

spoke very strongly in the interests of the fund.

On motion of the Rev. J. Hastie, the Synod expressed its confidence in the administration of the fund and commended it to the generous sympathy of the Church, with the hope that the deficit of the present year may soon be reinvented.

CHRISTIAN LIFE.

The Rev. James Hastie presented the committee's report on Christian life. He said that the Sabbath services in the sanctuary are, on the whole, well attended, still there is room for improvement. The week-night services are not so well attended. The Synod will be pleased to learn that there is a general deepening of spiritual life. Social and commercial life is said to be fairly well reported of. The life of the family bears evidence of more seriousness; but it is not all that can be desired. In the Sabbath-schools and Young People's Societies there are many marks of usefulness. Testimony is borne to this from many quarters. Some Sessions report no special outpouring of the Spirit as having been enjoyed; but there is no evidence of barrenness. Many hindrances to spiritual life were noticed; but these may be met and overcome by the help of the Spirit of God. On the whole the Lord's day is well kept, but complaint is made against railway traffic and the new amusement of cycling on the Lord's day. Intemperance was deplored and such institutions as the W.C.T.U. were commended. In closing, Mr. Hastie moved a series of recommendations, which, in effect, urged sessions to exercise a loving oversight over the young; urged congregations to practice systematic giving; urged all members to do their uttermost to keep the Sabbath day holy; that the Synod re-affirm its belief in the principles of total abstinence, etc.

After a prolonged discussion these recommendations were adopted.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of Synod in the First Presbyterian Church, Brockville, on the second Monday of May, 1898.

The Synod resumed at two o'clock and was constituted, the Moderator in the chair.

The appeal of Mrs. Marjory Robertson was taken up. This lady asked that the session of Vankleek Hill be instructed to erase from its records all reference to her case, also that said session be instructed to grant her a certificate of disjunction as a member in good standing in that church, in the year 1872. In her letter she states that, in accordance with the decision of Presbytery, she was entitled to these as her rights. No evidence could, however, be obtained as to why she did not avail herself of these rights twenty-five years ago. It was reported that her statements as to her rights in the premises was correct, and if the session records sustain this statement, there will not likely be any opposition. In the meantime, a committee was appointed to make the necessary enquiries, and report.

The Rev. Dr. Crombie read a paper upon the "Administration of the Lord's Supper," which we hope to be able to present to our readers in the near future.

A conference was held upon the paper, in which the Rev. J. R. McLeod, the Rev. J. Nichols, the Rev. D. McLaren, the Rev. Dr. McDiarmid, the Rev. Mr. Rattray, the Rev. K. McLennan and the Rev. A. H. Macfarlane, took part.

Dr. Crombie was thanked for his admirable paper, and asked to give it to the press.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The Rev. D. McLaren presented and read the report upon Sabbath-schools. Two hundred and ninety-eight of the schools had reported. There are seven French schools, and as an item of interesting information it was stated that nineteen lady superintendents are reported. In one school there were nine elders acting as teachers, in another there were seven, and in another six. These schools raised \$14,600. and \$7,500 had been spent upon their own running expenses. Looking at the report as a whole there was abundant reason to thank God for the amount of success vouchsafed. He moved that sessions be more careful in the preparation of their reports to Presbyteries and Sabbath-schools. Further, that increased diligence be given by teachers and superintendents to be faithful in the training of the children in giving to the Lord's

cause. After some discussion the report was adopted.

The Rev. J. R. McLeod presented the treasurer's report of Synod finances, which was adopted.

The standing committees for the ensuing year were appointed.

Votes of thanks were tendered to those who had contributed to the entertainment of the Synod during its proceedings. This ended the business and the moderator addressed the Synod as follows:—

Fathers and brethren:—At the close of this Synod permit me to thank you for your great kindness to myself during all the sittings of Synod. To me it has been a great pleasure to witness the brotherly spirit which, all along, characterized your deliberations. Our meeting together has sorely been a blessing to us all. I think we have found it to be true that, "an iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friends." We have reason to be thankful that we had no "burning question" before us this year. We would not, even if we could, forget beloved brethren whose faces were familiar to us in our Synod a year ago, but who have gone, since that time, to join the general assembly and church of the first-born in heaven. During the last twelve months the rider of the pale horse has gone through several parts of the bounds of this Synod. This is particularly true with regard to the Presbytery of Montreal.

Brethren, the time has now come for us to say to each other here the word farewell. And we go back to our life work more resolved than ever to be faithful unto death that at last we may "join our friends who have obtained the prize."

Church News

[All communications to this column ought to be sent to the Editor immediately after the occurrences to which they refer have taken place.]

MONTREAL NOTES.

The meeting of the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa during the week at Almonte took a number of the ministers out of town to attend its sessions. The attendance from the whole Province of Quebec, however, was exceedingly small, not amounting to more than a dozen and these were chiefly those who held official positions or had some special business to bring before the court. The truth is the immense size of this Synod and the great distances that must necessarily be travelled to reach the place of meeting has always hitherto interfered with the success of the meetings as regards attendance, and have diminished greatly the weight of its deliberations. It has never in any fair way represented the churches within the bounds. Much of its work is of a purely routine character and little would be lost from the efficiency of the Church if it were dropped out from the organization altogether. So long as the other Synods of the Church are satisfied of their usefulness of course this cannot be done without destroying the symmetry of the Church. It is more probable that it may lead to its division into two Synods—one for the Province of Quebec and the other for eastern Ontario. In point of numbers actually attending each would in all likelihood be as large as the existing one and do as good work. It is an open question also whether some of the existing Presbyteries would not be the better of division or re-arrangement. Such changes, however, cannot be hurried and will no doubt find advocates as soon as the need for them is more plainly felt. One thing which certainly interfered with the attendance this year was the fact that the Assembly is to meet so far away as Winnipeg and a good many of those who had been elected as Commissioners felt that they could not face the cost of both journeys. Indeed there is great difficulty in securing the full number of Commissioners at all in most of the Presbyteries. There is considerable disappointment at the rate to Winnipeg offered by the railways, and unless some further concession is yet made before the time of meeting many of those who have been appointed Commissioners will stay at home. The practical effect of this would be to prevent any meeting of the Assembly from being held in the Northwest for a very long while to come. This would be a cause for

deep regret and would no doubt make it more difficult to keep up the interest of the Church in its most important Home Mission field. It is to be hoped the railways will yet find some way of meeting the situation.

The Rev. Dr. Whittier who was called some weeks ago to Calvin church has also been called to Greyfriars' church, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, and has intimated his acceptance of the latter. Calvin church will therefore proceed to make another election as early as possible.

At a special meeting of the Presbytery of Montreal held during the meeting of Synod thirteen members of the graduating class in the Presbyterian College were licensed to preach and are now open for calls.

GENERAL.

R. W. Geddes, Presbyterian missionary at Revelstoke, B.C., for the past year, has removed to a new field at Duck Lake, Man.

The annual meeting of the Presbyterian church, Severn Bridge, was held recently. The Treasurer's report showed a small reduction of the floating debt during the past year. A letter from the Presbytery was read, expressing gratitude to God for the large increase in membership, and asking the field to become self-supporting. The general business of the congregation was attended to, a time of pleasant sociability enjoyed, and the following elected to the Board of Management: W. H. Miller and S. Rainey for three years; R. Trinder and J. Blackwell for two years, and G. Robinson and G. Cockburn, for one year.

Anniversary sermons were preached in Victoria Presbyterian church Toronto Junction May 16th by the Rev. Dr. Parsons, morning and evening, respectively. On Monday the anniversary tea meeting was held in the basement of the church, after which a very pleasing entertainment was given in the lecture-room. The Rev. J. W. Rae, pastor, occupied the chair, and gave an excellent address. This was followed by able speeches by the Rev. Dr. Turnbull and Rev. W. S. Hill. The musical part of the programme was exceptionally fine.

Cooke's Church, Toronto, was the scene of a very interesting and enjoyable entertainment on the evening of May 12, on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the induction of Rev. William Gregg, D.D., as pastor of the church. Beginning at half-past six o'clock tea was served in the basement of the church, after which the large number present repaired to the church proper, where a musical service was rendered by a large choir, under the direction of Mr. A. T. Cringan, Miss Hamilton presiding at the organ, and short congratulatory addresses were delivered by Rev. Principal Caveo, Rev. Canon Sisson, Rev.

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