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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

THE General Assembly, in session at Brantford, Ont., is dealing with several questions of more than usual importance to the Church. First, there has been the question of Prof. Campbell, whose address at Queen's College on the "Perfect Book or the Perfect Father" has caused alarm among the orthodox Presbyterians. On the initiative of the Presbytery of Huron and Bruce the subject was introduced to the Assembly, and at one time it looked as if a storm of cross opinion was to burst on the fathers and brethren. Principal Caven, always a mediator between warring factions, bridged the stream and by a resolution, which, while commending the zeal of the Bruce Presbytery, left the matter in the hands of the Presbytery

of Montreal who will deal with Prof. Campbell and his views. The professor has many warm friends in the church and there is unanimous regret that the occasion has arisen that makes it necessary to put him on trial for his theological opinions. It seems to be the feeling among the laymen and ministers of the church that he has gone too far to retract and that no middle course remains for the Montreal Presbytery but to order his suspension from professorial duties for a year.

The relation of the theological halls to the church is all the more important that cases such as that of Professor Campbell exist. Had the professor been connected with Queen's College, for instance, it would be difficult for the church to reach him with its discipline. The appointment to Queen's does not rest with the Assembly but with the trustees of the college who are not appointed by the church, but are placed on a self-perpetuating basis. This anomaly was the cause of much controversy and no small bitterness a year or two ago, and when the report from Queen's was submitted this year to the General Assembly, Dr. Grant made quite a concession to popular feeling. The trustees wish to meet the wish of the church in so far as that appointments shall be subject to the veto of the General assembly. Some interesting particulars were given by Principal Grant of the organization of Queen's College. It was brought into existence by the action of the Church in 1839. At that time in Upper Canada the common schools were few and poor, and scarcely any provision had been made for higher education. A university had been chartered in 1827, but no professors had been appointed, and tests and other restrictions rendered it impossible for the great body of the people to accept it, with preservation of their self-respect. After years of discussion the Synod, which represented the whole Presbyterianism of Upper and Lower Canada, resolved in July, 1833, to delay no longer, and instructed the committee to begin an institution in Kingston. The commission met in Hamilton in November, and after full consideration decided to establish not merely a theological school, but a university, and a university to be open to everyone "on the same terms." Dr. Bell, at the time a student under the charge of the Presbytery of Hamilton, tells us that this resolved to abolish religious tests was distasteful to some of the older members, but they waived their

objections, and a new era in college life began. A royal charter was obtained for the university on October 16th, 1841, and classes were opened in March following.

SECONDARY EDUCATION IN SCOTLAND.

THE Scotch educationalists have for a long time been desirous of improving the secondary education system of Scotland, but the numerous conflicting interests involved have hitherto barred the way. During the present session of Parliament, however, a scheme on which all were agreed was adopted by the Commons, and all seemed amicably settled, when the House of Lords took upon itself to interfere, and as usual the English peers, who are entirely ignorant of Scotch educational affairs, united in carrying a resolution against any change in the present system.

It now remains for the House of Commons to try to defeat the action of the peers and carry the scheme this session, or allow the whole matter to lie over for another year.

THE LIBERALS IN COUNCIL.

OTTAWA has been invaded by an army of Liberals, and if that party has not been able to secure control of Dominion affairs it has at least the satisfaction of knowing that except for the Equal Rights Convention of four years ago it has been the only party to call a great national convention open to the press and at which the policy of the party has been laid down for the coming campaign.

The gathering was large, enthusiastic, and representative of Liberalism from all parts of the Dominion. Fully sixteen hundred delegates being present with a large number of friends of the cause, who took this opportunity of showing their devotion to the principles of the party. Sir Oliver Mowat was the unanimous choice of the convention for chairman, and he was assisted by associate chairmen from each Province.

The speeches were full of hope, predictions of the triumph of the party at the next election being vigorously applauded. No set platform was adopted, but tariff for revenue only, or free trade as far as practicable was accepted by all present, as was also the desire for a reciprocity treaty with the United States, provided such could be obtained on an honorable basis. The Manitoba school question caused an occasional breeze but the feeling of

the gathering was that the Dominion ought not to interfere in the matter.

The great enthusiasm with which the delegates received Hon. Wilfrid Laurier and the other leaders clearly indicates the satisfaction of the rank and file of the party with their chiefs, and whatever may be the ultimate results of the gathering, a great impetus has been given to the party movement, which it sadly needed. No doubt the Liberal-Conservatives will endeavor to offset this by a party convention which it is rumored will be held in the autumn.

A GLADSTONIAN REVERSE.

AT a bye-election held in Linlithgow last week the Unionist candidate Col. Hope defeated Mr. Ure of Glasgow, the Gladstonian candidate, by 169 votes.

The election was rendered necessary owing to the retirement of Mr. Peter MacLagen who having become involved in financial difficulties surrendered the seat which he held with great difficulty at the general election. Mr. MacLagen was best known as the champion of the Scottish Permissive Bill, which he advocated for years in and out of Parliament. At the last election Col. Hope was Mr. MacLagen's opponent and it was said the difference between the two platforms were infinitely small. Mr. MacLagen, however, held the seat by a majority of 161 votes practically the same as in the present contest Col. Hope has won by.

The Unionists naturally seem disposed to make the most of their victory and they are justified in so doing. The Gladstonians, on the other hand, say they were unprepared for the contest, had to suddenly select a stranger to the voters and had to fight a gentleman who has been carefully nursing the constituency for years. If the contest satisfies both parties they are happier politicians than we are in Canada.

Malcolm McKinnon.

One of the old and highly respected pioneers of Canada has recently passed away. We refer to the late Malcolm McKinnon, of Mariposa, Ont., who came to this country in 1830 from the Island of Mull and settled in Vaughan township, where in 1840 he married Catherine Ferguson, also a native of Mull. Mr. McKinnon moved to Mariposa in the forties and there in 1846 his wife died leaving him with one son, Mr. Hugh McKinnon, one of the most respected farmers in the Fingerboard district. For forty-seven years the deceased kept green the memory of the beloved wife of his early manhood and never married again. And dear to him was the grand old song, "The Land o' the Leal," and needless to say "We'll meet an aye be faim, Jean," were the favorite words.