

### Echoes from the General Assembly.

Of members of the General Assembly conspicuous for many years by their presence and the active part they took in its deliberations, but conspicuous this year by their absence, were especially Rev. Principal Grant and Rev. Dr. Robertson. In smaller measure, but in their own departments of work ever ready, were the departed Rev. Dr. Laing of Dundas; and Rev. Dr. Proudfoot happily still spared to us of the veterans whom it is pleasant still to see, but whose voices not heard were Rev. Dr. Wardrop, Rev. Dr. Middlemass and Rev. Dr. Gregg, the latter of whom took part in the devotions of the assembly. Of laymen who take an active interest in the work of the church and took part in the assembly's work, the most notable were Mr. Hamilton Cassels, Judge Forbes, Mr. Walter Paul, Mr. John A. Paterson, and John Charlton M. P.

If the spirits of the departed can know and be affected by the conduct of the living left behind, our departed Home Mission leader in the west, must be satisfied with the fruit of his labor. Now that he is gone, it appeared a more sacred duty for the church to conserve the results of his work than it did even while he was yet alive. Whenever the claims and needs of the west were up, the one prevailing feeling and desire apparently were to know how its interests could be best served. Not a single objection was offered to any suggestion that at all appeared likely to promote its best interests morally and religiously. In all this there was an entire absence of the spirit of denominationalism, nothing was urged on the ground of gaining priority over any other branch of the church, it was all for the country's good and the extending and building up of the cause of Christ. We do not remember any General Assembly that throughout was kept up to a higher, if so high a spiritual level.

Of all whom, from our vantage point in the gallery, our eye caught, we saw in all that great audience, on the opening evening of the assembly no more attentive listener to the splendid presentation made by the ex-moderator of our church's work and standing, than was Rev. Dr. Potts, Education Secretary of the Canadian Methodist church. An interesting episode in the course of the assembly's meeting was the appearance of half a dozen christian chinamen on the platform, conducted by Rev. R. P. Mackay, D.D., our Foreign Missionary Secretary. They appeared on behalf of their christian fellow countrymen in the city, to express to the Presbyterian church through its assembly, their appreciation of the interest of the people in them, and of the efforts made by our church for their spiritual good. One read a very brief address, in English so broken as to be hardly intelligible; a second Mr. Yin, a bright looking young man, read a longer one in fairly good English and handed to the moderator the original written in Chinese, which he did not read for the edification of the assembly, but responded suitably in English. During all this their countenances wore an expression of vague, rather timid-looking wondering interest. Dr. Thompson, our missionary in Montreal, translated to them the message of the moderator from the church. Instantly their eyes lightened and brightened, and they stepped down from the platform evidently pleased.

The strain of his long and arduous work on the Century Fund, has evidently told somewhat heavily upon the agent, Rev. Dr. Campbell, whose health is not so good as his friends could wish. It is hoped that a period of perfect rest, may speedily restore his health and vigor, and enable him to complete the work he has carried through so successfully thus far. There was quite a touch of pathos in his words and the tones of his voice, when in concluding his address after presenting his report, he said: "If in doing his work, he had given offence to anyone, he asked their forgiveness; he would never forget all the kindness of which he had been the recipient; and if he had failed, it was not because he did not work and pray while engaged in this service for the church."

Presbyterians do not believe so much in actually attaining perfection, as in following after it, if perhaps they may attain it. We would not accordingly call the past assembly in all respects perfect. Perfection would probably be more than we can stand; but had it not been for the exhibition and discussion of the unhappy state of things in our Inland mission which was done in a manner as little excusable as perhaps could be expected; and the far too long time spent in the discussion of that silliest of silly fads the use of individual communion cups in the Lord's Supper, the Assembly just closed might

be called an ideal one in its tone, spirit, and the work it did, as well as in its moderation.

While many of our older ministers perhaps more particularly, punctuate their sentences too freely with *ee, eeh, aah, eh*, a long drawn out we fancy it is a practice which not very long back has begun to grow up among our younger ones, and it is quite noticeable how common it is becoming, of one hand getting out of their way by being thrust into the trousers' pocket. Possibly we are old fashioned, but we cannot say that we think it adds grace or dignity to the speaker, or effect to what he is saying. This attitude, we do not suppose it is intended for an oratorical gesture, was often to be seen practiced we must say particularly among the brethren, not the fathers, when addressing the Assembly, and it is by no means uncommon in the pulpit.

### Ottawa.

Rev. Robert Aylward, B. A., of Park Hill, who so acceptably occupied the pulpit of St. Andrew's church during a portion of Dr. Herridge's holiday season last year, has been invited to preach again this year.

Those who heard Mr. Aylward on his previous visit to Ottawa will be pleased to know that he takes the services in St. Andrew's next Sunday and Sunday following.

### Northern Ontario.

There are now five vacancies in Lindsay Presbytery, viz.: Robcayceon, Woodville, Glenarm and Kirkfield.

Rev. J. Morrison, of Cedarville, has been visiting at the Eldon Manse after attending the general assembly.

The choir of St. Andrew's church, Lindsay, and friends, enjoyed an excursion to Fenelon Falls last week.

Services preparatory to the Lord's Supper were held in Knox church, Beaverton, on Friday evening by Rev. B. M. Smith, of Kirkfield.

Rev. J. R. Fraser of Uxbridge, conducted preparatory services in St. Andrew's church, Beaverton, on Thursday evening of last week.

The children and friends of St. Andrew's church, Eldon, held their annual picnic at Beaverton on the 26th ult. The day was unusually cold for the season, and it cannot be said that the outing was a pleasant one.

At the last meeting of Lindsay Presbytery the following minute was unanimously adopted: The Presbytery would desire to put on record its high appreciation of the life and labours of their former Co-presbyter, the late Rev. D. McDonald of Glenarm. As a man, and as a christian, we believe he daily walked with God, working out his own salvation with fear and trembling; passing the time of his journeying here in fear. As a husband and father he was kind, self-sacrificing and exemplary; as a minister of the Gospel, earnest, affectionate and thoroughly scriptural, and as a member of this court, faithful, judicious and conciliatory. We thank God for the many long years of excellent work which he was permitted to do in the Master's service, within the bounds of this presbytery, and believe that though dead he will yet speak for a long time to come in the memories of those to whom he so long and faithfully made known Christ and Him crucified. The Presbytery, with the utmost tenderness and christian sympathy would commend his sorrowing wife and children to Him who has said "Leave thy fatherless children, I will preserve them alive; and let thy widows trust in me."

### Western Ontario.

Rev. E. C. Currie, of Burn's Church and Mooreline, conducted anniversary services at Gutrie, Sabbath 15 June. Owing to the very heavy rains which fell both morning and evening the congregations were not as large as they otherwise would have been. By Monday evening the storm had ceased, the evening was bright, the people gathered from every direction, and after doing ample justice to the abundance of good things provided by the ladies of the congregation, who, by the way, are unsurpassed in getting up a tasty festival, all repaired to the church to hear the excellent programme provided. When the Sarnia Quartette arrived a full house awaited them. Rev. W. D. Bell, of Colonna, was appointed chairman. Rev. E. C. Currie favored the audience with two entertaining readings and also gave a good practical

address. Miss Rivers, of Sombra, gave a recitation which was well received. The quartette from St. Andrew's Church, Sarnia, gave the remainder of the programme. The solos by Mrs. (Dr.) Bell, Miss Morrison and Mr. J. A. Farquharson, and duets by Mrs. Bell and Miss Morrison, and by Mrs. Bell and J. A. Farquharson, the quartettes by Mrs. Bell, Miss Morrison and Messrs. Smart and Farquharson were highly appreciated by the audience as was evidenced by the hearty accolades which they received. By request Mrs. Bell kindly sang with much effect "My Ain Country." The thanks of the congregation were conveyed to the choir by Rev. E. C. Currie, Miss Rivers, to the chairman who so ably filled the position, and to all others who in any way helped to make this anniversary festival and entertainment such a success. Receipts were \$63. This now practically frees this congregation from debt, and each of the congregations, Plum Creek, Black Creek, and Guthrie, besides becoming self sustaining last spring, are free from all debt.

The anniversary services of the South Westminister Presbyterians were held on Sunday, and were conducted by Rev. D. R. Drummond, B. D., of Knox Church, St. Thomas. His sermons were able expositions of divine truth, and were greatly enjoyed by large congregations. The choir of the church (Mr. Duncan McColl, leader and Miss McPherson organist), excelled themselves in the excellence of the praise service. On account of the very cool weather the garden party and strawberry festival Monday, could not be held on the lawn. In the spacious and beautiful lecture room, ice cream, strawberries and cream, cake, and other dainties, were served to between four and five hundred people. This part of the evening's entertainment was splendidly managed by the ladies and gentlemen who had charge of it. When the musical and literary entertainment began the church was packed to the doors, and many could not gain an entrance. Dr. McCrae, the pastor, was in the chair. Addresses were given by Rev. R. McIntyre, Tempo, and Rev. H. D. Moyer, Belmont. Mr. Robert Laidlaw, B. A., who had recently returned from a two years' course in the colleges of the old country, gave a bright and very interesting talk on his tour through the old lands. The South Presbyterians are to be heartily congratulated on the success of their services.

The induction of Rev. Hector McKay, B. A., into the pastorate of St. George's Church, London Junction, drew a large attendance of clergymen and laymen to that church, on 26th June. Rev. Mr. McKay comes from Kootenay Presbytery, B. C., and enters upon his new charge with every prospect of a successful and happy pastorate. The following clergymen were present at the induction: Rev. Dr. Johnston (presiding), Rev. Alex. Henderson (clerk), Rev. Dr. McCrae, Rev. A. J. McGillivray, Rev. W. J. Clark, Rev. J. G. Stuart, Rev. R. C. McDermid (of Fingal), and Rev. J. Lindsay (of Kintore). The induction sermon was delivered by Rev. Mr. McDermid from the text: "Laborers together with God." The questions and vows of office were tendered by Dr. Johnston and responded to by Mr. McKay, after which Dr. Johnston offered the induction prayer. Mr. McKay then received the right hand of fellowship from the clergymen present. Rev. Dr. McCrae gave an impressive charge to the new pastor, while Rev. W. J. Clark spoke to the congregation, urging upon them their duty to be loyal to the church and its minister. Mr. McKay was cordially welcomed by the members of his church at the close of the service.

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