

SPECIAL
ARTICLES

Our Contributors

BOOK
REVIEWSCHANGES IN ELEVEN YEARS
(Alderman Armstrong in the Advertiser.)

It is eleven years since the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Canada last met in the Forest City. During these years the church has seen great prosperity spiritually, intellectually, numerically and financially; but, as we reflect upon the prominent members of that assembly we must realize that the personnel of the leadership has undergone a most radical change. Many who were distinguished in the councils of the church are no more with us, except inasmuch as their memories remain fresh and green, and are still an inspiration to those who seek to follow in their footsteps and serve in sincerity and truth the loving Saviour who was their and our Redeemer and Friend. These men in their day and generation were a great cloud of witnesses who have been translated from the general assembly and church of the first-born below, to the general assembly and church of the first-born above.

Their subtle minds endowed with might,
With logic keen and reason bright,
Linked with their souls together soar
To realms where death is known no more.
Our beloved church has known no abatement of prosperity. "God removes the workmen but carries on his work." There are no special questions of interest to mark this present period of our church's history, except that of a union with two other sister churches, and in this matter we shall find that we can reverse the axiom above referred to and say, God prepares the workmen when he has special work to do.

This reminds us of the great principal of Knox College, Doctor Caven, who by his wisdom, discretion and tact helped with his clear, acute intellect and sanctified heart to lay the foundation of a possible united church, in the perhaps not far off distant future. He is now in the church where schism and discords are unknown and where Christ makes all his people one.

Associated with Dr. Caven in the educational department of our church was the venerable and saintly Dr. Gregg, whose name will be long remembered in connection with the recent book of praise, but who is now joining in the heavenly melody, singing the song of Moses and of the Lamb.

The moderator, the Rev. Dr. Mackay, delivered the opening sermon of the assembly in St. Andrew's Church eleven years ago; his life was one of perpetual activity in the so-called foreign mission field of our church, and he whose useful and successful life in the far off Formosa is so well known, relinquished his toil at the call of his Master whom he served so faithfully and well.

Summoned, he left his loved employ,
The Master's call he heard with joy;
His nobler self thus passed away,
Leaving its tenement of clay.
But still he lives in mind and heart,
Absent, we feel an inward smart;
Yet bow with reverence to the rod,
Knowing the absent is with God.

The home mission cause has also lost a noble Christian hero. Dr. Robertson, whose extensive field of labor was the great Canadian Northwest—from Winnipeg to the Pacific coast—was a most distinguished and successful worker. He was a man, take him for all in all, we shall not soon look upon his like again. Indefatigable in his zeal for Christ, whose he was and whom he served, his name will long remain a household word in the infant provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. His work on earth is done, though his activities can never cease, for he has joined the pure and holy messengers of divine grace, of whom it is written, "Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister to them who shall be heirs of salvation?"

The clerks of assembly and financial ministers must not be overlooked. Two

have passed away since last the assembly met in London, Drs. Reid and Warden. There is no duty performed for Christ that can be otherwise than sacred. These men raised what is generally considered secular into spiritual. Church business and finance was their forte, and they leave a monument of capability, industry, and zeal, worthy of emulation by their successors.

The city of Kingston has contributed its quota to the roll of those who have passed into rest, having fought the good fight and gained the crown of righteousness. Dr. George M. Grant—statesman, politician, principal and preacher. He rests from his labors; his works do follow. He endeared himself to the hearts and affections of the students of Queen's. To his praise they can find no tune excellent enough to sing. He finds his noblest monument in the love of his students, but his memory is also perpetuated in stone in the Grant Hall, connected with the university where he achieved lasting fame.

A lifelong servant of the Lord,
A lifelong student of his Word;
A lifelong leader in his cause,
A lifelong teacher of his laws.

The patriarchal Dr. MacVicar, of Montreal College, the faithful principal and broad-minded Christian, who stood firmly as a wall of defense of Protestantism, and the champion of religious and political freedom, in the Province of Quebec, has also joined that multitude whom no man can number, having heard the welcome words, "Come, ye blessed of my Father."

The Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, the devoted pastor of St. Andrew's, Toronto, who consolidated the useful work of augmentation, was in the last London assembly, but his wise counsels will be missed from the present one. And what shall I say more? Time would fail me to tell of Dr. W. A. Mackay, of Chalmers Church, Woodstock, the champion of sobriety and temperance, and the defender of the rite of infant baptism, and many others who, having obtained a good report through faith, are made perfect through the merits of him who called them to so high and holy a calling as ambassadors of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

THE CHINESE OUTSIDE OF CHINA.

Within China are four hundred millions, but China is pressing her people into every corner of the earth, into Korea, Mongolia, Manchuria and the other continents.

There are about 100,000 in the United States; 11,000 in Canada, despite the poll tax of fifty gold dollars per head; in Trinidad, some 2,000 or 3,000; in British Guiana, about 3,000; in Chili, 7,000; in Peru, 47,000; in Mexico, 3,000; in Cuba and Porto Rico, 90,000; in Hawaii, 27,000; in Mauritius, about 3,000, and not a few in India and Ceylon. In Burmah, the whole trade is in their hands, who are given as 40,000, though some think there are as many as that in Rangoon alone. In Cochin China the last census gives 73,857; in Siam, out of a population of from six to ten millions, about one and a quarter million Chinese have "almost monopolized trade." In the Straits Settlements and immediate neighborhood, about 1,000,000; in Borneo, some 20,000; in Dutch East Indies, a quarter of a million; and about 100,000 more in the Philippines. In Japan, about 8,000; in Australasia about 40,000. In 1904, 27,984 Chinese coolies were transported to South Africa. In England, according to the last enumeration, there were 767, "only three counties being wholly without Chinese."

This shows the immense importance of the Chinese race as a factor in the world's life. What is the future of this people to be? asks China's Millions. Shall they bless the world or menace it? The answer largely depends upon the attitude assumed by the Christian church.

SYNOD MONTREAL AND OTTAWA.

This Synod met in Knox Church, Ottawa, on Tuesday evening of last week. The attendance of members was large. Rev. David MacLaren, M.A., moderator, preached an appropriate sermon from the words: "I have set watchmen upon the walls of Jerusalem which shall never hold their peace day or night. Ye that make mention of the Lord keep not silence and give him no rest till he establish and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth." Among other good things, the preacher, referring to the givings of our membership, said: "If the obligation of \$432,000 resting on the Presbyterian Church in Canada registers on the individual pocket book only \$2.67 per communicant for all the schemes and only 83 cents per communicant for the heathen, does it not prove that our Presbyterian church members do not feel their individual responsibility? Twenty years ago (according to Dr. Torrance's report) this synod had 23,700 communicants. Last year it reported 38,100, an increase of 60 per cent. In 1885 we gave \$23,000 to schemes; last year we gave \$92,000, an increase of 177 per cent. Twenty years ago only 9 per cent of our givings went to mission schemes; last year we gave 18 per cent. During that period our synod's giving to missions has increased \$1.92 per communicant. But even now \$2.42 is all the average communicant gives to missions. Our communicant roll is 60 per cent greater while our total contributions have increased only 45 per cent in 20 years. After giving further figures as to the givings of individual congregations, Mr. MacLaren said that evidently the burden of missions for the heathen rests lightly on the consciences of most of our church members in this synod. The pressure on their pocket-books amounts to only 31 cents each. Surely, said he, we cannot rest satisfied with this state of things in our church. In this case it is not the women who have to tremble in the matter of missions. Their prayers and zeal are worthy of all praise and should arouse the men to "go and do likewise." A dying church is one that does not give or pray for the heathen." In closing Rev. Mr. MacLaren said that prayer, like giving, needs the pressure of direct obligation to sustain. The burden of the world's salvation must be felt by every believer. Our churches and our pastors need a baptism of prayer.

For the excellence of the discourse, as well as for his conduct in the moderatorship since his appointment last May, Principal Scrimger and the moderator of the General Assembly, Dr. Armstrong, moved a cordial vote of thanks, which was promptly endorsed by the Synod.

SECOND DAY.

The Synod resumed at 10 o'clock this morning. The moderator, Rev. Robert Gamble, presiding. The session opened with devotional exercises conducted by the moderator, Rev. Dr. Ramsay, and Elder Walter Paul.

The programme consisted in the main of the reception and discussion of the report on the work in the Sunday schools. A number of committees were appointed and Field Secretary Burnie gave an account of his stewardship among the Sunday schools in the Synodic district. Mr. Burnie's constituency embraces 60,000 square miles, and it is difficult for him to give the closest attention to some of the schools, especially in winter.

The members of the Synod evidently do not believe in "looking pleasant" when the photographer for a Sunday paper is behind the camera. Before the Synod rose the moderator stated that artists desired to photo the members for two papers, and mentioned that one of the papers was the Montreal Standard. Principal Scrimger rose and reminded the Synod that the Standard published a Sunday paper. That