

SYNOD OF MONTREAL AND OTTAWA.

The Synod of Montreal and Ottawa met in the First Church, Brockville, on Monday evening, May 9th, at 8 o'clock. The opening sermon was preached by the retiring Moderator, the Rev. Dr. MacDonald, of Dundee Centre, Que., from the text "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature" Mark xvi. 15. It was a strong missionary appeal, dealing with the field and the agencies employed, the condition of the heathen world, our duty and the encouragements to engage in missionary work. On motion of the Rev. Dr. Ross, of Montreal, the thanks of the Synod were tendered to the retiring Moderator. The Rev. Geo. MacArthur, of Cardinal was unanimously elected as his successor.

At the morning sederunt of Tuesday, after routine, the report of the Committee on Ecclesiastical Co-operation was read, showing that correspondence had taken place with reference to one or two fields which it was hoped would have the desired effect and make further action unnecessary. No formal complaint of undue interference had however been made during the year, showing that there was little over-churching within the Synod. The Committee was re-appointed to continue its work.

The Synod next proceeded to the report on education in Ontario and Quebec, noting the improvements and gratifying signs of progress in both, calling attention, however, to the unsatisfactory condition of religious instruction in Ontario, where very little is being done under the regulation allowing the clergy of the different churches to give such instruction at certain hours. The report urged that the study of Old and New Testament History should form part of the ordinary school curriculum as furnishing the basis of religious instruction, without requiring the teacher to touch any matter of doctrine and as giving the pupils a knowledge of the only Ancient History the most of them would ever have much interest in. This awakened some discussion and a committee was appointed to draw up a resolution regarding the matter.

In the afternoon Dr. Kellock presented a report regarding Augmentations, showing the needs of this Scheme and analysing the contributions to it during the past year from the several Presbyteries of the Synod. The Rev. Dr. Campbell, of Renfrew, Convener of the Assembly's Committee, spoke at length regarding the report, and suggested means of increasing the contributions. Principal MacVicar and Mr. Dewey also spoke. The report was adopted and the convener thanked for his diligence.

Rev. Mr. Hastie, of Cornwall, presented the report on Church Life and Work. The report, which was very lengthy and full of detail, gave a vivid pen-picture of the activities of some three hundred and forty congregations, four thousand five hundred Sunday-school scholars and teachers, hundreds of Christian Endeavor, missionary and temperance societies and of the Home and individual efforts, and was, to use the language of the report itself, "fitted to evoke from all hearts thanksgiving to God for the privilege of serving Him, and to inspire members and people alike to yet greater consecration to the Divine Master and His kingdom." The report was divided under several heads, including attendance on services, family worship and religious training of youth in the home, the Christian example set in social and business circles, church revenue, temperance, Lord's Day observance, etc., and closed with resolutions on these subjects which were adopted.

The Rev. D. M. Ramsay, of Ottawa, followed with a brief but thoughtful address on the "Deepening of Spiritual Life."

After the usual opening exercises in the evening the Rev. Dugald Currie, of Perth, read an excellent paper on "Systematic and Proportionate Giving." He emphasized the point that it is necessary that the loyal followers of the Master should give material support and warm sympathy to what are specifically called religious objects, and that this may be successful it must be prosecuted systematically. As a man's property increases in value it is assumed that his ability to contribute to the country's revenue increases. The same principle should apply to religious work. Prayer for the extension of Christ's Kingdom is empty mockery if not accompanied by the instrument God has put in our hands for that purpose. The arm of the Church is withering because it is holding fast to its money. Many other excellent and valuable points were brought out.

The discussion which followed was taken part in by the Rev. J. L. George, of Montreal; the Rev. Mr. Russell, of Lunenburg, and Mr. Walter Paul, of Montreal.

The Rev. Wm. J. Jamieson, a returned missionary from Central India, then gave a most interesting address dealing with the work in that country and the difficulties that have to be contended with owing to lack of funds. His graphic descriptions of the moral and physical condition of the people were listened to with deep interest.

An open parliament for the discussion of the subject "The spiritual life of our young people; how it may be used and how it may be developed," came next. This was led by the Rev. M. Dewey, of Montreal, in the absence of the Rev. Mr. Cruikshanks, who was to have taken the duty.

REPORTS.

In connection with this, the Rev. Mr. McLeod, of Three Rivers, presented a report of the Young People's Societies in the Synod.

The report gave the following statistics:—

Societies.....	82
Active members.....	1,728
Associate members.....	979
Members of all kinds.....	3,187
Members in full Communion.....	1,730

Raised for all the Schemes of the Church \$1,894; for all purposes, \$4,176.

Sixteen societies out of the eighty-two have adopted the General Assembly's plan of study. Only two Presbyteries (Quebec and Lanark and Renfrew) have organized a Presbyterian Young People's Society.

The discussion which followed was taken part in by the Rev. Dr. MacVicar, the Rev. Dr. Moore, Mr. Walter Paul, the Rev. Mr. Cormack, the Rev. Dr. Ross and the Rev. Dr. Herridge, and was of a very interesting and instructive character.

On Wednesday morning the Rev. M. H. Scott, of Hull, gave in the report on the Mission to the Lumbermen. The report gave abundant testimony as to improvements in the life of the lumber camps as a result of the work. A large amount of literature is furnished to occupy the spare hours of the men. The cost is trifling, the total receipts for the year were \$275.

The Rev. Mr. Herridge presented the first annual report of the Ottawa Ladies' College. This was of a most encouraging character. The ordinary revenue of the year met the expenditure, while the amount of the guarantee fund had more than sufficed for the interest on the mortgage.

The Rev. Mr. Herridge supplemented the report with a review of the affairs of the college.

The Rev. Dr. MacVicar moved that the report be received and that the Synod cordially commended the college to the practical support and sympathy of the members and adherents.

The Rev. A. H. Scott, the Rev. Dr. Armstrong and the Rev. Mr. Heine all spoke in a similar strain.

The Rev. Mr. McLaren, of Alexandria, presented the report on Sunday Schools. The statistics are the most encouraging for many years. Mr. D. Torrance Fraser, of Montreal, delivered a very interesting and practical address on Sunday School work, after which the report was received and adopted.

In the afternoon the Rev. Dr. Robertson delivered an excellent address dealing with Missions in the West of the Dominion and regretted that much needed work could not be undertaken owing to lack of necessary funds. He referred to the rapid settling of the country and urged increased support of the Church in order to keep up with the concomitant requirements. A vote of thanks was passed unanimously to the Rev. Dr. Robertson at the close of his address.

Minutes referring to the deaths of the Rev. Dr. Jenkins and the Rev. John Nicholls were read, after which committees were recommended and representatives appointed to the Dominion Alliance.

The Rev. J. R. McLeod referred to the kindness extended members of the Synod by the people of Brockville and moved a resolution of thanks to the ministers and friends who had contributed to the convenience and pleasure of the members of Synod, also to the press of Montreal and Brockville and the railway companies for privileges extended.

The proceedings of the Synod were then closed with the singing of a hymn and the benediction, to meet next year in Knox church, Cornwall, on the second Tuesday of May.