

pastoral service?" "If a church of Christ is conscientiously, and after prayer, satisfied that it ought to receive such an one back to service, being fully convinced that like the apostle, Peter, the Master has forgiven and restored, what is the course which sister churches should pursue?" "Should intermarriage of a professing Christian with one who is not subject to the former to church discipline?" "Is the indulgence in an occasional dance, or in attendance now and then at the theatre or opera, incompatible with good standing in the church, so as to subject the transgressor to discipline?" Many other questions might be introduced to illustrate the kind of practical duties concerning which there may be a wide difference of opinion, without necessarily breaking the unity of fellowship and action. We are not without instances of want of forbearance with one another in love on such questions and of grievous violation of fellowship in such lack of forbearance. Two churches had been in agreement on the question of the necessity or non-necessity of an ordained minister always presiding at the Lord's table. One of them changed its view of this matter, which, on being reported to the sister church, she remorselessly cut off the offender. This occurred in enlightened Scotland, during the present century—a striking instance of the intolerance which is born of insisting that all should think alike in order to fellowship.

3. General uniformity in church practice as to mode of receiving members, settling a pastor with or without a council, as to hymnology and music, order of public service and such like matters, cannot be in any degree essential to unity of fellowship and action. We have no authoritative directory as to forms and modes of procedure; each church adopts its own.

We are thus brought to the conclusion that as Christ the Lord is the basis on which our faith rests, the rock of ages, the corner stone of our hopes, the essential elements of unity in fellowship and work, must be drawn from Him, and must be found clustered around Him. We must be at one concerning His divine-human person, through whom we have redemption and access to God, and in whom is our life. We must be at one concerning the great purposes of His mission to earth, His ministry, sufferings, death and resurrection and concerning His exaltation and reign. This will include oneness of conviction as to the great need of man and that this is the only supply of those clamant wants. And will further include oneness regarding the great principles of morality, of obedience to Christ, of freedom in His service, and of the work of the Church for its Lord and King together with faith in His promises and assurance of ultimate results in triumphant success. The fellowship springing out of supreme love to the One Lord, thus practically exhibits its power in energetic co-operation in all that can promote the interests of the Lord's kingdom. In order to such co-operation there will be required certain temporary or more permanent regimental regulations to be agreed upon by the parties so engaged; these are not of the essence of the fellowship, but are nevertheless of much value in carrying on the work which it proposes to accomplish; to such regulations fellowship demands conformity. Troops must move in line—companies must act as parts of a regiment—so that confusion and loss may be avoided. Much, however, need not be said on this point; for the supremacy and fervour of love for the Master will bring all into line and keep them there. May the churches be filled therewith. Amen!

A lively discussion succeeded the reading of this paper, participated in by several brethren. The Rev. Dr. Cornish thought there was much need of right belief in our churches, more care should be exercised in holding and enunciating Scriptural truths. The Rev. Prof. Fenwick spoke in a similar strain, making special reference to the great facts of Inspiration, the Divinity of Christ, and the Atonement. The Rev. R. W. Wallace was not afraid to trust men who kept close to Christ, liberty was safe when connected with Him.

The Rev. John Salmon wished emphasis laid upon the expiatory view of Christ's work. Rev. W. H. Warriner thought great patience should be had especially with young men, in the formation of their theological views. Rev. Jos. Griffith argued that the great necessity was to hold fast to the great facts of Christianity. Rev. J. B. Silcox preached Christ a Saviour from sin. The character of Christ and the renewed lives of His followers were the strength of Christianity to-day. Rev. E. C. W. McColl called special attention to the greater need of practical godliness among the members of Christian Churches. At this juncture the discussion was postponed.

The afternoon Session of the brethren was devoted exclusively to the discussion of the affairs of the Canada Congregational Missionary Society. Rev. Dr. Cornish presided.

The Report as read by the Rev. Dr. Wilkes revealed the fact that the Society had not been sustained as well financially by the churches as was desired. The causes of the apparent apathy were traced, and were found to be the following: (1) The general depression had affected the Society's income. (2) The erection of so many church buildings had crippled some contributing churches temporarily. (3) Lack of interest by some pastors and churches. (4) Want of system in finances in some churches. (5) Need of the recognition of personal responsibilities to Christ. (6) Wrong selections of pastors in some fields had estranged sympathy in some quarters.

The Report next alluded to the remedy for these things. (1) An effort to raise the Society's debt on the spot. (2) That henceforth the Society's appropriations should not exceed probable revenue. (3) That some churches which seemed hopelessly down should be cut off. (4) That the pastors of the churches instruct them better on Christian giving. (5) That Auxiliary Societies be formed in all the churches. (6) And that some person should be appointed to visit the churches in the various districts.

Thirty-five churches have been aided during the year by the Society. The receipts from various sources were, from the Colonial Missionary Society, \$888; from Western District, \$625; Middle District, \$616; Eastern District, \$754; Quebec, \$636; Maritime Provinces, \$1,078. Total, \$3,597.

A long discussion on matters connected with the work of this Society ensued. The Rev. Mr. Allworth led off, specially deprecating any lack of support to our weaker and rural churches. The Rev. J. L. Foster, of Calvary Church, Montreal, said that his church gave contributions to missions but not to this Society as the impression was abroad that the Society was not doing really mission work. He would strongly urge the opening of a mission in Manitoba. The romance would give the cause a great impetus.

Dr. Jackson contended that the Society had done and was now doing real mission work. Dr. Wilkes cited instances showing the great good done by our mission churches. They were feeders to the larger churches. Rev. R. W. Wallace thought the churches needed more definite information concerning the causes that were receiving missionary aid.

Rev. J. Griffith was convinced that the great need in our churches was an increase of spiritual life.

Rev. Prof. Fenwick said that the Church of Christ was committed to mission work by its Founder. The great need was to feel this truth more deeply. Love and loyalty to Christ are the motive powers to effective mission work.

At this point a motion by Rev. J. L. Foster and J. F. Stevenson was submitted to the meeting recommending the Society to appropriate a certain sum towards the work in Manitoba. As this opened up the whole question of the North-West, the meeting adjourned to meet at the call of the chair.

At 6 p.m., an adjournment was made to the basement of the church to partake of a tea prepared by the ladies. Every thing which feminine skill could plan to make this entertainment a success was done, and the success was duly acknowledged by all the brethren.

A large assembly of the members of the Union and their hospitable entertainers convened in the church at 7:30 p.m., and greatly enjoyed the choice music by the choir and the addresses of several gentlemen.

Col. Twitchell, U. S. Consul at Kingston, referred to the pleasure he had in attending the gathering, as he had been nurtured in the Puritan atmosphere of New England. He had given special study to the influence of Christianity on national life, and on commerce, and he declared the Bible to be the great inspiration and guide of a nation, and the best friend of the merchant.

The Rev. Dr. Grant, Principal of Queen's College, was greeted with prolonged cheering as he arose to bid the Union welcome to Kingston. His speech was full of humour and brotherliness, readily captivating the hearts of all. The main points of his address were the following, containing as they did a kindly eulogium upon the Congregational denomination. He referred (1) to the fact that Congregationalism did not seek to make headway by merely adventitious plans, but by the force of ideas. (2) That it had always been the friend of learning, founding such great institutions as London University in England, and Harvard and Yale Colleges in the United States. (3) That it had always held with tenacity the great fundamental principles of Protestantism. (4) That it was fond of truth, accepting the great verities of the Christian faith, yet with sufficient elasticity to save men from being perpetually suspected of heterodoxy. These points Dr. Grant urged with great clearness and power.

The Rev. H. D. Powis, of Toronto, followed in an affable and eloquent address on the grandeur of the work of the Ministry, and a touching reference to those who had fallen out of our ranks, and had gone over to join the majority.

The Rev. J. F. Stevenson, L.L.B., Chairman of the Union, made allusion to the nobility of the Christian faith, and the love which it generated in the hearts of those who embraced it. He alluded to the value of the articles and creeds of other denominations, their history having been a grand one. But still he felt that although these might be eschewed by our people, the truth of God would yet remain as the grand heritage of those who serve Him with loyalty and love. Liberty did not mean license, but a loving recognition of the Christian life in those who might hold divergent views.

This delightful gathering closed by the pronouncement of the benediction by an elderly Episcopalian clergyman, the Rev. Mr. Dobbs, of Portsmouth.

FRIDAY.

Upon the opening of the meeting, the Statistical Secretary, Rev. W. H. Warriner, B.A., read the Report, some items of which are here presented. Only 68 out of 93 churches reported, and thus the friends of the denomination must understand that these statistics do not represent the full strength of the churches. Attendance at Sabbath services, 12,205. Under pastoral care, 17,711. Additions to membership, by profession, 441, by letter, 164, total, 605. Removals, by death, 80, by letter, 154, by excommunication, 188, total, 422. Gain, 183. Present membership, 5,365. Sabbath Schools, teachers, 786, scholars, 5,523. Baptisms, adult, 61; infant, 319. Number of church sittings, 21,275. Value of church property \$455,875. Parsonages, \$23,525. Raised for local church objects, \$72,623, and for denominational purposes, \$4,424, for Foreign and Indian missions, \$1,163. Total, \$80,404.

The Report was received, and the gratitude of the Union was expressed to Mr. Warriner for his work.

The meeting then made way for the meeting of the College.

At the College meeting the chair was occupied by Mr. George Hague, of Montreal. The Rev. Dr. Cornish read

the Report. From the Report we glean the following particulars: That 5 new candidates were received into the College. 162 students in all were present throughout the session. Mr. A. McFadyen and Mr. W. Ewing graduated, and go forth with the best wishes of the College Board. Two students failed in health, and had to leave for some warmer climate. The students have done a good deal of practical work in preaching during the year.

The receipts for the year have been about \$5,140. Yet the balance is on the wrong side to the extent of \$1,006. The present of \$1,200 to the College Board would complete the \$15,000 of the endowment, when a generous gentleman, Mr. Smilie, formerly of Montreal, will supplement the endowment by a princely gift of \$5,000. The sum of \$1,200 would not be a very large gift for all our churches to make the College, so as to set the College on a sound financial basis.

The meeting then resolved itself into a Committee of the whole to consider the affairs of the College.

Rev. Dr. Wilkes thought that every congregation should be called upon by its pastor every year to contribute to the College. This would beget an interest in Collegiate work among all our people. A given day in October might be set aside for this purpose. The progress of our Lord's Kingdom demands a school for the training of the prophets. Churches should not allow their own local wants to crowd out the needs of the College.

Rev. Dr. Cornish reported that the receipts of the College from the churches had been \$1,800. The pastors should help the cause. If they had the will, the means could be raised. He invited the expression of any objection to the College work. If there was dissatisfaction with the location of the College, let it come back to Ontario.

Rev. J. L. Foster expressed his conviction that the strongest men in the churches were from the College. He thought that if an agent were employed, it would be helpful.

Rev. Mr. Allworth believed that the College was in the best possible hands. He was fully satisfied both with the location and management. He never allowed a year to pass by without a collection for the College. He observed it as regularly as the Lord's Supper. He preached a sermon every year on this subject, "The Need of an Educated Ministry."

Mr. D. Finlayson distributes envelopes to the church friends, and these are collected after the pastor's sermons.

Dr. Eckardt held that the times demand an educated Ministry. The College therefore is a necessity.

Rev. S. N. Jackson thought we never had a better class of students than now. Montreal has done nobly for the College. No better opportunity in Canada is offered than Montreal can offer. The Alumni should be more loyal and enthusiastic for their Alma Mater. All the churches needed was a more systematic presentation of the College wants to the people, the College sent forth men with a guarantee of their character and uprightness and ability to care for the Churches.

Rev. W. Peacock suggested that a definite scheme be adopted by which each of the objects maintained by the body be brought forward in each Church at a special time.

Prof. Fenwick was convinced that a little more heart would bring us over our difficulties. He urged a frank expression of opinion, and called for a free statement of such objections as might be entertained by any brother. He felt that the enlargement of the staff of the College had been premature until a proper financial basis had been laid. He felt that the position of affairs was such that he would feel it wise to resign his position as Professor unless the financial outlook improved.

Rev. W. H. Warriner deprecated such a step by Professor Fenwick. He spoke very warmly of the services of Professor Fenwick.

Rev. J. Griffith expressed his sense of the splendid work done by Professor Fenwick. We had no one that could fill his place.

Rev. J. F. Stevenson spoke in the highest terms of the scholarship, zeal, and ability of Professor Fenwick. He was convinced that he enjoyed the fullest confidence of his brethren. The spiritual influence which accompanied his work was felt by all. The students were unanimous and enthusiastic in their expressions of esteem for Professor Fenwick. The discussion was adjourned to the call of the chair.

In the afternoon the time was taken up in the consideration of the schemes of the Provident Fund and the Indian Missionary Society.

The Provident Fund has two branches. The one is for the widows and orphans of deceased Congregational ministers. This branch has received for the year \$1,585.83, and has disbursed \$1,450.09. It has paid up shares in several societies to the extent of \$19,540.

The second branch is denominated the Retiring Ministers' Fund. This has received from all sources, during the year, \$605. It has 40 paid up shares in a loan company worth \$2,000.

After the report had been read by Mr. George Hague, the new board of directors was appointed, and members were balloted for. General satisfaction was expressed with the manner in which the concerns of the Society was conducted.

The report of the Indian Missionary Society was read by the Secretary, the Rev. James Howell. Incidents connected with the Society's endeavours on the Georgian Bay were given, proving that good work has been done.

The Society has parted with the services of Mr. Lister, but the other labourers keep on with their arduous toils, and not without success. The receipts had on the whole been satisfactory, revealing that the friends generally have confidence in the work of evangelizing the aboriginal tribes.