

minister. He has a moral right to be treated as an inducted minister. He has been in the same place, Motia, for eighteen years. He gave full details of his ministerial work. In 1866 he was duly called. He thought it was sufficient for the Presbytery to know the feelings. The call was not acted on, but in that way he has continued ever since. He claims it would be unfair to sacrifice him in the way contemplated, unfair to himself and unfair to the people. If good reason were given he would submit. Last fall a deputation of four came, when he heard of it with dread. The deputation went around, inspecting places and conversing with the people. In the evening a meeting was held. A vote was taken when three members voted against him. They were not such men as were fitted to say what was in the interests of religion. He would have liked to confer with the brethren who were present but he had no opportunity. He proposed that every person should be consulted and a written opinion be got from each. He explained how some were represented as disaffected who were not. The Presbytery says he has done his duty and that he is a reputable Christian minister, therefore the Presbytery should stand by him. The Presbytery was not particular in the evidence they took. I have had to suffer from the action of strangers. They heard stories and circulated them, the stories were not improved by the telling again. He closed by reading a certificate signed by his elder and another person as to the call made out in 1866.

Rev. J. R. McLeod replied on behalf of the Presbytery of Quebec. He said that it was painful for him to appear here. The Presbytery wished to remove Mr. Fenwick on these grounds. 1. Mr. Fenwick, is an ordained missionary, the Home Mission Committee designate him from year to year. 2. It was after repeated and urgent requests of the people that they came to such a decision. It was from a sincere sense of duty that they reached that decision. 3. We found most fully that Mr. Fenwick's usefulness is gone. He concluded by saying that it was very painful to take the step they had.

Mr. Fenwick replied, repeating that he had a moral right to be treated as a duly settled pastor. The deputation that came did not follow the rules of procedure in trying to get an amicable settlement. He maintained that he has the moral worth and piety of the community with him. He is willing to dissect his opponents one by one.

Questions were put by members of Assembly which were answered.

Dr. MacRae moved as follows: The Assembly express the deepest sympathy with Mr. Fenwick, yet set no course open but to dismiss the appeal and sustain the action of the Presbytery.

Rev. Mr. Miller seconded the motion.

Dr. Reid spoke of the extent of Mr. Fenwick's labours and his efforts to elevate the taste of the people down there and to minister to the enjoyment of the people. He was very sure the fault was not all with Mr. Fenwick, and the people were unable to appreciate him. The motion was put and carried unanimously.

Dr. Moore presented the report on the memorial from Prince Albert praying for the establishment of a High School there. It is recommended: 1. Record sympathy with those wanting to found a school. 2. That the interests of the Indians should be carefully guarded. 3. Such a school would be a boon to the general public and to the Indians. 4. Grant the prayer on condition that the people there erect the building. 5. That one-fourth of the property be given to the support of the school. 7. That Indians be educated free. 8. That an annual report of the school be transmitted through the Foreign Mission Committee. That steps be taken to have the Board of the High school incorporated.

It was recommended that a site be granted to the Government for the erection of a Court House on condition that a building be erected at a cost of \$25,000 and should the Court House be disused as such the property reverts to this Church. The site granted is known as Victoria Square.

The report was passed as a whole. The Assembly then adjourned.

In the evening after the Assembly was constituted, Dr. Moore presented the report of the committee on the Presbyteries and Synod of Manitoba and the North-West. The boundaries of the Presbyteries of Manitoba, Rock Lake, and Brandon were defined, and on the suggestion of Dr. Reid, the congregation of Port Arthur was included in the Presbytery of Manitoba.

It was appointed that the Synod of Manitoba and the North-West meet in Knox Church, Winnipeg, on the 10th day of July, 1884, at ten o'clock a.m. Professor Bryce, LL.D., to be the first moderator. That the superintendent of missions shall be a member of the Presbytery of Brandon and a member of the Assembly's Home Mission Committee. In conjunction and co-operation with the Synod of Manitoba's Home Mission Committee shall furnish full statistics and forward them through the Home Mission Committee to the General Assembly. His duties connected with the superintendence of the field were also defined and the mode in which the mission funds were to be disbursed was agreed upon.

Rev. A. B. Baird, Edmonton, seconded the adoption of the report, and in doing so gave an interesting account of the field of labour in which he was engaged. Edmonton, a place of 200 inhabitants, is situated in the centre of a considerable settlement. The soil is unsurpassed. There is abundance of wood, both for fuel and building material. Coal is also abundant, and there is plenty of water. Settlers are going in steadily and numerous. It affords special inducements for mission work. Services are held in the village twice a day on Sabbath. Four other stations receive regular service, and other places occasionally one of them 100 miles distant. When he was sent three years ago to begin the work, the congregation raised \$800 for his salary; now they give \$700. There is a neat church almost all paid for. A debt of \$300 will be paid in two or three months. Edmonton congregation contributes at the rate of \$56 per communicant. He also did some mission work among the Indians. Mission work in the North-West has its discouragements. The greatest was loneliness. The superintendent was the only Presbyterian minister he met within three years. It has its advantages also. He had not built on another man's foundation. He had received the sympathy and support of all good people. He felt he would carry with him the hearty and earnest prayers of the Assembly on his behalf.

Rev. J. Middlemiss presented the report of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund.

The following committee on Publication was then appointed:—Revs. G. Bruce, J. K. Smith, Dr. Jardine, A. McLean Sinclair, Dr. Proudfoot, J. M. Cameron, W. D. Armstrong, P. McF. McLeod, Messrs. William Mortimer Clark, W. Drysdale, D. McGregor, and W. D. Russell.

#### STATISTICS.

Rev. R. Torrance presented the report on Statistics. The report on the whole shows considerable progress since last year. There is encouraging growth all along the line, though there is still much to be done. There are some anomalies and some drawbacks. The report speaks of a case away down in the east which partakes of the character of both. It appears that a minister whose salary at the best is far from large, is behind in his receipts to the amount of \$1,100. Why the Presbytery down there has allowed this to accumulate to so great an amount is a marvel. When a debt of such an amount grows up, there is, we fear, but little hope of its ever being paid. There is the usual complaint of late returns in some instances on the part of congregations and in others on the part of a whole Presbytery. It is hardly creditable to the Assembly that a report of such importance should be delayed to the last night of the sittings of the court. The report showed great care and pains on the part of the convener. Few can realize the amount of time, painstaking and accuracy required for the preparation of such a report. In connection with the report there was an overture from some ministers in the Presbytery of Montreal asking, among other things, that steps be taken to have both uniformity and accuracy in the returns. There is a great difference too in various parts of the country and some districts may be regarded as missionary in their character. What is meant is this: there are ministers in some parts of the country who visit, say 140 or 150 families, while less than 100 of these contribute to his support. If he puts the larger number in the return, his congregation will appear at a disadvantage in comparison with others as to the rate of liberality. It is in this way, perhaps, at least for the most part, that the returns of congregations in the aggregate differ so much from the returns of the Government census. An attempt was made in the Assembly to get two columns in the statistics, one for contributions and one for all families that are under pastoral supervision. The Assembly, however, refused to grant leave to have two columns. The Assembly thanked the committee and especially the convener. The Moderator tendered the thanks of the Assembly to the convener.

#### TENTH DAY.

Friday, June 13.—The attendance this morning was small, it being clear that many had gone home by this morning's trains.

A letter was read that in the Anglican Synod of Toronto a deputation had been named to convey to this Assembly most cordial and fraternal greetings. The letter also asked what time the deputation could be received.

Rev. A. McL. Sinclair presented the report of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, eastern section. The receipts did not quite meet the expenditure. There are twelve beneficiaries at present on the fund. Rates were received from eighty three ministers and collections from 112 congregations. The capital is over \$26,000. A legacy during the year amounting to \$20,000 had been received.

Dr. MacRae moved the adoption of the report, which was carried. Thanks were given to the committee and especially to the convener.

A memorial from Mr. Joshua Fraser was read. He prayed the Assembly to direct the action of the Synod of Toronto and Kingston at its late meeting, and to order his case to be considered at the next meeting of Synod. There was considerable discussion as to the

action to be taken, especially as it was not clear how it could be done in an orderly manner. It was agreed to refer the memorial to the Presbytery of Kingston, and that Presbytery is authorized, if they see cause, to send the matter again to the Synod.

A memorial with reference to a will was referred to the committee on the Protection of Church Property with power to issue the case.

The report on the record showed that change had been made in the office and in the printers. The circulation had increased by one thousand during the year, the circulation being now 30,000. The editors acknowledge with thanks the aid given by regular correspondents at home and abroad. The report was received and the Assembly express its gratification at the increased circulation and instruct the committee to go on in their efforts until a copy is placed in every family.

The reports of Widows' and Orphans' Funds were then presented. Fifty-two widows are on the western fund. The report of the eastern section was presented by Rev. E. O. McCurdy.

Dr. Reid, in absence of Rev. Robert Campbell, read the report of the Widows' Fund in connection with Church of Scotland.

Rev. C. Pitbado presented the report of the Board of Management of the Church and Manse Building Fund. Buildings are absolute necessities in the North-West. We have aided to build two-thirds of the churches and manse there. The contributions have been large, and thanks are due to Mr. Robertson for the successful way in which the business has been managed. More is still needed to meet the claims presented. He concluded by moving adoption of report.

Rev. D. J. Macdonnell moved that the Assembly receive the report, record its gratification at the marked success of the fund, and commend the scheme anew to the continued liberality of the Church. This was seconded by Principal Grant.

Rev. James Farquharson's name was added to the list of members of Home Mission Committee, and that of Rev. Robert Laing to the committee on Augmentation Scheme, eastern section.

At this stage the deputation appointed by the Anglican Synod arrived. The members of the deputation were Archdeacon Boddy, Hon. Edward Blako, Dr. Hodgins, Rev. J. Pearson, Hon. G. W. Allan, Rev. Messrs. Septimus Jones, Dr. Carry, Mr. Langtry, George Moberly, Wm. O'Brien, M. P., and Rev. Canon O'Mara.

Archdeacon Boddy addressing the Assembly, the members standing, said that he had been appointed to convey the cordial greetings of their Synod to the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. Its efforts had been marked by satisfactory tokens of blessing, in prosperity and increased devotion. They prayed that the blessing of the Great Head of the Church might rest upon you in yet larger degree and that your zeal and liberty in missionary enterprise may have the effect of quickening our endeavours. He spoke of the possibilities of the future. Both Churches held substantially the same creed and were looking for the same hope. He intimated that a committee might be appointed to confer with a similar committee appointed by the Synod on the subject of religious instruction in public schools.

Hon. Edward Blako said he had been charged by the deputation to convey to this Assembly a special message. All denominations might be able to work together on various matters of importance. The difficulties that beset the subject of religious education in schools in former times had disappeared. All agreed that there should be a training in Christian principles in early youth. There might be a selection of passages of Sacred Writ read as lesson subjects in the common schools. The great and valuable work discharged by the various denominations must be still left to them. The essential passages might form the basis of instruction, and burned in memory in the time of youth. Co-operation between all Christian bodies might accomplish this result. He also suggested that a slight change in shortening present school hours, twice a week, so that time might be left for religious instruction. This would be an important gain. Though provision was made for religious teaching after ordinary school hours it was found to be neither profitable nor practicable. Thus, he said, was a happy day for all of us. A new departure has taken place. It was true the deputation could only speak for a section of their Church. He hoped a committee would be appointed by the Assembly to co-operate and confer with the committee appointed by the Synod of the Diocese of Toronto.

The Moderator, in name of the Assembly, addressing the deputation, said that they had received this visit of the deputation with the greatest satisfaction, both on account of the high personal character of its members and the Church they represented. We believe in the Holy Catholic Church. There were many outward tokens of the unity that binds in inseparable bonds all who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. We acknowledge the great work in which you are engaged and we heartily rejoice in seeing the spiritual vitality pervading the English Church in this land, and the zeal with which it carries on the work of the Gospel. The proposal referred to will be cordially received.