

this land that it never had before. He would therefore move in amendment, "That in view of the returns sent up by Presbyteries, Kirk Sessions, and to the remit on union, it be resolved, that the Synod proceed at once to the consummation of union on the said basis, taking all necessary steps by legislation or otherwise, but reserving to itself in the meantime the power to alter the terms of the proposed disposal of the temporalities fund."

The Rev. Mr. Campbell, Montreal, in ascending the amendment, said it was explicitly stated in the remit that they did not alter in the slightest degree the principles held by them in 1844. He proved from the records of the Church that the Synod had been overtured on the question of union several times. The Church, as it now was, did not represent the Scotch people of this country. They were universally weak, and the Presbyterians were universally strong; but each had elements which, if united, would form a church that every Irish as well as Scotch Presbyterian would have reason to be proud of. He knew there were Ministers of the Church who sacrificed their own feelings and advocated this union for the advantages that would accrue to the Church in the future.

It being eleven o'clock the debate was adjourned till next day.

**CANADA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.**  
—  
**GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

—  
SECOND DIET.

—  
Wednesday, June 3.

The Moderator took the chair at 11 o'clock.

The first hour was spent in devotional exercises. Shortly after noon the Assembly was constituted for business.

The Clerk, the Rev. Mr. Fraser, read the minutes of yesterday's diet, which was sustained, after several corrections had been made. The reading and correction occupied nearly three quarters of an hour.

Rev. R. Hamilton moved that Mr. Cochrane be asked to sit with the Assembly as a Corresponding Secretary.

The motion was ruled irregular.

Rev. R. Warden read the report of the Committee on Bills and Ordinances, appointing the order of business for the day.

The report was read and adopted.

Rev. T. Wardrop presented the report of the Committee on Commissions, recommending that certain changes in Commissions from the Presbyteries of Guolph and Stratford to the General Assembly be sanctioned.

The report was received. On the motion for adoption.

Rev. J. McTavish, of Woodstock, contended that the adoption of the report would lead to indefinite irregularities.

Rev. W. Reid thought it better to decide on the matter now before the Assembly and to prepare an overture subsequently to decide the constitutional points as to the time within which substitutions might be made for Commissioners who had resigned. He thought ten days before the Assembly would be sufficient.

Rev. Dr. Proudfoot moved that the charges be made, without adopting the arguments contained in the report.

Rev. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion.

Rev. Professor McLaren contended that the motion was ultra vires, as it would set aside the constitution of the Assembly itself.

After some further discussion one o'clock arrived, and after an announcement that the Dominion Telegraph Company had presented a franked book to the Assembly.

The benediction was pronounced, and the Assembly adjourned.

**AFTERNOON SEDERUNT.**

The Assembly met at 3 o'clock.

After devotional exercises, the minutes of the morning sederunt was read and sustained.

The discussion of the report of the Committee on Commissions and the point of order raised by Prof. McLaren on Dr. Proudfoot's motion was resumed.

Rev. Prof. Gregg said the action of the Assembly last night in referring this matter to a Committee had settled the competency of the motion. If Prof. McLaren desired to have the letter of the law so strictly observed, he would insist upon a third of the ministers being present.

After further discussion and several precedents being quoted

The moderator ruled that in his opinion according to the letter of the law Dr. Proudfoot's motion was not competent.

Rev. Mr. Wilson appealed to the Assembly on the Moderator's ruling, which was sustained by 65 to 16.

Rev. Principal Cavan moved that the substitutions recommended be allowed, but be not regarded as precedents.

Another point of order was raised and discussed, and the motion was ruled out of order.

After further conversation.

A motion by Principal Cavan to the effect that the substitutions recommended, be allowed notwithstanding their irregularity, and that a Committee be appointed to consider the matter of modifying the part of the Act in connection with the appointments, was carried by 71 to 25.

On the order for the Report of the Committee of Statistics.

Rev. W. Cochrane stated that during the year the Convener, Dr. Waters, had left for New Brunswick, after calling a meeting at which only members of the Presbytery of Stratford were present, and Mr. Mitchell of Mitchell, was elected convener. Subsequently Mr. Mitchell called another meeting, at which no one was present from outside the Presbytery of Stratford except Mr. Torrance, of Guolph, and Mr. Mitchell having resigned, Mr. Torrance was elected Convener.

Rev. Torrance then read the report of the Committee on Statistics. After referring with regret to the removal of Dr. Waters and acknowledging his worth and ability, the Committee proceeded to give a sum-

mary of Statistics, of which the following is a synopsis.—Ministers on the rolls of Presbyteries 829, against 815 last year; number of regular charges 615, an increase of 12 with 48 stations, a decrease of two, vacancies 79, mission stations 83, number of families connected with the Church was reported to be 27,913 and estimating each family to contain five persons it might be affirmed that upwards of 140,000 persons were under the pastoral oversight of a stated ministry, or enjoy such occasional means of grace as Presbyteries were able to afford. Single persons not connected with congregations, numbered 4,175. The number of communicants had increased to 49,815. 5,845 had been added to the church during the year, and the diminution had been 3,533 leaving a gain of 2,311, or 141 more than last year. The baptisms had numbered 1,703, including those of 123 adults. The number in the sabbath schools was 31,267, and in bible classes 8,269; the elders were reported at 1,957; other office bearers at 3,581; and Sabbath School teachers at 4,991. Of 98,189 volumes in libraries, no less than 86,658 belonged to Sabbath Schools. Sittings in church numbered 114,100, and Missionary Associations 163, while 28 churches and 21 manses have been built or repaired during the year. The stipend promised was \$239,885, and that actually paid \$232,504 an increase over the amount paid last year of \$11,283. The average per minister was \$700 against \$702 last year. Arrears of stipend amounted to \$6,801, the only Presbyteries in which there were no arrears being Kingston, Hamilton, Paris, Clatham, and Huron. The amount raised for building churches and manses had been \$154,876. These sums, with \$80,540 expended in other ways, made a total of \$477,961 raised for strictly congregational purposes, being an increase of \$14,591 over that obtained last year. The total amount contributed for the schemes of the Church was \$55,155, a considerable falling off from last year. The sum returned as raised for College buildings was \$23,645 and for various benevolent objects \$24,418. The total contributions for all purposes amounted to \$585,899 or an increase over an increase over the sum reported last year of \$24,998.

Rev. John Gray, of Orillia, said he thought the Assembly ought to express its gratitude to God for the great mercy that he had shown them. He moved the reception of the report, the thanks of the Assembly to the Committee and especially to the Convener for his painstaking labours, and the usual vote to him of a slight compensation.

Rev. W. Reid said the report was one of the most complete he remembered, and they must all feel grateful to Mr. Torrance for having got his report before the Assembly on so early a day. (Applause.)

The motion was agreed to. The recommendations were then considered *seriatim*.

On the first recommendation,

Rev. J. M. King, of Toronto, commented on the great incompleteness of the reports of Presbyteries at present, and advocated some step being taken to obtain the reports more promptly.

Rev. T. Wardrop argued the necessity of making the ecclesiastical year coincide with the ordinary year (Hear, hear)

The recommendation was agreed to.

On the second recommendation,

Rev. Dr. Proudfoot said he thought the mere adoption of the recommendation would not have any effect.

Rev. Dr. Taylor, of Montreal, said he thought the form of the statistical returns should be simplified.

Rev. J. M. King moved the omission of the words, "and the mission stations, from the recommendation.

After some discussion, the original recommendation was agreed to.

The third recommendation was agreed to.

Rev. Mr. Fraser asked if it would be in order now to change the ecclesiastical year to correspond with the ordinary year.

After a few informal remarks, the subject dropped.

On the recommendation of the Presbytery of Hamilton, it was agreed to admit Mr. Henderson as a student of the second year in theology.

The Presbytery of Manitoba made an application to have three students in the Manitoba College trained in theology under the care of the Presbytery.

Rev. Prof. Bryce said that the reason for the application was the great difficulty there was in sending the young men down to the existing Theological Colleges.

Rev. Principal Cavan said this was a very grave proposal, as it was in fact establishing a theological faculty in Manitoba College. He moved the reference of the application to the Committee on College reports. Agreed to.

An application from the Toronto Presbytery for leave to retain the name of Dr. Jennings on the Presbytery roll was agreed to.

It being six o'clock, the sederunt closed with the benediction.

**EVENING SEDERUNT**

The Assembly met again at half past seven o'clock. After devotional exercises and the confirmation of the minutes of the Afternoon Sederunt.

The Moderator nominated the Committee to consider the constitutional question discussed in the afternoon.

Rev. Mr. Cochrane read the report of the Home Mission Committee. The Committee regretted that the increase in the funds reasonably expected and absolutely necessary if the Church is to retain her present position, and occupy new fields, has not been fully realized; the result is that the close of the financial year finds the disbursements in excess of the receipts to the extent of \$140,523; the contributions from all sources are \$20,581 25, while the expenditure is \$20,750 79. It has only been by the strict economy, and refusal of many new applications, that a much larger deficit is not reported. This economy your Committee feel assured has not always been justifiable, and cannot be continued without danger to our missionary interests. It ought not to

be necessary were the members and adherents of our Church alive to the importance of Home Mission work. The contributions of 50,000 members should be such as to place this Committee in a position to bid every new opening without being restricted by the fear of debt. As the case now stands, for eight months in the year the Committee, in order to meet pressing obligations, have to borrow large sums of money, trusting to forthcoming collections to discharge their indebtedness. How to meet old claims without entering into new engagements, is all that can be done in the present circumstances. The total amount contributed by the several Presbyteries, had been \$20,581 against \$19,022 last year, showing an increase of \$1,559. The receipts mentioned included \$814 from Sabbath Schools, \$272 in donations, \$486 for Manitoba from the Free Church of Scotland, and \$206 from Manitoba College. Besides this \$2,385 had been received from Knox College Missionary Society; \$1009 from the Montreal College Missionary Society, and \$445 from mission stations in Manitoba. The total sum received was \$24,480 as against \$21,212 for 1872-3. The Presbyteries which contributed the largest amounts were, Toronto \$5,801; Montreal, \$2,728; Hamilton, \$1,996; London, \$1,383; and Paris, \$1,277. The report contained statements of considerable length and interest contributed by the people was not 40 cents, but really \$11, as shown by the report submitted in the afternoon. He objected to any coercion being used toward the Manitoba Presbytery, and suggested the employment of agents to awaken interest in the people in regard to this matter.

Rev. Professor Bryce denied that the Manitoba Presbytery had set itself in hostility to the Committee.

Rev. Principal Cavan explained that he had not intended to allude to any greater liberality on the part of the Wesleyans, but had referred to the want of organization in their own Church to obtain a Home Mission Fund.

After some remarks from Rev. Mr. Warden, in which he complained that wealthy men did not contribute to the fund as they ought,

**FOURTH SEDERUNT.**

(Thursday Morning.)

The Assembly met at 10 o'clock. The Rev. Mr. McPherson, Moderator.

The Committee on Bills and overtures presented their second Report, which on motion was adopted.

Preaching before the Assembly. A committee consisting of Messrs. Hay, McMillan, Durie and Rev. Messrs. Wardrop and McLaren, were appointed to make arrangements for the supply of Knox Church Pulpit next Sabbath.

Address to his Excellency Earl Dufferin. The Committee appointed to draft an address to Earl Dufferin, Governor General of the Dominion, reported said address which on motion was adopted.

The Assembly appointed a Delegation consisting of the Moderator and Clerks of Synod, with Dr. Topp, Dr. Taylor, Principal Cavan, Hon. Jno. McMurich to present the address to Lord Dufferin.

A communication was read from the Hon. A. MacKenzie, intimating that the Parliamentary Library would be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., for the use of members of Assembly.

The Moderator announced that he would name the committee to nominate standing Committees in the afternoon.

Principal Cavan's motion of thanks to the Convener of the Home Mission Committee, and remitting the annual Report to a Committee to consider was carried. The Moderator intimated that he would name the Committee in the afternoon.

An overture on Home Mission regulations from the Cobourg Presbytery was read. It engaged certain alterations in the rules at present in force regarding Probationers and Ministers, and also regarding congregations which were in arrears of stipend.

Mr. Bennett was heard in support of the overture. He specified certain laws now in force which were in his opinion objectionable—which neither Students nor Presbyteries observed—which had been framed peaceably and were inconsistent with each other.

Mr. Ewing followed to the same effect Mr. J. M. King, Toronto, moved that the overture should be sent to the Committee appointed to consider the Home Mission Report. Mr. Bennett moved that the prayer of the overture be granted. Mr. King's motion was carried by a very large majority.

On motion of Mr. Warden the application was remitted to a committee to consider and report.

Overture from Presbyteries of Montreal, Toronto and Hamilton, in favour of holding an Ecumenical conference, a document in favour of the same from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the U.S. Pending the discussion of this subject, the Assembly adjourned to meet again at 3 p.m.

**AFTERNOON SEDERUNT.**

The afternoon sederunt commenced at three o'clock.

The subject of an Ecumenical Council was taken up.

Rev. James White, of Osgoode, moved, "That we express our approval of the objects named in the communication, and appoint a Committee to meet or correspond with the Committees from other Presbyterian denominations on the subject."

Rev. R. Ure, of Carleton Place, liked the idea of union, which meant strength, and thought that in foreign missions at least this Church might correspond with other Churches. The matter, however, required some consideration. He asked what were the objects of the Council.

Rev. Dr. Topp said that for instance it was desirable that the Presbyterian Churches should not interfere with one another in foreign mission fields, and it was also advisable that no alteration should be made in the Confession of Faith without a general agreement.

After some conversation,

Rev. Mr. Reid said that the Committees would simply consider the time, place and manner of holding the Council, but it would be two or three years before the Council could be held.

Rev. Mr. Ure urged that the Committees ought to receive instructions as to the course they should take.

Rev. W. Reid said the first thing for the Assembly to consider was the advisability of the meeting of the Council. Then it should consider the appointment of the Committee.

Rev. J. McTavish wanted to know if the appointment of the Committee would bind the Church to an approval of the Council.

Rev. J. White, of Osgood, thought there was too much fear in this matter.

Rev. Principal Cavan said he believed the motion committed the Assembly to approval of the general idea of an Ecumenical Council, and he would vote for it on that ground.

Rev. Mr. Inglis of Ayr, thought this Church had looked too much to themselves in past years. He hoped they would go forward in this work without doubt or fear. The motion was then agreed to.

Rev. Mr. Fraser moved that the following be the Committee—Dr. Topp, Professor Gregg, Principal McVicar, Dr. Burns, Hon. John McMurich, and Mr. Staunton. The names of the Moderator and Clerks, and the Revs. Dr. Taylor and J. White were added and the motion then passed.

Rev. J. M. King presented the report of the Committee on Delegates from other bodies.

Rev. H. Gordon then addressed the Assembly. He bore fraternal greetings from the Church he represented to the General Assembly. He urged that at this time above all others, they should unite to defend their Church. They wanted more *esprit de corps* among Presbyterians and he was sorry to say that there were ministers and elders who felt compelled to apologize because they were Presbyterians. He contended that they had nothing to be ashamed of in Presbyterianism though he was only too happy to recognize the service rendered to Christianity by other bodies. There never was such a field for Christian effort as the American Continent. When every man had its representatives, Presbyterians ought to be in the front, and never trail their banner in the dust. A tremendous crisis was coming upon the church and history was being made in a day. He hoped their respective bodies would stand shoulder to shoulder to meet the crisis, to labor for the salvation of souls and the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom. He contended that the incalculable of truth was the great backbone of the Christian Church. He proceeded to allude to the proposed marriage between the other church and this one. In the United States they had gone through this stage. He had been present in Pittsburg when the bodies united, and described the scene on that occasion. With the union a spirit of Missionary zeal and of religious conventions sprang up, and the result was a blessing to the whole community. He pointed out that there was no necessity for two regiments to picket against one another, or for one denomination to occupy a field already filled by another. The Home Mission Board of the United States were perhaps the most perfect of the Boards of the Presbyterian Church of the United States. All this was the result of the Union consummated in 1858. The Dominion now held by far the most magnificent field for labor. He concluded by wishing that God's blessing might rest upon them, and that the future might tend to God's glory, and the extension of the Church. The Moderator expressed the thanks of the Assembly to Mr. Gordon.

Rev. Mr. Warden moved that the report presented by Mr. King be received, and that Messrs. Wallace and Campbell, of Toronto, be appointed to wait upon the Congregational Union, to meet in that place.

An overture from the Presbytery of Prescott, praying that Mr. John J. Richards, a student from the States, be licensed was read, and the prayer was granted.

An overture was then read praying that the financial year be changed so as to conclude with the ordinary year.

Mr. H. Young moved that the overture be referred to the Presbyteries.

A long, desultory discussion took place.

Rev. J. White moved that the overture be received and laid on the table.

The amendment was lost, and the original motion carried.

The Committee appointed to consider amendments to the act of Assembly reported. They suggested an amendment to the

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