

Presbytery of Montreal

The Presbytery of Montreal met in the hall of Knox church for the purpose of moderating in a call from Melville church, Westmont, to the Rev. G. Clarke, pastor of the United Free Church of Anorth, in the presbytery of Kirkcudbright, Scotland. The Rev. W. T. Morison, moderator, presided. Messrs J. Brown, W. C. Jarvis, J. M. Brophy and W. M. Ramsay, who appeared as commissioners from the congregation of Melville Church, and the Rev. E. Scott, who is acting as moderator of Melville Church, reported that the call was unanimous, and the proceedings throughout had been most harmonious.

It was agreed to sanction the call, and the induction was provisionally fixed for Nov. 22, the Rev. Dr. Kellock being appointed to preach, the Rev. E. Scott to address the minister, and the Rev. A. Bowman to address the congregation.

The Rev. J. L. George presented a report on the vacancy in St. Mark's church. The call to Mr. Turner had been declined, but they were on the eve of making another call, which they expected to be accepted.

The Rev. W. R. Cruikshank raised the question of a union between St. Mark's Church and Nazareth Street Mission, negotiations for which carried on some years ago, had fallen through. St. Mark's was weaker than it was then, and the Mission was stronger. He did not think that it was fair to allow a man to be called to so weak a congregation in a district which it would be impossible for work up.

The Rev. E. Scott objected to the snuffing out of a congregation by act of Presbytery while they were self-supporting and willing to carry on the work. The Rev. John Mackay and Mr. David Morrice urged that a union was advisable, but Dr. Campbell, Dr. Barclay and others pointed out that at present there could be no interference with the action of the congregation, and the report of the Rev. J. L. George was accordingly received.

The arrangements for the installation services of the Rev. Peter Walker to be ordained missionary to the Maisonneuve Mission were approved. The service is fixed for Nov. 10, the Rev. Dr. Mowatt to preach. Principal Scrimger to address the pastor, and the Rev. W. R. Cruikshank address the people.

Catechism on our Foreign Mission Fund.

What was the deficit at the close of the last year? \$25,603.57.

How much was received in answer to the special appeal in behalf of the deficit? About \$12,000.00.

What are the total estimated requirements of our Foreign Mission work for this year? \$64,075.00, plus the 12,000 remaining of the deficit, or a total of \$107,075.00.

What were the total receipts last year? \$67,618.27.

If the same amount is received this year as last what will be the deficit at the end of this year? \$39,456.73.

Leaving the deficit out of account, how much does the estimated expenditure of this year exceed the receipts of last year? \$26,456.73.

Were the receipts of last year less than usual? No, they were somewhat higher than ever before.

Then does it mean that the normal expenditure of the work exceeds by \$26,000 the normal revenue? Yes, it means that the work has got ahead of us to that extent.

What explains this increase in the expenditure? It is owing to the expansion of the work in every field. The re-opening of Honan after the Boxer outbreak accounts for a considerable part of it. Even our Chinese work in Canada costs us about \$8,000, and more men are urgently asked for.

Is there call for still further expansion? Yes, the call was never more urgent than now.

We cannot reap the harvest of our own work in India, China, Formosa or Canada unless we strengthen our staff.

What must be done? We must either increase our normal revenue or cut down and in measure destroy our work. We pray for growth. When it comes we should try and provide for it.

What is the Committee doing about it? Last year they cut the estimates 20 per cent in order to equalize. They are doing the same this year much to the injury of the work.

But what is the Committee doing to increase the revenue? They got salaries of twelve missionaries provided for entirely by individuals and congregations, and the salaries of eight other missionaries provided for in part. 2. There are twelve other missionaries in Foreign Fields that are not provided for, that the Committee are

seeking to assign. 3. They are dividing the total cost of stations into shares of \$50.00 each, and asking individuals and congregations to undertake one or more shares.

Is there nothing that can be done immediately? The Committee are appealing to the children of the Sabbath Schools to give this year Christmas Gifts to Foreign Missions. There are over 180,000 children in our Sunday Schools. Ten cents from each would mean \$18,000. It is asked that the month of December be devoted to this. Little banks and envelopes will be sent to all who will apply, as so to put one into the hand of each child. It may be made an important educational month in Missions, and the children will be blessed in blessing others.

This is a pretty serious crisis, is it not? Yes, it is a parting of the ways. We must as a church either rise to a higher plain of Christian sacrifice in which case it can only mean good, or on the other hand, allow the work to suffer, which will, and must mean disaster. It means in plain English, an increased revenue of \$20,000 a year at least is necessary to maintain the work now in hand, to say nothing of sending out more men who will next year make application, and for whom the fields are waiting. R. P. MacKAY.

Semi-Centennial.

MacNab St church, Hamilton, celebrated its semi-Centennial in the early part of this week. The first pastor, Rev. David Inglis, D.D., was inducted in May, 1855. He remained till 1871, when he was appointed Professor of Theology in Knox College, Toronto. However he only saw one session as professor at Knox College, when he received a call to the Dutch Reformed Church in Brooklyn, N.Y. He accepted and labored there until the last great call from the Master took him to his reward.

In February, 1872, a unanimous call was extended to Rev. D. H. Fletcher, which he accepted. He was inducted on May 1st. of the same year. Under Dr. Fletcher's pastorate the church has been re-seated and otherwise beautified. A separate stone building has been erected for Sabbath School purposes, and a fine new stone vestry built. The church has an unusual record in that during the 51 years of its existence, it has only been ministered to by two pastors, and today has one of the most active congregations in the city.

There are only three of the original members still living. At the morning service on Sunday Prof. Ballantyne preached, and in the afternoon Rev. A. B. Winchester, of Knox church, Toronto, spoke. A concert was held on Monday evening, when a good programme was presented. On Tuesday evening a re-union of the members and their friends was held. It is expected that Rev. Dr. Inglis, son of the first pastor of the church, will preach on Wednesday evening.

Anniversary Services at Chatham.

The anniversary services held in the First Church, Chatham, were most successful in every respect. Rev. F. H. Larkin, B.A., B.D., of Scotland, the former esteemed pastor of the church, preached two fine sermons.

In the morning his sermon was on "Faith," and closed with the following words. "Let me say that the finest realm for a man to occupy, is the realm of Christian Faith. Faith is full of stimulus, and without faith a man will never come to himself. A great statesman has great faith in his country; a successful business man has faith in his business. In the moral and religious world, the man of faith will get more joy out of life than one without it. Therefore, my friends, have faith in God. Bring life into the proper attitude, get faith, and you will never weary of it."

Mr. Larkin's evening subject was "The Simplicity that is in Christ," and upon this theme he preached a very thoughtful and eloquent sermon, which was followed with rapt attention and interest by the large number present.

Mr. Larkin is a vigorous thinker and speaker, has fine command of language and is unsurpassed in social qualities. One of the professors in College called him "My good student." Mr. Larkin evidently impressed his hearers that he is a man, who has a wide acquaintance with literature.

The church was decorated with flowers and foliage and was crowded on both occasions.

Monday evening the annual entertainment was held in the hall of the church, following which an excellent programme of addresses and music were given in the church. Rev. Mr. Larkin deliver a short address.

Schemes of the Church.

The following comparative statement shows the receipts for mission and benevolent work of the church from the 1st of March to the 1st of October for the last three years:—

	1902	1903	1904
Home Mission Fund.....	\$27,099.00	\$20,686.00	\$20,331.00
Augmentation Fund.....	2,514.00	2,213.00	2,239.00
Foreign Mission Fund.....	11,497.00	11,855.00	24,554.00
French Evangelization Fund.....	5,154.00	5,287.00	3,809.00
Point aux Trembles Fund.....	1,357.00	1,458.00	1,214.00
Ministers' Widows' & Orphan's Fund.....	1,354.00	1,076.00	892.00
Aged & Infirm Ministers' Fund.....	1,350.00	1,341.00	1,229.00
Assembly Fund.....	630.00	633.00	717.00

Every year at this season the several funds are largely in debt. This year is no exception. Only the Foreign Mission Fund is at present in debt \$36,000 in excess of the debt in October, 1903. This is a serious state of matters. At the close of last church year, (26th February, 1904) there was a deficit in this fund of \$25,600. An urgent appeal was issued in April to all congregations of the church for a special collection towards the removal of this deficit but only about \$12,000 was received in response to the appeal. Notwithstanding this special contribution of \$12,000 the debt continues to increase. In their report to the General Assembly, which met in Vancouver in June, 1903, the Committee stated that the estimated expenditure for that year would be \$35,000 in excess of the receipts of the preceding year, requiring an increase of ninety per cent in congregational contributions, and solicited the hearty co-operation of ministers and sessions. The expectations of the Committee were not realized and the result was the deficit in February last of \$25,600.

In their report to the Assembly which met in St. John in June last, the Committee again stated the case, informing the church that the estimates submitted from the fields required an expenditure during 1904 of about \$103,000, but that the Committee reduced this to \$93,000, which was fully \$25,000 in excess of the revenue of the past year. The Committee added in the report to the Assembly, "The actual amount required for the expenditure of the current year, being so greatly in excess of the receipts of last year, unless the full amount of the deficit of \$25,600 is got by special contributions, the Committee may be under the necessity of still further contracting the work. This would be disastrous in many ways. It will especially be discouraging to the missionaries in the field. One of these, fearing that the cut made by the Committee might result in delaying operations in Whitchurch, personally contributed upwards of \$2,000, that the building there may be immediately erected. If men on the field are willing not only to give themselves, but of their means, in the interest of the work, are there not many at home willing to sacrifice that the cause may be advanced? It is believed that not a few congregations will cheerfully contribute the amount necessary to support a missionary, were the minister and members of session to take up the matter in earnest."

R. H. W.

India.

The first General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, India, will meet in a few weeks in Allahabad, to be composed of commissioners and delegates from ten Presbyterian bodies formerly carrying on separate work in that vast country. These missions were established by the Presbyterian churches of England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Canada and the United States. The thousands of converts belonging to these missions, speaking at least eight distinct languages, are now to be gathered in one great self-governing body, a native church of Christ, as was done some years in Japan. A Confession of Faith, a Book of Discipline and all the rules necessary for the conduct of business have been prepared by joint committees, and the whole translated into the various tongues to be employed. The completed work is now ready to be adopted or amended by the joint assembly, which will meet about the first of December.

Tobacco and Liquor Habits.

Dr. McTaggart's tobacco remedy removes all desire for the weed in a few days. A vegetable medicine, and only requires touching the tongue with it occasionally. Price \$2.

Truly marvellous are the results from taking his remedy for the liquor habit. It is safe and inexpensive home treatment; no hypodermic injections, no publicity, no loss of time from business, and a certainty of cure. Address or consult Dr. McTaggart, 75 Young street, Toronto.