

of the late chairman of the Board, Rev. Dr. Topp, who was one of the best friends of the college, and evinced his interest in it by bequeathing 370 valuable volumes to its library. It also referred to the retirement from the chair of systematic theology of the late Principal Willis, who at great personal inconvenience discharged the duties of that chair with much acceptance for three months. During the year the students had special classes for the cultivation of elocution and sacred music. The Students' Literary Society was prospering, and with regard to the Students' Missionary Society the report of last summer's work in the several fields occupied was very cheering and stimulating. The students laboured in connection with the society in remote and necessitous places, and eleven had been appointed to fields during the coming summer. The report of the Board of Examiners stated that through various liberal donations and bequests they had been enabled to offer eleven scholarships, ranging in value from \$40 to \$60, to young men taking a full course of study at University College with a view to entering the ministry of the Church. Fifteen students presented themselves as competitors, a larger number than on any previous occasion. Dr. Proudfoot in presenting the report urged the necessity of clearing off the debt on the college, which hung like a millstone about its neck. He also commented on the valuable services rendered by students in the home and foreign mission fields, and dwelt upon the necessity of maintaining a pious and well-educated ministry as the sheet anchor of the Church.

Rev. Professor Bryce presented the report of the Manitoba College. It stated that the rapid increase of population in the province was leading to a much greater demand than hitherto upon its educational capabilities. The number of students who attended the college during the year was 47. The colleges of the Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Presbyterian Churches had worked harmoniously together, and from the three twenty-five students had gone up to the Provincial University examinations during the year, of whom sixteen went from Manitoba College, and the first to receive the degree of B.A. in the North-West, came from that College. The total amount raised during the year from local sources was \$776, being \$600 in excess of the amount received from the same source in the previous year. The report expressed thanks for the assistance received hitherto from the British Churches, and urged the necessity of keeping the claims of the college before those Churches. The present college building had become so contracted that a new building, which might be erected at a cost of \$15,000 or \$20,000, was urgently necessary. The college library had now reached nearly 3,000 volumes.

Dr. Reid presented the report of the Board of Revenue of Manitoba College, which expressed the opinion that a more generous local support should be given to the college, and recommended the Assembly to devise some means whereby the debt on the college, of something over \$4,000, might be removed.

On motion, the reports of the Halifax and Morin Colleges previously read, were received and adopted.

The Rev. Principal Cairns here entered the Assembly and was very warmly received. His credentials were read and he was invited to take his seat on the platform.

The College Reports were then proceeded with. On motion of Rev. Principal McVicar, the Assembly adopted the recommendation of the Board of Montreal Theological College to appoint Rev. Daniel Coussirant, M.A., D.D., now pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Orthez, France, French Professor of Theology, at a salary of \$2,000 per annum, to be paid by the Board of French Evangelization, and to re-appoint Rev. John Scrimger, M.A., lecturer on Greek and Hebrew exegesis in that College.

Principal McVicar explained that Mr. Coussirant, although a comparatively young man, had very high attainments. He had been employed by the Bible Revision Commission of France to revise the French translation of certain portions of the Old Testament, had been six years Professor in the Presbyterian College of Montreal, and was a distinguished philologist and learned theologian. He was precisely the kind of a man they required.

On motion the report of Queen's College was received and adopted, and the satisfaction of the Assembly therein placed on record.

On the report of Knox College Rev. Principal Caven moved as follows:—

"1. To receive and adopt the report. The General Assembly are gratified that the revenue of the College arising from congregational contributions has increased during the past year, and that the expenditure has been nearly met. They urge upon congregations to continue and increase their liberality, so that revenue and expenditure may be equalized.

"2. To instruct the Board to complete as speedily as possible the measures adopted for the removal of the debt remaining on the ordinary fund and the College building fund.

"3. To remit to the Board of Management for their careful consideration the revision of the rules which govern the procedure of the Board, with a view of reporting to the next General Assembly any important amendments to the rules which the experience of the Board may have suggested."

In the course of his remarks upon the report Principal Caven expressed his opinion that the preparatory course was doing good work and should not be abolished. He thought it would in the course of two or three years work itself out, as many of those who now availed themselves of it had been induced to take the full Arts course at University College, and that course he thought would be more and more followed in future. He highly commended the mission work done by the students.

Rev. Mr. Carmichael, of Markham, in seconding Dr. Caven's motion, estimated highly the standing and work of Knox College students. He was glad, however, that there was a tendency among the colleges to raise the standard of entrance, and to do away with the preparatory school. There was in every profession now a movement towards heightening the admissory qualifications, and it was quite necessary in the ministerial ranks.

Rev. Mr. King, of Toronto, also was content that the pre-

paratory training generally should be abolished, but thought it would be injurious at this stage should the preparatory training in Knox College be done away with, in favour of a B.A. qualification for entrance. He adduced the benefit of bursaries and scholarships in connection with the college course.

Dr. McVicar supported the latter remarks of Mr. King with reference to the importance of such pecuniary foundations.

Principal Caven's motion was then carried.

The report of the Manitoba College was on motion received and referred to a special Committee to report a deliverance at a future sederunt.

An overture was read from the Presbytery of Barrie recommending that, with the view of securing uniformity and affording to students the best possible facilities for doing Home mission work, the sessions in theology of all the Colleges in future open in the first week of November and close in the first week of May.

Rev. Mr. Gray, of Orillia, and Rev. Mr. Leiper, of Barrie, supported the overture, and respectively moved and seconded that it be received and adopted.

Rev. Mr. Thompson, of Sarnia, pointed out the importance of the classes of Knox College beginning at the same time as those of University College early in October.

Rev. Principal Caven moved that the overture be sent to the Boards of Management of the several Colleges and to the Home Mission Committee, with instructions to consider the subject and report thereon to the next General Assembly. Carried.

An overture was read from Ottawa Presbytery praying that the Assembly repeal the authorization of the Assembly of 1872, or any other authorization bearing upon the matter to institute and to have preparatory courses of instruction for students aspiring to the ministry—that in future no student shall be received into said preparatory courses, and that, excepting such students as are now in such preparatory courses, no student shall be received into the theological courses of the colleges of the church unless they shall have passed a regular curriculum of Arts in some university, college, or in such classes as the Assembly may from time to time appoint.

Dr. Moore, of Ottawa, in supporting the overture, remarked that the facilities for a general education, in the shape of collegiate institutes, grammar and high schools, colleges, etc., had become so general throughout the land that these preparatory courses were deprived of the original reasons in favour of their establishment, and were now quite unnecessary. There were about three propositions for every vacancy in the Church, and if there should be a diminution in the supply of ministers for the next two or three years no harm could result.

Rev. R. Torrance, of Guelph, Chairman of the Committee on the Distribution of Probationers, asked on what authority Dr. Moore made this statement.

Dr. Moore replied, on the authority of several members of the Home Mission Committee.

Rev. Mr. Torrance said that there had been sixty-five vacancies in the Western Section alone last year, which was far more than the supply. In the whole Church there had been about ninety vacancies. The fact was that there were about three vacancies to every probationer.

Dr. Moore—I am glad to hear that. Principal Grant asked how many had been referred to the committee on probationers for supply.

Rev. Mr. Torrance—About eighteen for the last quarter.

Rev. Mr. Gordon, of Ottawa, also supported the overture. He maintained that in these days, when the mass of the people were more highly educated than was the case a few years ago, a much higher standard of culture was demanded in the ministry of the Church, and for this reason a university arts course should be substituted for the preparatory course in a theological college.

Dr. Waters moved that the overture be remitted to the boards of the colleges to consider and report upon to the next General Assembly. He believed that if they had required a full university course in all aspirants to the ministry, the Church would have lost the services of many able and useful men.

Principal Grant seconded the motion. He thought this was a matter in respect to which they should hasten slowly.

AFTERNOON SEDERUNT.

At the afternoon sederunt the consideration of the Home Mission Report was resumed.

The Rev. J. M. King, Toronto, spoke to the motion he had previously laid before the Assembly. He said he thought the Assembly should emphasize its faith in a central fund for the Home Mission, and in the application of the money in the most necessitous fields irrespective of their localities. He would like to see the North-West field supported not only by Ontario and Quebec, but by Nova Scotia and New Brunswick as well. At the same time the Church was committed to sustain an effective ministry in the destitute districts of Ontario and Quebec. By means of some modifications in the management of the supplemental fund, they might effect a great improvement in the way of evoking the liberality of the congregations. He knew of no Presbyterian Church in the world which had a greater work before it than the Church of Canada had in its home mission field, and they should address themselves heartily to it. The very discipline which the Church would derive in so doing would, he believed, benefit them in respect to all their other schemes.

Rev. Mr. Gordon, of Ottawa, in seconding the motion, dwelt upon the large and growing burden being laid upon this Church and the Home Mission Committee by increasing the number and extent of their mission fields in the North-West. He believed that they had not yet begun to comprehend the greatness of that territory. Old Canada, relative to it, was only as one square upon the chess-board. The Presbyterian Church should recognize the fact that the Roman Catholic, the Anglican, and the Methodist Churches had gone ahead of them and established missions in many places where they had not. Not only was much of the ab-

original population of that territory without missionaries, but there were many Presbyterians who lacked the ordinances of their own Church. Though the flow of immigration into that country might not be so great in coming years as some editors and politicians fancied it would, he believed it would exceed the ability of this Church to keep pace with it. They must in the first place follow and care for the children of the Church when they went in there, and he ventured to submit the question whether the time had not come when the Presbyterian Church should have a superintendent of missions in the North-West. An early visit by one or more commissioners of the Church to inquire into its condition and the expenditure of the Church funds there, would, he believed, be productive of great benefit. This was the supreme work to which they as a Church should gird themselves, and if they did they would find it to be much vaster than they had ever dreamed of.

Hom. Alex. Morris considered this the most vital subject which could come under the notice of this Assembly, because in it were involved the possibilities of the Church in the future.

Rev. Mr. Bruce of St. Catharines, drew attention to two pleasing features in the report. One was that in the ninety stations or so opened in the North-West, twenty-four or twenty-five were opened in the same year as settlement took place, and twenty-four or twenty-five in the next year after. Mission work had therefore kept pretty fair pace with settlement. The other feature was that the supply by the stations themselves was very encouraging.

Rev. Mr. McKellar, of High Bluff, Manitoba, being called for, expressed his satisfaction that the Assembly was realizing the importance of the Church's work in the North-West, and he bespoke the sympathy of the Church with the missions in their arduous work. He reiterated the necessity of the Church keeping abreast of settlement.

The resolution was then adopted. A proposition to appoint a committee to proceed to the North-West for the purpose of fixing on the most eligible centres for evangelical effort was not adopted.

Rev. Mr. Becket, of Thamesville, moved that instructions be given to the Home Mission Committee to repay the supplemented ministers the 25 per cent. deducted from their salaries.

Rev. Dr. Cochrane thought it would be unwise to commit the Assembly to this motion.

Rev. Mr. King moved, in amendment, that the Home Mission Committee be directed to inquire into the instances in which the 25 per cent. deduction has not been made good by the Presbyteries of the bounds, with a view to redressing any case of hardship.

The discussion of these motions was interrupted by the recess.

(To be continued.)

SAD STORY OF A WRETCHED LIFE.

The most thrilling and sadly suggestive temperance lecture is in the sight of a once noble, talented man, left in ruins by intoxicating drink. A Washington paper tells of a ragged beggar, well known in the streets of that city, who once held an important command in the army, having been promoted, for personal bravery, from a cavalry lieutenant to nearly the highest rank in military service. One night recently, when he had been too successful in begging liquor to satiate his craving, and while lying helplessly drunk in the rear part of a Third street saloon some men thought to play a joke on him by stealing his shirt, and proceeded to strip him.

Underneath his shirt, and suspended by a string from his neck, was a small canvas bag, which the men opened and found it contained his commission as brevet major-general, two congratulatory letters—one from General Grant and one from President Lincoln—a photograph of a little girl; and a curl of hair—a "chestnut shadow" that doubtless one day crept over the brow of some loved one.

When those things were discovered, even the half-drunken men who found them felt a respect for the man's former greatness, and pity for his fallen condition, and quietly returned the bag and its contents to where they found them, and replaced the sleeper's clothes upon him.

When a reporter tried to interview the man, and endeavoured to learn something of his life in the past few years, he declined to communicate anything.

He cried like a child when told his right name and former position were ascertained, and with tears trickling down his cheeks, said:

"For God's sake, sir, don't publish my degradation, or my name, at least, if you are determined to say something about it. It is enough that I know myself how low I have become. Will you promise that much? It will do my friends a great deal of harm, as, fortunately they think I died in South America, where I went at the close of the war." Intemperance and the gambling table had wrought his ruin.

—Previously acknowledged, \$153.75; S., \$4; Byron, \$1.50: in all, \$159.25.

He that is sensible of no evil but what he feels, has a hard heart; and he that can spare no kindness from himself, has a narrow soul.

FRIVOLITY, under whatever form it appears, takes from attention its strength, from thought its originality, from feeling its earnestness.—Madame de Staël.

Do not stop to pick flaws in others, when God sees in thee the huge sin of rejecting the blood of Jesus. Do not prate about the "inconsistencies of Christians," when your whole life is one long inconsistency of admitting that religion is the only *one thing needful*, and yet making it less than nothing. There is no inconsistency on earth that compares with his who knows that Christ Jesus is willing to save him and yet persists in damning his own soul! Whatever you say now in self-excuse, we warn you that at the judgment-seat you will be ready to confess with bitterness of spirit, *God was right, and I was wrong*. Why not confess that now, and act upon it, before it is too late?