

The report of Rev. Dr. Snodgrass on correspondence with other churches was read. The report had reference to the appointment of delegates to represent the General Assembly at other gatherings, but especially to the Pan-Presbyterian Council at Edinburgh, at which, it stated, the following gentlemen were appointed to represent the Presbyterian Church in Canada:—Dr. Topp, Dr. Caven, Dr. MacVicar, Dr. Willis, Dr. Robb, Dr. Snodgrass, Prof. McLaren, Rev. Messrs. Smellie, Burton, Kenneth McLennan, Thos. Sedgewick, James S. Black, R. C. Campbell, Messrs. H. B. Webster, J. Croil, and Geo. Hay, with Revs. Donald MacRae, R. Hamilton, J. B. Scott, George Chrystal, and Messrs. D. McKay and J. Kerr.

The report also stated that the only paper read by a Canadian was one by Rev. John Burton, on the training of young men.

Rev. Principal Caven also read a report, which stated that the Committee on correspondence had not met, but by correspondence it was ascertained that the opinion was in favor of issuing the following commissions. Rev. W. Mitchell, of St. John, N.B., to represent the Assembly before the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Rev. J. Forest to be the representative of the Assembly before the Free Church of Scotland; Rev. Dr. Baxter to represent the Assembly before the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland. He explained that it was thought advisable not to issue too many commissions; the three above mentioned were therefore all that were issued. No delegates were sent to the Church across the border, not out of any want of kindly feeling towards churches in the United States, but because it was felt inadvisable for this Church to make itself obtrusive, and that it was better rather to wait until correspondence with this Church would be more relished by other Churches than at present.

The Moderator said he had not been in favour of sending delegates to two of the Scottish Churches until delegates had been sent here from those Churches, but since they had been sent he did not want to complain about the action of the convener.

Rev. Principal Caven said the majority of the Committee had been in favour of sending these delegates.

Mr. Croil, as one of the twenty-five delegates appointed to attend the Pan-Presbyterian Council at Edinburgh, gave an account of that gathering. He stated that the Canadian delegates had been handsomely received. He had met with delegates from all parts of the world at the Council, and he believed that the result of the Council had been to show that the differences among Presbyterians were very few indeed. The missionaries had, however, said that a great hindrance to the spread of Presbyterianism was its divisions, by healing which a great deal of good could be done and economy could be effected. He concluded by handing over a copy of the proceedings of the gathering which had been sent to him for presentation to the General Assembly.

Rev. Principal Caven said the Pan-Presbyterian Council had given the Church a sense of its unity which it had never had before. There were representatives from all parts, and not only could they sing and pray together, but their sentiments on matters of doctrine were all the same. There were some Lutherans present, and they felt quite at home, and while they did not disavow Lutheranism, they frankly admitted there were features in the Reformed Church to be admired. He urged his hearers to be content with no union until the whole of the Presbyterian churches were one, for the Church of Christ was one. The Church which did most for Christ would be honored in doing more than any other in fulfilling the Saviour's prayer for unity.

Rev. Dr. Robb thanked the Assembly for having sent him to the great Assembly. It was one of the most important gatherings of the Presbyterian Church since the Westminster Assembly. A spirit of true loyalty to the standards of the Church was evinced, and there was a wonderful agreement

on all essential points exhibited by the churches represented there. At the same time there was very manifest a spirit of Catholicity; there was nothing approaching "canting on the subject of unity." There was no pretense that a man loved another Church better than his own; but there was a spirit of love pervading the Assembly. Dr. Snodgrass, Dr. Topp and Mr. Croil were on the business committee of the Council. For the future he thought it would be better if those on the business committee were appointed—not by a few individuals—but by the various churches so that the committee might more properly represent the churches of the world.

Rev. Principal MacVicar said that he too was impressed with the catholicity of the Council. Another impression he received was that a very large contribution to the intellect of the Council came from this continent. He spoke very highly of the representatives from the United States, and expressed a hope that there would be yet a broader union between the Presbyterians of this continent and Great Britain.

Rev. Mr. Smellie referred to the opening sermon of the Council by the Rev. Mr. Flint. He did not know why it was not published in the report of the Council, unless Dr. Blackie had certain views of his own and perhaps there was a reason for suppressing it. There were no mawkish words about union in it; it was a complete answer to anything that had been said by doctors of divinity in the way of nonsense on that subject.

Rev. Mr. McLennan said that illness had prevented him from attending all the meetings of the Council. There was very general delight in Edinburgh at the largeness of the number of delegates from other places and their intellectual vigor. His impression as to the sermon was that it was not to be published, so as to be regarded as containing views accepted by the Council; on the contrary, some prominent members had stated that these views did not indicate their opinions.

Rev. Mr. Smellie stated that a vote of thanks was given to Dr. Flint; but an addition was moved by one member to the vote that it did not represent the views of some of them.

Rev. J. S. Black, while believing that Canadians had been treated well, was still of the opinion that Canada took a back seat, and occupied it very humbly. He hoped that Canada would be more prominent at the next Pan-Presbyterian Council.

Rev. R. Campbell said that if Canadians took a back seat it was their own fault; they could certainly have had front seats if they desired it. They could have prepared more papers had they chosen to do so.

Rev. Dr. Robb said the time allowed for Canadian speakers at the Council was too small; one Canadian had been asked to speak on a very important matter for ten minutes, and Principal MacVicar was offered five minutes to detail the work of French Evangelism in Canada. Offers to speak had therefore to be declined, and while Canada had comparatively little to say, the Americans earned the distinction, as stated by a French clergyman, of being "very pig, very beautiful, and very talkative." (Laughter.) He looked upon the Scotch Church as the mother Church; the French Church as the grandmother, and the American Church as the granddaughter.

Rev. Mr. Sedgewick said the Americans had certainly gained for themselves a name for loquaciousness. He observed that none of those who attended the Council had expressed their disagreement with the views held by other Presbyterians. For instance, it used to be said that the use of organs in church was nothing but aping Episcopacy. Well, the delegates met their Dutch brethren, they had the finest organs built, and it was not made a complaint against them that they aped Episcopacy. Then they met the Swiss, who admitted Baptists into their communion. But it was to be remembered that there was a great difference between much talking and talking much.

Rev. Principal Grant suggested that a vote of thanks be given to the delegates for representing the Assembly at the Council; all of them having gone, he understood, at their own expense. He had noticed that representatives had spoken approvingly of the various churches represented at the Council, which proved to him that in essentials there could be a unity, in non-essentials liberty, and in all things charity, among Christians. At the Council there were representatives of the Dutch Church present. The use of the organ had been at one time called aping Episcopacy; the Dutch church used the finest organs built, but no complaint was made against it. There were also Lutherans present; their doctrines almost amounted to sacramentalism, but no objection was made to them. And the French church, which used a partial liturgy and observed Christmas and Easter was not only not objected to, but had been called the grandmother of Presbyterian churches. He did not think these practices could be any longer regarded as identified with Episcopacy, and the remarks which had been made concerning the churches adhering to them were an augury of good and a promise of a greater toleration in regard to differences of opinion.

Mr. W. Adamson (Toronto) hoped the Assembly would call for a few words from Dr. Topp before the subject was disposed of.

Rev. Dr. Topp, in reference to the statements as to the treatment of Canadian delegates, said the Canadian Church was so closely identified with the home Church that the two were treated as one. The Americans were given such a prominent place because they had not been in the country before; and, indeed, probably, they spoke at greater length than the representatives of the Scotch Church.

Rev. Dr. Waters, of St. John, N.B., moved that "The Assembly has listened with much satisfaction to the report of the delegates appointed to attend the Pan-Presbyterian Council at Edinburgh, and commends the members of the delegation for their diligence; also, that the report of the Committee on Correspondence be adopted."

The motion was carried.

The Benediction was then pronounced, and the Assembly rose.