

FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA.

FIRST DAY.

WEDNESDAY, June 12.

The Fourth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Canada began its sittings in the Central Presbyterian Church, Hamilton. There was a large attendance of Ministers and elders, and a considerable number of the general public.

Rev. Dr. Topp, of Toronto, Moderator of the Assembly of 1876, presided, in the unavoidable absence of last year's Moderator, Rev. Dr. McLeod, of Sydney, N.S., who, as has already been stated, is lying sick at his home.

After the singing of a portion of a psalm, prayer was engaged in by Rev. Dr. Topp, who afterwards read the first chapter of Colossians. A portion of the 102nd Psalm was then sung.

Dr. Topp delivered the opening sermon, preaching from the following words, contained in the first chapter of Paul's Epistle to the Colossians, last clause of the 27th, and the 28th and 29th verses:

"Christ in you, the hope of glory: whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labor, striving according to His working, which worketh in me mightily."

At the close of the preliminary services, the Assembly was constituted with prayer by Rev. Dr. Topp.

Dr. Fraser, of Bondhead, Clerk of the Assembly, then called the roll, the majority of delegates answering to their names, about 300 being present, representing Presbyteries from Cape Breton to Manitoba.

The following is a list of the Commissioners:

SYNOD OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

I.—PRESBYTERY OF SYDNEY.

Ministers: Hugh McLeod, D.D.; D. Sutherland; A. Farquharson.—Elders: W. Gammell; D. McLennan; Prof. J. C. Murray.

II.—PRESBYTERY OF VICTORIA AND RICHMOND.

Ministers: Murdoch Stewart, M.A.; Alex. McRae.—Elders: D. McCurdy; Alex. Mitchell.

III.—PRESBYTERY OF PICTOU.

Ministers: Jas. Thompson; J. Lees; Geo. Roddick; A. McL. Sinclair; E. A. McCurdy.—Elders: Geo. Murray, M.D.; P. Ross; Geo. Hattie; Geo. McKay; J. McRae Campbell.

IV.—PRESBYTERY OF WALLACE.

Ministers: T. Tallach; T. Sedgwick.—Elders: And. Rodpath; Donald McKenzie.

V.—PRESBYTERY OF TRURO.

Ministers: James McLean; J. H. Chase, M.A.; And. Burrows, B.A.—Elders: Adam Tupper; Isaac McCurdy; A. B. Fletcher.

VI.—PRESBYTERY OF HALIFAX.

Ministers: P. G. McGregor, D.D.; A. McKnight, D.D.; Thos. Duncan; A. Simpson; A. J. Mowatt; P. M. Morrison; L. G. McNeill; Isaac Simpson.—Elders: H. B. Webster; R. Murray; J. K. Munis; J. J. Bremner; W. H. Blanchard; J. S. Potter; G. F. Burns; W. B. McMurrich.

VII.—PRESBYTERY OF LUNenburg AND YARMOUTH.

Ministers: D. McMillan; E. D. Millar, B.A.—Elders: J. S. Calder, M.D.; James Eisenbauer; J. Douglas.

VIII.—PRESBYTERY OF ST. JOHN.

Ministers: J. Bennett, D.D.; L. Jack; D. MacIse, D.D.; D. Waters, L.L.D.; D. McRae, M.A.; Kenneth McKay.—Elders: M. Lindsay; G. Robertson; R. Cruickshank; Judge Stevens; A. L. Wright; J. McDonald, M.D.

IX.—PRESBYTERY OF MIRAMICHI.

Ministers: Thos. Nicholson; Jas. Anderson; J. A. F. McBain; Alex. Russell.—Elders: J. R. Nicholson; J. S. Benson, M.D.; S. Duncan, M.D.; Principal Dawson.

X.—PRESBYTERY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Ministers: K. MacLennan; Alex. Munro; Henry Crawford; J. McKinnon; W. R. Frame; A. F. Carr.—Elders: Isaac Thompson; W. Mutch; Rod. Munro; D. McLure; J. Nicholson; Mal. McDonald.

SYNOD OF MONTREAL AND OTTAWA.

I.—PRESBYTERY OF QUEBEC.

Ministers: John McDonald; P. Lindsay; James McConechy; Mal. McKenzie; J. McCaul.—Elders: P. Peebles; Aeneas McMaster; J. C. Thomson; G. B. Houlston; Dun. Stewart.

II.—PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL.

Ministers: J. C. Muir, D.D.; J. Watson, M.A.; J. Patterson; J. Mackie; D. H. McVicar, L.L.D.; J. Jenkins, D.D.; R. Campbell, M.A.; J. S. Black; C. A. Doudiet.—Elders: A. McPherson; D. McFarlane; D. Morrice; Wm. Robb; A. C. Clark; John Lillie; J. C. Becket; G. S. Spence, J. Middleton.

III.—PRESBYTERY OF OTTAWA.

Ministers: Walter Ross; C. I. Cameron; R. Knowles; W. Moore; Jas. Stewart; D. M. Gordon, B.D.; J. B. Edmondson; W. Armstrong; J. A. G. Calder.—Elders: R. Bell; Hon. G. Bryson; Alex. Anderson; Hiram Robinson; E. H. Bronson; John Hardie; John Wallace; Joseph Taylor; R. Kennedy.

IV.—PRESBYTERY OF GLENGARRY.

Ministers: W. Ross; C. Cameron; J. S. Burnet; N. Macnish, L.L.D.—Elders: J. McLennan; J. R. McKenzie; R. Wilson; A. J. Grant.

V.—PRESBYTERY OF BROCKVILLE.

Ministers: W. T. Canning; R. McKenzie; J. Crombie;

Wm. Bain, D.D.; J. J. Richards; John Leishman.—Elders: Hon. A. Morris; E. McCoy; John Hart; Thos. Cochrane; R. Cassels; John Armour.

SYNOD OF TORONTO AND KINGSTON.

I.—PRESBYTERY OF KINGSTON.

Ministers: R. Neill, D.D.; A. Wilson; J. H. MacKerras, M.A.; G. M. Grant, D.D.; J. Burton; A. Young; T. S. Chambers.—Elders: G. Boulter, M.D.; A. Macallister; A. G. Northrup; W. Covendale; W. McKenzie; A. F. Wood; J. Duff.

II.—PRESBYTERY OF PETERBORO'.

Ministers: John Ewing; W. C. Windel; R. Duncan; W. Bennett; Jas. Cameron, M.A.; Alex. Bell.—Elders: Thos. Fotheringham; Geo. Morrison; David Smith; John Carnegie; Jas. Russell; Edward Sanderson.

III.—PRESBYTERY OF WHITBY.

Ministers: W. M. Roger; J. Little; R. Chambers.—Elders: J. B. Fairbairn; Geo. Laing; J. C. Smith.

IV.—PRESBYTERY OF LINDSAY.

Ministers: J. T. Paul; J. McNabb; A. Currie; J. Hastie.—Elders: J. McTaggart; J. C. Gilchrist; Donald Gilchrist; A. Leask.

V.—PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

Ministers: A. Topp, D.D.; J. Dick; R. Wallace; W. Gregg, M.A.; J. Pringle; Wm. Caven, D.D.; J. G. Robb, D.D.; D. J. Macdonnell, B.D.; J. R. Gilchrist, B.A.; W. Amos; R. P. McKay, M.A.—Elders: Hon. J. McMurrich; R. Balmer; W. Adamson; T. W. Taylor; W. Rennie; D. Elder; J. MacLennan, Q.C.; W. Barber; Wm. Hood; H. McKay; A. McMurchy, M.A.

VI.—PRESBYTERY OF BARRIE.

Ministers: W. Fraser, D.D.; J. Leiper; J. Gray, M.A.; J. A. McConnell; R. Moodie.—Elders: Thomas Dallas; A. D. McNabb; F. Rogerson; W. McWhinney; P. McHaffie.

VII.—PRESBYTERY OF OWEN SOUND.

Ministers: A. McDiarmid; A. Stevenson; H. Currie.—Elders: John Ciesor; A. McGill; D. Ross.

VIII.—PRESBYTERY OF GUELPH.

Ministers: Geo. Smellie; Thomas Wardrope, D.D.; R. Torrance; Wm. Masson; J. K. Smith, M.A.; J. B. Mullan; H. H. McPherson.—Elders: Geo. Barnett; J. B. Muir; C. Davidson; Jas. Robb; Thomas McCrae; A. Dingwall Fordyce; Archibald Campbell.

IX.—PRESBYTERY OF LAKEEN.

Ministers: R. C. Moffat; D. Duff; J. Baikie; J. McClung.—Elders: A. S. Allan; W. Harkness; N. D. McKenzie; Thomas Lauder.

SYNOD OF HAMILTON AND LONDON.

I.—PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

Ministers: M. H. Livingstone; Jas. Herald; C. Campbell; Thomas Wilson; Alexander Grant, B.A.; J. James, D.D.; D. H. Fletcher; J. Laing, M.A.; Geo. Burson.—Elders: A. I. McKenzie; John Charlton; Wm. Henderson; Wm. Bunting; Robert McQueen; W. J. McCalla; James Hutchison; John Renton; Andrew Wilson.

II.—PRESBYTERY OF PARIS.

Ministers: W. Robertson, M.A.; W. T. McMullen; R. N. Grant; John Anderson; Wm. Cochrane, D.D.—Elders: Adam Spence; Hugh Rose; Peter Stewart; W. T. Rose; G. W. Hunter.

III.—PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.

Ministers: John Rennie; J. A. Murray; G. Cuthbertson; J. McRobie; J. J. A. Proudfoot, D.D.; D. Camelon; John Thompson; George Sutherland; M. Fraser.—Elders: D. Gray; S. Robertson; C. McDougall; Thomas Gordon; J. W. Robson; Adam Murray; John Wilson; Jas. Cowan; P. McCallum.

IV.—PRESBYTERY OF CHATHAM.

Ministers: A. W. Waddell; A. McColl; J. R. Battisby; W. King.—Elders: A. Bartlett; W. Coltart; W. Webster; Dun. M. McVicar.

V.—PRESBYTERY OF STRATFORD.

Ministers: J. K. Hislop; Archibald Stewart; R. Renwick; R. Hamilton; P. M. McLeod.—Elders: A. R. Morrison; R. Patterson; James McDonald; Jas. Cregar; A. McTavish.

VI.—PRESBYTERY OF HURON.

Ministers: R. Ure, D.D.; J. Sieveright, B.A.; A. McLean; H. Cameron; T. G. Thomson; Geo. Brown.—Elders: A. Matheson; J. Elliott; H. McQuarrie; A. Stewart; J. Dickson; J. Kernichan.

VII.—PRESBYTERY OF BRUCE.

Ministers: G. Bell, L.L.D.; J. Scott; A. F. McQueen; A. Tolmie; D. Cameron; W. Anderson.—Elders: M. McPherson; W. P. Patterson; Angus McKinnon; J. Steele; W. Kay; J. Millar.

PRESBYTERY OF MANITOBA.

Ministers: H. J. Borthwick, M.A.; A. Matheson; J. Robertson, M.A.; Thos. Hart, M.A.; A. Stewart, B.A.—Elders: W. Reid, D.D.; J. Croil; D. McLellan; G. Bryce, M.A.; G. McMicken.

ELECTION OF MODERATOR.

Dr. Topp, having explained that the sickness of Dr. McLeod was the cause of his occupying the position he did, The Assembly proceeded to the election of Moderator.

Rev. Dr. Reid read the list of nominations by Presbyteries, as follows:

Rev. Dr. Jenkins, of Montreal, nominated by the Pres-

byteries of Victoria and Richmond, Pictou, Truro, Halifax, Lunenburg, Prince Edward Island, Glengarry, Owen Sound, Guelph and Hamilton. Rev. D. McCrae, of St. John, N.B., by the Presbyteries of Wallace, St. John, N.B., and Ottawa. Rev. Thomas Duncan, of Halifax, N.S., by the Presbyteries of Miramichi and Brockville. Rev. Principal Grant, of Queen's College, Kingston, by the Presbyteries of Lindsay and Manitoba. Rev. Dr. Cochrane, of Brantford, by the Presbyteries of Paris and Stratford. Rev. Dr. Proudfoot, of London, by the Presbytery of London.

A letter was read from Rev. Mr. Duncan, resigning his nomination in favor of Dr. Jenkins.

Rev. John Scott, of the Presbytery of Bruce, proposed Rev. Dr. Cochrane, and the motion was duly seconded.

Rev. Principal Grant desired to withdraw in favor of Dr. Jenkins, of Montreal.

Rev. W. Bennett, of Springville, hoped Dr. Grant would withdraw his resignation, and moved that he be elected Moderator. The motion was seconded.

Rev. Dr. Ure, of Goderich, moved, seconded by Dr. Proudfoot, that Rev. Dr. Jenkins be elected Moderator.

On a division, Principal Grant was allowed to withdraw his name.

Rev. Mr. Nicholson moved the election of Rev. D. McCrae, of St. John, which was seconded.

Rev. Dr. Cochrane desired to have his name withdrawn.

The mover and seconder of Mr. McCrae withdrew that gentleman's name, leaving the names of Drs. Jenkins and Cochrane before the meeting.

On a division, the Rev. Dr. Jenkins, of St. Paul's Church, Montreal, was elected Moderator.

Rev. John Scott suggested that the nomination be made unanimous, which was acted upon, amid loud applause.

The Moderator elect was then requested to take the chair. He thanked the brethren for the honor they had conferred upon him, an honor which any minister in that assemblage might covet. He accepted the position from them and from the Head of the Church, and he asked their prayers and sympathy. He asked them for cordial assistance in the difficult duty which he had before him during the next eight or ten days, and trusted they would remember that the assemblage had come together to work for Christ and for the benefit of His Church.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.

The Moderator nominated the following Committee on Bills and Overtures, to act with the Clerks of Synods and Presbyteries: Dr. McGregor, Kenneth McLennan, Robert Campbell, William Moore, Dr. Topp, Mr. Fletcher, Mr. Young, Dr. Wardrope, ministers; Messrs. Robb, McLennan, Hon. A. Morris, Hon. J. McMurrich, Messrs. Jas. McCrae, and Jas. Croil, elders.

A Committee or Commissions was also appointed.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS AND CONDOLENCE.

Moved by Dr. Cochrane, seconded by Principal Grant, That the thanks of this Assembly be given to Rev. Dr. Topp for his kindness in preaching and presiding at the opening of the Court, in the absence of Rev. Dr. McLeod; and, further, that the General Assembly expresses its deep regret that Dr. McLeod, Moderator of the last Assembly, has been prevented by severe illness from attending; returns cordially its thanks to him for the efficient manner in which he has discharged the duties of his office during the year; and prays that he may soon be restored to such a measure of health that he may be able to resume his duties in the important field which he has occupied for so many years. Carried.

At half-past ten the sederunt was brought to a close by the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

SECOND DAY—MORNING SEDERUNT.

THURSDAY, June 12.

The Assembly met at eleven o'clock—Dr. Jenkins, Moderator.

The reports of the Committees on Bills and Overtures and Commissioners were received and adopted. The greater part of the morning session was devoted to devotional exercises, the audience being much larger than at the opening session.

The report of the Committee on Bills and Overtures was submitted by Rev. Mr. Torrance, which recommended a stated order of business.

Rev. Dr. Topp, of Toronto, the only ex-Moderator present, was invited to take a seat on the platform.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.

The Moderator received the following list of Committees, which he appointed:

Committee to draft an address to her Majesty the Queen and his Excellency the Governor-General—Rev. Dr. Topp (convener), Principal Grant, Dr. McGregor, D. M. Gordon, Robert Bell, Hon. A. Morris, A. J. Grant, M.P., Mr. Dallas.

To consider applications for licenses—Revs. Dr. Ure, A. M. Sinclair, A. Wilson, John Thompson, D. McCrae, J. J. Meekie, R. Hamilton, J. R. Battisby, Prof. Bryce, Prof. Gregg, J. S. Black, P. Lindsay, ministers; Messrs. A. D. Fordyce, A. C. Clark, John Hart, Thomas Gordon, W. Webster, elders.

To consider applications for the admission of ministers and licentiates from other Churches—Revs. Dr. Proudfoot, Principal Caven, Principal McVicar, Prof. McKnight, Dr. Robb, T. Sedgwick, J. Crombie, A. Simpson, R. Campbell, R. Moodie, ministers; Dr. McDonald, Messrs. J. R. Malcolmson, Hon. J. McMurrich, A. J. Northrup, R. Murray, J. B. Fairbairn.

To consider applications for leave to retire from the active duties of the ministry, and to have names placed on the Presbytery roll—Revs. John Laing, Dr. Bain, John Gray, of Orillia, D. J. Macdonnell, B.D., J. K. Smith, Jas. Anderson, Andrew Burrows, Alex. Young, Geo. Cuthbertson, Jas. McConechy, ministers; Messrs. Jas. Croil, Chas. Davidson, J. Wilson, W. S. Logie, W. Macwhinney, G. McMichen, and A. McAllister, elders.

To revise the records of the Assembly, of Synods, and of the Presbytery of Manitoba—Revs. Dr. Bell (convener), T. S. Chambers, J. H. Chase, M.A., D. Waters, J. Paterson,