

DOMINION PRESBYTERIANS PROSPER

HAMILTON ASSEMBLY LARGELY ATTENDED

20th Century Fund Endorsed—Extra \$1,000,000 to be Raised—Rev. Dr. Campbell, of Renfrew, Agent.

Foreign Mission Committee to Control College Work in Indore—Messrs. Gandier and McQueen on Home Missions.

HALIFAX IN 1900.

New College Professors Appointed—Assembly Sermon by Rev. Prof. Jordan, D.D.—Ottawa Ladies' College Shows a Balance—Rev. L. H. Jordan on the Elder Moderator Question—Straight Speeches on Report of Probationers—Indifference of Ministers to Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund—Augmentation, East and West, Admirable Addresses—S. S. Publications, Splendid Work of the Rev. T. F. Fotheringham—Snap Shots at Assembly.

At the close of the sermon, to which despite the uncomfortable heat, the audience listened with profound interest, the Moderator led in prayer, and declared the Assembly duly constituted for business. Dr. Warden's announcement that the printed roll be taken as read was greeted with a general chorus of approval, and half an hour of tedious work was avoided.

The Moderator briefly thanked the Assembly for the kindness and courtesy he had received during the term of his office, and, in reviewing the year, took occasion to refer to some of those whom death had claimed during its course. Twenty-two in all are known to have entered into rest, and others, of whom no record has been kept, would doubtless increase the number. Among these special reference was naturally made to Dr. Cochrane, so long the indefatigable Convener of the Home Mission Committee; to Principal King, whose sterling life, strong will and ripe scholarship have done so much to influence the Church; to Dr. Ormiston, at one time minister in the church where the Assembly meets, and to Dr. Chiniquy, once a priest in the Roman Catholic Church, but for many years the zealous worker for the spiritual freedom of his fellow-countrymen.

"And now, Fathers and Brethren," said the white-haired Moderator, "I ask you to relieve me from this chair by the appointment of my successor." R. G. MacBeth, of Winnipeg, was first upon his feet, and in a thoroughly appreciative but not fulsome speech, presented the name of Rev. Professor Bryce, of Winnipeg. Dr. Forrest, of Halifax, seconded the nomination. For a moment it seemed as if no second nomination were to be made, and men who think a contest for the Moderator's chair unseemly, and they are many, began to breathe more freely. Only for a moment; for Principal Grant was on his feet, and, deprecating the necessity of

a contest, said he felt impelled to present the name of one who had formerly been nominated, but had stepped aside, and he submitted the name of Dr. Campbell, of Renfrew. Rev. A. H. Scott, of Perth, seconded the nomination. The spell was broken, and Rev. Louis H. Jordan, of Toronto, rose and presented the name of Dr. Milligan, a co-Presbyter. The strong voice of another Toronto man, Rev. A. MacGillivray, was heard seconding the nomination. Both Dr. Milligan and Dr. Campbell desired to withdraw, but were not allowed to do so, and the vote resulted in the choice of Dr. Campbell.

Many spokes of the contest as regrettable, and expressed the hope that some method may be found by which such scenes may be avoided. Would it not be possible to issue ballots with the attendance cards, say three ballots marked A, B, and C, and the commissioner to write upon one of them the name of the man he would choose for Moderator and drop it into a box provided, reserving the other ballots for use should a second or third ballot be necessary. The ballots could be counted by the clerks of Assembly, and the result handed to the retiring Moderator as soon as the meeting was constituted, and immediately announced by him. Already there are rumors of an overtone being prepared, looking to the rectifying of this weakness in our system of electing our chief presiding officer. So long as it will result in a good and efficient man being chosen and chosen legitimately, we presume it will be heartily endorsed, by none more earnestly than by the men whose names are mentioned as prospective Moderators.

THURSDAY MORNING.

It was a fine looking body of men that faced the Moderator's chair. Familiar faces were readily found, Dr. Caven, Dr. McVivar, Dr. Grant, Dr. Laing, Walter Paul, David Morrice, and so the list might be lengthened of those whom the Church loves to see guiding the councils of her Supreme Court. Some faces were missed, sadly missed, and not alone in the retiring Moderator's address, but once and again the names of Principal King and Dr. Cochrane rose to the lips of speakers. It will be long ere the Church learns to think of them as necessary to the conduct of her business. There were many new faces, many young faces, earnest-eyed, resolute looking, watchful of each item of business, and showing marked interest in even the routine work. It is no holiday, this General Assembly business, even for the men who do not say much on the floor of the house. To follow the line of work alone and to give an intelligent vote upon the various emergent

questions, is no small matter for one who does not tangle much in Church business.

The morning was spent in reading the applications of Presbyteries for permission to receive ministers from other denominations. There are at least ten such applicants. Is it not time the Church said to all not trained in her halls that she cannot receive them? Too often the hesitation of the Presbyterian to bar the door against an applicant, lest by so doing one whom the Master has chosen is shut out, is abused, and men slip into the ministry who are not qualified either mentally or spiritually to lead their fellowmen in spiritual things. There are evidences of greater stringency, and we are glad to see it.

The docket for the morning was exhausted and still almost half an hour remained. Dr. Warden asked that the report on the Sabbath School Publications be taken up. The report was really a report of progress, and it was this not only technically but really. The publications are self-sustaining, the salary of the editor has been increased by \$300, and a well appointed office has been opened. We were given no figures. We do not know the cost of periodicals, salary paid to editor or manager, but it is only fair to say that the report is for the part of the present year now past. Next year full statement will doubtless be given.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

After a preliminary report on Permanent Records of Church Courts, the substance of which will delight the hearts of clerks everywhere, the great business of the afternoon was taken up. It was recommended in this report that, in future; the printed Assembly and Synod Records may be taken, if properly attested, as the permanent record, without the laborious transcribing that has hitherto been necessary. Presbytery clerks will no doubt also follow the precedent established.

The members were all in their places when Dr. Warden rose to report on the proposed Twentieth Century Fund. There was a general air of expectancy, a subdued but real excitement pervading the Assembly as he began to speak. He asked that the Church should undertake to raise one million dollars extra in two years. Some of us, to whom the thousandth part of that sum would be almost paralyzing, drew in our breath. But as the speaker proceeded we began to relax, to breathe more freely, to think the thing possible, to feel that we ought to do it, to conclude that we must do it, to realize that we should be disgraced did we not do it. And yet it was no appeal to our emotions that led us on from a sense of inability to a conviction of power and obligation. It was a calm, clear, business-like presentation of a matter which all felt, none perhaps so much as the speaker, was a matter of most grave responsibility. He convinced us that we could do it. It meant only an