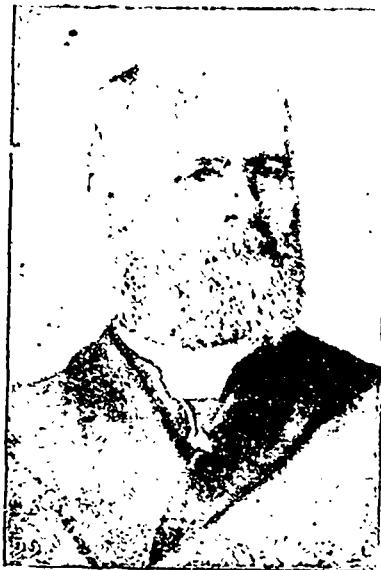


THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

After the retiring Moderator's sermon had been delivered (as reported last week) the Assembly was constituted and Rev. Dr. Robertson delivered a brief valedictory. Rev. Dr. Campbell referred to the death of Rev. Dr. Reid, and Rev. Dr. Warden was appointed assistant clerk pro tem. Rev. Dr. Torrance seconded by Rev. Dr. Hamilton moved the election of Rev. Dr. Gordon as Moderator; and Rev. A. J. Mowat Montreal, declining to be a candidate, Dr. Gordon's election was unanimous. Mr. MacLeod, Three Rivers, clerk of the Business Committee reported on the appointment of various committees, and hours of meeting and the opening session then adjourned.



REV. D. M. GORDON, B.D.

John McMillan, and after an interesting discussion was adopted.

The Colleges.

Friday was a busy day. The reports of the colleges were presented, summaries of which are as follows.

MANITOBA.

In the Report presented to last General Assembly, the number of students during the preceding year was stated to have been 152 in the Faculty of Arts and the preparatory Department, with 31



REV. DR. J. M. KING, D.D.

in attendance in the Faculty of Theology. During the winter session, just closed, the number in the Faculty of Arts and the Preparatory Department was 179, and there are now in the Faculty of Theology 27 students, making a total for the year of 206. At the examinations of 1895 in the University of Manitoba 11 scholarships and 8 medals were gained by students of the College. To the examinations now in progress, 92 students of the College have gone up, being the same number as in the previous year.

The congregational contributions from Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces have been \$3,075.81. That amount includes \$300.45, the contributions of congregations in the Maritime Provinces for the year 1894-5, which did not reach Winnipeg until after the College accounts for that year had been closed. The corresponding contributions for the year just ended appear to have been \$237.95, or \$62.50 less than those of the previous year. The amount, then, which has been contributed in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces during the past year for the College, has been \$3,013.31, or about \$45 less than during the previous year.

On Thursday an overture was introduced from Owen Sound suggesting that the Assembly should be more rigid than heretofore in its acceptance of ministers from other churches, except from those in Great Britain and Ireland. After a debate which was carried into the afternoon the overture was sent to a committee for report. A Special Committee recommended the appointment of Rev. Dr. Warden as Junior Clerk and the report was adopted. The Home Mission report (published last week) was presented by Rev.

The contributions from the Synods of Manitoba and British Columbia, including \$98, interest upon a sum of \$1,200, which belongs to the Theological Department, have amounted to \$4,026, which is an increase of about \$1,000. The Board feel encouraged by this practical proof of the interest in and liberality to the College of its friends in the North-West. This increase in their giving has not only discharged considerable arrears of salary due to the Principal, but has also left a respectable amount applicable in relief of the ordinary expenditure.

The interest received from investments has been \$3,440.56, as compared with \$1,754.17 during the year before.

The total receipts for the Ordinary Fund, including \$898.71, the balance in hand at the beginning of the year, have been \$20,530.65. This includes, in addition to the sources of revenue already named, \$8,607.30 for fees and board of students. The expenditure for the year has been \$19,781.41, leaving \$799.24 as the balance in hand. It will thus be seen that the income of the year has been short of meeting the outlay.

In the report presented last year, the Board said, it might be necessary to ask the General Assembly to reconsider the whole question of the work to be undertaken by the College. While still believing the Summer Session to be advantageous to the Home Mission work of the Church, the Board now respectfully request the General Assembly to relieve the College from carrying it on any longer, as the condition on which it was undertaken by the Board, the provision by the Church of the additional expense incurred, has never been fulfilled, and as it has become evident that in the absence of this additional contribution to income, it cannot be maintained without involving the College again in debt, from which it has been freed only by a great effort. All the members of the teaching staff are overworked, but especially is this so in the case of the Principal. Besides discharging all the duties which necessarily devolve upon him as the head of the institution, he has now for some years, without intermission, been spending at least 11 months of every year in the laborious work of teaching. The Church has no right to impose upon him such heavy work, seriously impairing his health and shortening his life. To carry on a Summer Session he must be relieved from the larger part of his work in teaching during the winter. Owing to the failure of the Church to provide the increased financial support, on the faith of which the work of a Summer Session was begun, the Board has been unable to relieve him. But that relief must be secured before another Summer Session can be undertaken.

That by great exertions the Principal has freed the College from a heavy debt, and that by careful management, and the exercise of rigid economy, he has, up to the present time, kept it from again falling into debt, cannot be an argument to justify failure on the part of the Church to do its duty. If extra work is to be done by the College to assist the Church in carrying on Home Mission work, it is surely not asking too much, to ask the Church to meet the extra expense necessary for doing that work. But what are the facts? The College has never received the additional \$1,500 a year, on the faith of which the work of a Summer Session was begun. On the contrary, there has been a steady decrease year by year, and the amount contributed in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, towards the support of the College during the year 1895-6, has been nearly \$500 less than it was during the year in which the College was asked to undertake the work. Any income from the investment of legacies left the College, and from increased liberality of friends in the North-West, should be applied to the development of the College apart entirely from the work of the Summer Session.

Under these circumstances the Board must respectfully ask to be relieved from carrying on a Summer Session during another year.

HALIFAX.

The Board acknowledges gifts for the Library and pays the following tribute to the memory of Rev. Dr. Burns:—By the death of Dr. Burns, for many years a member of the Board, the College has sustained a severe loss. His tongue, his pen and his purse were freely used for the good of the institution, which he dearly loved. He was one of a band of ardent friends, whose labors were instrumental in placing it on its present efficient footing. We mourn his loss, but we thank the Lord for his life and labor among us.

The condition of the finances, although not alarming, is not satisfactory. A year ago, the Church was forewarned that an increased collection would be required, and we find that a slight increase has been made, but not nearly sufficient to meet the requirements. Congregations should increase their giving by one-fourth in order to furnish the means of keeping out of debt.

The account, for the year past, is as follows:—