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The Canadian Presbyterian Magazine.

TORONTO, AUGUST, 1853.

THE THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—The Session opened on the second of this month, in the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute, Toronto. Nine were enrolled as regular Students of Divinity. Addresses were delivered by the Rev. Mr. Harris, Professor Taylor, and Dr. Porter.

ORDINATION.—Rev. Patrick Craig was ordained to the pastoral charge of the congregation of Mount Pleasant, on the 19th of July.

CALL.—Mr. Dean, preacher, has accepted the call from the Congregation of Warwick and Adelaide, and will be ordained early next month.

The Presbytery of Canada East of the United Presbyterian Church, during their sabbatical in Montreal, on the 4th July, among other matters of public religious interest, finally disposed of the application of the Rev. James A. Devine, A. M., formerly a Deacon of the Church of England, to be received as a Licentiate of the United Presbyterian Church. The Committee previously appointed to investigate the merits of this case, having reported most favourably of Mr. Devine, and the examinations and trials required by the ordinary rules of the Church having been sustained, the Presbytery unanimously agreed to admit Mr. Devine as a Preacher of the Gospel within the bounds of this Presbytery and Synod.

On the same occasion, a Petition from the Rev. Mr. Stewart, Minister of the United Congregation of Sherrington and Hammingford, praying to be received into connexion with this Presbytery, in which petition the members of the congregation, by personal representatives and official instruments, expressed their earnest concurrence, was, after mature deliberation, unanimously sustained. Agreeably to this decision, the Presbytery appointed the Rev. W. Taylor, D. D., to preside on the occasion of Moderation of a Call to Mr. Stewart, on Tuesday, 23rd July.

PRESSENTATION.—On the afternoon of Friday, 27th May last, the Rev. Robert Torrance, pastor of the United Presbyterian Church, Guelph, was waited upon by a number of individuals, and in the name of the ladies of his congregation, presented with a handsome buggy, and a sum of money sufficient to purchase a set of harness. William Beattie, Esq., of Fushlinch, made a few appropriate remarks, to the effect that the buggy which they had come to present, was purchased with the free-will contributions of the females of the congregation, and was a token of respect to Mr. Torrance personally, and an expression of the value which they set upon his religious teachings. He adverted also to the illustration which this congregation afforded of the efficiency of the voluntary principle, and observed, that while the endowment party were stirring heaven and earth to retain their emoluments, the United Presbyterians of the neighborhood, although few in number, and poor in circumstances, comparatively speaking, could build their own church, support their minister, and had a mise remaining, which they could appropriate to such a purpose as this.

Mr. Torrance, in replying, begged to return his sincere and cordial thanks to the ladies in whose name he had been presented with this testimonial, and stated that its intrinsic value was enhanced in his view by its suitableness, and the indication it afforded of the attachment of his people, and that while he hoped he would be always guarded against deviating from the line of principle and strict duty, although offence might, in some instances be caused, he was well aware that a pastor must be beloved by his congregation if he would be instrumental in promoting their edification. He then adverted to the fact, that although he had been only six years and a half an ordained minister among them, this was the third testimonial he had received: first from the Bible Class, consisting of a Pulpit Bible and Psalm Book; next from the people, on the occasion of his leaving to visit Scotland, more than two years ago; and the present one, which was most valuable of all. He also spoke of the labor to which ministers of this country were subjected, and the labor which he had himself to undergo in consequence of the extent of the country over which the families under his pastoral superintendence were spread; and remarked, that if he was not so frequently in their houses as he used to be, they must remember that a considerable increase of the congregation had taken place since he was ordained among them, so that his travel and toil were even greater than they were at the commencement of his ministry. He concluded by repeating his thanks to the ladies for the handsome, valuable and appropriate testimonial which they had just presented.

To the Editor of the Canadian Presbyterian Magazine.

SIR,—In the July number of your Magazine a letter is published, with the signature, "A Member of Synod," started, having reference to a letter from the Secretary of the Mission Board in Scotland, respecting the Extension of Congregational Labor, and proposing to add fifteen pounds if any ten congregations should raise the sum of one hundred each. In the concluding paragraph of this letter the writer speaks of the Mission Committee lying under the suspicion of parsimony in this matter, which is nothing but a full and frank explanation and rebuke. Allow me to state, Sir, that the Mission Committee have no knowledge of such a letter—that it was never presented, nor even referred to, at any of their meetings—that it was not addressed to me—nor, as far as I am aware, to any member of the Committee. I hope this statement will satisfy your correspondent and all that were disposed to cast any imputation upon the Committee on Missions.

I cannot pretend to answer the questions of "A Member of Synod," but justice to the Committee on Missions required the statements of the foregoing particulars.

ROBERT TORRANCE,
Secretary, Mission Committee.

Guelph, August 1, 1853.

To the Editor of the Canadian Presbyterian Magazine.

SIR,—In your last No. a letter appeared from "A Member of Synod," respecting which I beg leave to offer a few remarks. Regarding the general spirit of the letter, I have only to express regret that any "Member of Synod" should, by the hasty and harsh implication of blame, give evidence of possessing but a meagre measure of the "charity which thinketh no evil."

But in regard to the letter supposed to be written by the Rev. A. Sommerville, Secretary of the Mission Committee in Scotland, I have to say, that such a letter is a "verity," and that I am the party to whom it was addressed, and through whom a knowledge of its contents has been circulated. And as regards the writer, he wrote as a private individual, and to all a private individual in an object of benevolence. The object was not one ever before the Home Committee on Missions, and hence Mr. Sommerville did not write as their organ of communication in this case. And for the same reason he did not consider the Mission Committee here the parties to whom the subject matter of the letter could be most naturally communicated. That nothing was farther from Mr. Sommerville's intention than to slight our Committee I am confident, and I am not less so in thinking that there is not a member of it that feels aggrieved, or that understands the business of the Committee so inadequately as to suppose that such a matter falls within their department. When Mr. Sommerville has anything to communicate from the Committee in Scotland he will address no one but the respected Convener of our Committee.

It must be known to "A Member of Synod," that my name appeared in the Minutes of Synod of 1852, as Convener of a Committee of Correspondence with Mr. Sommerville, upon the subject of books, for ourselves and people; and now, that a private gentleman, Mr. Malrose, has a benevolent proposition to make, closely allied in its object to that in connection with which the Committee upon a Book Depot was appointed, to whom would Mr. Sommerville so naturally write as to the Convener of that Committee?

Then, as to the use made of the communication, I took what, in the circumstances, seemed to me, and brethren, whose advice I sought, the best mode of making known a proposal, (limited in its nature) to those who were likely to feel interested in it, viz: I handed the letter freely round to brethren in the Synod, and it often passed from one to another without my interference.

As the advantage proposed was only to a certain extent, I was not called on to seek more than ten applicants for it; it would have been easy to find twenty. "A Member of Synod" or any one else wishing to know every word in the letter above noticed, with the object of being satisfied as to its nature and origin, will most readily obtain what he wants by application to myself. As there is a mistake in regard to the proposition made in the letter of "A Member of Synod," I will make it.