



A DISTINGUISHED GROUP WITH A HISTORY.

Left to Right—Rev. J. D. Byrnes, Superintendent of Missions in North Ontario; Prof. J. D. Robertson, of Knox College; Prof. W. G. Jordan, of Queen's; and the Late Rev. S. Childerhouse, of North Bay, Who, When Superintendent of North Ontario Missions, Was Killed in the Train Wreck at Spanish River, Four Years Ago.



AT THE OUTPOSTS OF THE CHURCH.

Left to Right—Rev. H. H. Morton, Son of the Missionary in Trinidad; Rev. John Taylor, in Mhow, India; Dr. Fraser Smith, Retired as Medical Missionary From the "Goforth Band" in China; Dr. Annand, in the New Hebrides; Rev. John Griffith, at Chang To Ho, Honan, China; Dr. Nugent, Medical Missionary at Ujjain, India; Rev. Dr. Coffin, of the Theological College, at San Fernando, Trinidad.

The Assembling of the Brethren

High Court of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, Meeting in Toronto this Week

By AUSTIN L. BUDGE

TORONTO is the Mecca of Canadian Presbyterianism for 1913. Knox Church, on Spadina Avenue, has the honour of being the temple of solemnities. The annual Holy-day is "the first Wednesday of June," for on that evening, as regularly as the year revolves, the "Fathers and Brethren" of the Presbyterian Church meet together.

It is transcontinental in its boundaries. One-

sixth of the widely scattered ministry, together with an elder, are commissioned. As to authority, it is supreme. It holds the "keys of Peter" for the Presbyterian folk. Its dignity and honour are jealously guarded. The name is woven in the annals of the Church and every meeting becomes historic.

Its constitution is simple. Its Head or Moderator is practically a chairman. He retains the office for a year and no one has had a second term. There are two permanent officials who would be called Secretary and Treasurer, in a secular organization. No one wants them changed, because Rev. Dr. R. Campbell, Montreal, and Rev. Dr. Somerville, Toronto, have indeed been the "Elect of God." Ambition can play little part in gaining membership, because it is almost a universal rule, that it is by rotation. A few, however, of the "Fathers," out of respect, are by their presbyteries given commissions every year.

Thus men like Dr. Milligan, Toronto, are present at almost every General Assembly. Because it would take a goodly number of his brethren to kindle the fire of interest, he usually creates. Nova Scotia has the honour of being represented from year to year by Dr. Sedgwick, Tatamagouche, who is the embodiment of the Confession of Faith and the Blue Book. Dr. DuVal comes annually from the West. He has encyclopaedic knowledge of the Kirk and everybody likes to hear his breezy speeches. Dr. D. D. McLeod, Barrie, is also in the cabinet of leaders, and a very able debater.

There are elders, also, who are returned to their seats in every meeting. The proceedings would lack not a little spice, without Judge Forbes, St. John. The wholesome humour of Mr. Walter Paul, Montreal, is an annual pleasure. Things would be dull without the brilliant epigrams of Mr. G. M. Macdonnell, Kingston. And ministers might lag by the way, were it not for the well-known spur of Mr. J. K. Macdonald, Toronto. While the

Fathers and Brethren usually hold their breath at the western pluck of Mr. Edward Brown, Winnipeg.

Unlike the constitution, the work of the General Assembly is very complex. It legislates for nearly five thousand employees. And any one who calls himself a Presbyterian can bring his appeal to this Supreme Court, without money and without price. The total revenue of five million dollars comes under its eye, although it has no power to seize a single lamb upon "the thousand hills," to make good any loss. It takes even more stock of the spiritual state of the Church and is itself a great revival.

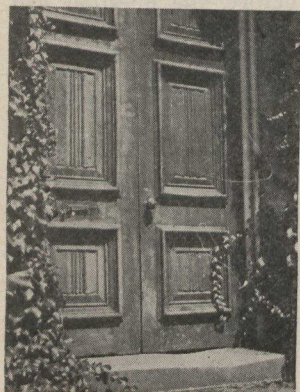
The present year marks a new departure. It is a real meeting of all "the tribes of our Presbyterian Israel." The lonely watchmen from the frontiers are brought home. They are to be honoured and encouraged. The Church will both see and hear its heroes. Men are to take counsel together of their difficulties and opportunities. The outlook is not simply national, but world-wide. Thus at Massey Hall there is a great Council being organized to run parallel with the "acts and deliberations" of the annual Court.

The Moderator

THERE is no need of giving an elaborate description of Rev. D. G. McQueen, D.D., the minister for twenty-six years of First Presbyterian Church, Edmonton; nor of "Citizen" McQueen, an old inhabitant of that fair capital. Little could be added to what is known of Home-Missionary McQueen, whose field for many a long year covered half a province. But it is of Moderator McQueen that we attempt to draw some lines.

Twenty-five years ago a graduating class in Knox College "got their pictures taken." This, of course, is always the rule. "The boys" all want such a memorial of student life, and besides, there are young ladies. One group is to be hung in the College Hall of Fame, the dining-room. Many people have looked over those faces since that class of seventeen men went through the gate of service. Judges of character have discussed their special features and prominent "bumps." Presbyterians, forsooth, have such a privilege by divine right, for these young ministers were soon to "preach for a call."

There was one face about which the devotees of cabinet albums had trouble. The eyes were as steady as the muzzle of a rifle. They made one blink. There was something also about the mouth which was suspicious that eloquence might burst out as fire from a volcano. The chin and nose were



Footprints on Stone. The Front Door of Old Knox.



A Workers' Corner in the General Assembly at Hamilton, 1909. Prof. Dyde, Kingston; the Postmaster; Dr. E. D. McLaren and Dr. Ramsey, of Ottawa (Standing).



A Presbyterian Brother Calls This Corner of the Knox College Library "the Fortress of Theology." There Was a Time When the Young "Theolog" Burned to Read All These Tomes of Orthodoxy. But Many an Old Fortress Has Been Rebuilt in an Age of Criticism.