THE CHURCHES.

PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

(Continued from Third Page.)

HALIFAX, N.S., June 18.—At the sederunt this morning,

The MODERATOR submitted the answer of Mr. Macdonnell, which was read by the Clerk, as follows:—

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada:

FATHERS AND BRETHREN,—I herewith submit in writing what I said on Saturday last, when it was announced that the amendment proposed by Dr. Topp had become the judgment of the Assembly.

I hold that I have already given an answer to the questions embodied in the resolution as categorically as a minister without in the Church who has declared his adherence to the Confession of Faith, and who still adheres to it, can fairly or constitutionally be required to give on a point on which he is confessedly in difficulty.

If that answer be not deemed sufficient, I request, as I have on a constitutional right to do, that the Presbytery of Toronto be instructed to frame a libel and deal with the matter according to the laws of the Church.

I am,
Fathers and Brethren,
Your obedient servant,
D. J. MACDONNELL.

Halifax, 18th June.

Rev. Mr. MIDDLEMISS, of Elora, Ont., said the Assembly was placed in the position in which it was placed by the vote on Saturday afternoon. The matter ought not to occupy much more time, yet it should not be dealt with until time had been allowed the members to consider Mr. Macdonnell's statement. He (Mr. Middlemiss) would therefore move that the matter be deferred until Tuesday morning. His intention was to move when the question came up that Mr. Macdonnell's wishes be complied with and the question remitted to the Presbytery of Toronto. The terms of the motion would depend upon the character of the preamble of the statement.

Rev. Dr. TORY seconded the motion to consider the matter on Tuesday morning.

Rev. Principal CAVAN approved of Mr. Middlemiss' motion but regretted that any particular course had been indicated to be pursued on Tuesday. The Assembly should be left open to deal with the question freely and he hoped that by God's blessing the House would be able to come to a satisfactory conclusion. The motion was agreed to.

Rev. Dr. TORY reported the following answer to the reasons of dissent:—

"It is replied to the first reason of dissent, (1) That the statement of Mr. Macdonnell cannot be regarded as an answer to the question on the question which the Assembly in the exercise of its constitutional rights put to him. (2) To justify the answer of Mr. Macdonnell by the statement that it is not for him to be consciously required of a minister who adheres to the Confession of Faith, it is present to the Assembly that the Rev. Mr. Macdonnell has subscribed to the Confession of Faith in respect to the endless duration of future punishment, in the very point in question before the Court, and so far from the discussion having the effect to affirm his adherence in the present instance, Mr. Macdonnell in his statement before the previous General Assembly expressed his inability at that time to give it. (3) That the Assembly has certainly a constitutional right in such a case, the fearful issue involved in the answer of the truth of God to require an answer in whatever form it deems best fitted, and to satisfy itself of his acceptance of the doctrine involved.

The report was received, adopted, and entered on the minutes.

Rev. Dr. PROUDFOOT presented a report from the Board of Management of Knox College, Toronto. The great difficulty in retaining the College within the debt of $16,000, the interest on which was a heavy charge. The Board ask the Assembly to appoint a special committee to devise means for clearing off the debt. If cleared off, the prospects of the College would be good, as an increase of $600 above the revenue of last year would be sufficient to meet the expense.

Principal CAVAN read the report of the Senate of the College.

Rev. J. L. KING read the report of the Board of Examiners of Knox College. After discussion, it was decided that all the reports be read before appointing committees.

Principal SNODGRASS read the report of Queen's College, Kingston.

Rev. Mr. McMORINE read the report of the Presbyterian College, Montreal.

Rev. Dr. COOK reported on Morin College, Quebec.

Prof. MCTAVISH's motion limiting the speakers' time passed after some discussion.

Rev. Dr. BURNS reported for the Board of Management of the Presbyterian College in Halifax. The report showed the attendance of six students of the first year, four of the second, and seven of the third year.

Overtures from the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of North America, Rev. J. GILLESPIE, of the Presbytery of Illinois, was then introduced and received with applause. He said two weeks ago he was glad to be to meet this Assembly, and he gladly learned he had to go to Halifax. The Church he represented was one of the sunshine of the Presbyterian Churches, consisting of 540 ministers and 70,000 members. The Church had enjoyed very great benefit from the revivals conducted by Messrs. Moody and Sankey. Mr. Gillespie made an interesting speech, and at the close was formally thanked by the Moderator, and begged to convey his constituents the greeting of the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

Rev. Prof. SHAW presented the report of the Board of Management of Manitoba College, which appears to be in a flourishing condition. There are twenty-seven students in the senior department, and seventeen in the junior.

An overture from the Presbytery of Paris, Ont., recommending the Assembly to take into consideration the whole question of colleges; that immediate steps be taken to materially reduce the expenditure of Manitoba College; that the members of the theological faculty of Queen's College be transferred to Knox and Montreal Colleges, as the Assembly may direct; that Queen's University be brought into closer relations with the Church; that the theological halls of the Church be affiliated with the Queen's University; that the territorial system for the support of colleges be discontinued; that lectureships be discontinued; that no Church funds be in future instituted without the consent of the Presbyteries, and that no appointment be made in any such without reference to the Presbyteries.

After a short discussion it was resolved that the overture lie on the table.

An overture was read from the Presbytery of Manitoba asking that two young men be permitted to study for the ministry.

The overtures and reports were referred to the committee of fifty.

Rev. Dr. COCHRANE read the report of Brantford Young Ladies' College.

Revs. Dr. Topp, Principal Snodgrass, and Dr. Waters spoke in favor of supplementary terms of the institution, and a motion was passed that the Assembly expressed its interest in the institution.

Overture from the Synods of Toronto and Hamilton relative to Home and Foreign Missions read, recommending a plan for winter service in the Home Mission districts. After a short discussion the matter was referred to the committee on bills and overtures, and the Assembly adjourned.

Principal McVICAR read the report of the Board of French Evangelization. The number of Missionaries is forty, against twenty-six in the previous year. The project of founding an independent French Protestant church was found to be futile and abandoned, the congregation of the French Synod coming under the care of the Board. There new churches were built during the year, one in Quebec, one in Montreal, and one at Nassau. About two hundred and fifty families are reported converted through the instrumentality of Mr. Chinquy's labours in Montreal.

Rev. Dr. H. FLETCHER, of Hamilton, moved the adoption of the report. He drew attention to the decrease of the English speaking population of Quebec and presented this as a strong argument for the employment of missionaries who speak both French and English.

Rev. Dr. Sugden seconded the motion. He spoke of his personal knowledge of the work of French evangelization during his residence in Montreal and highly eulogized Mr. Chinquy and his work.

Rev. Mr. Rogers, of Ashburne, Ont., D. M. Gordon, of Ottawa, Mr. Macrae, of Guelph, and Dr. Reid, of Toronto, made brief speeches in support of the French mission.

Mr. COUTU, of Montreal, a French Canadian, spoke in support of the French mission.

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A vote of thanks was conveyed to Principal McVicar by the Moderator.

The Assembly then adjourned.

HALIFAX, N.S., June 19.—The Moderator in the chair.

Rev. Mr. MIDDLEMISS, of Elora, Ont., moved a lengthy resolution, reciting the history of the case and concluding by referring the matter to the Toronto Presbytery as desired by Mr. Macdonnell.

Rev. Dr. Proudfoot seconded the resolution.

Rev. Dr. MCKENHNT moved an amendment that the portion of the resolution asserting the power of the Assembly to deal with Mr. Macdonnell be omitted. He spoke very warmly. His motion was not seconded.

Rev. Dr. COCHRANE, of Brantford, moved that before the motion be proceeded with further a committee be appointed to confer and see if some arrangement could not yet be made that will be satisfactory.

Rev. Dr. Jenkins, of Montreal, supported the motion, also Rev. J. M. King, of Toronto, and Rev. Dr. Waters, of St. John.

Rev. Mr. McTavish, of Woodstock, Ont., opposed it as a waste of time.

Dr. Cochrane's motion was carried almost unanimously. The names were called for, but nobody responded. The Committee was named, including leading men on both sides, and at once retired.

The Committee on the Macdonnell case not being ready to report, other business was taken up. Overtures, reports, &c., were read, some eliciting discussion.

An overture from the Presbytery of London and the Synod of Toronto and Kingston respecting the support of the ministry was read, and was being supported by Rev. Mr. Bennett, of Springville, when about 4.15 [illegible] the Committee entered [illegible] business was at once suspended, [illegible] listened with deep attention while he read the [illegible] appointed by the General [illegible] of presenting a basis for union [illegible] They have agreed to recommend that the Assembly [illegible] Confession of Faith be intended to be understood as saying, 'I consider myself as under subscription to the Confession of Faith in accordance with my ordination vows,' and I therefore adhere to the teachings of the Church in accordance with the Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and the future guidance of the whole; notwithstanding the doubts or difficulties which perplex my mind. The Committee therefore unanimously recommend that the Assembly be accorded satisfactory, and that further proceedings be dropped.

(signed.) "JOHN JENKINS, D.D.,
"Convener."

The reading of the report was received with applause in which the whole Assembly joined.

Rev. Dr. Topp said he rose now with feelings different from those that he experienced when he rose to discuss the matter a few days ago. If ever he had been grieved by a duty that he had to perform in a Church Court, it was on the previous occasion to which he referred, and he had never experienced greater pleasure than he did now. He moved that the report just presented, be adopted. He was sure all must feel that a great burden had been lifted from their minds, and that, with deep gratitude to God for having brought about this satisfactory result, they could apply themselves more earnestly and successfully to the regular work of the Assembly. (Applause.)

Rev. Dr. McGREGOR, of Halifax, seconded the resolution, and expressed the great joy he, in common with all Halifax, felt at this satisfactory result. "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad."

Rev. Dr. COOK, of Quebec, said it was not necessary to add a word to what has been said, but at the request of Dr. Topp he rose to make a few remarks. His desire for the peace and prosperity of the Church, his personal regard for Mr. Macdonnell, and his wish to see him continue in his field of labour as a minister in Toronto, had led him on occasion of great joy to him, as he was sure it was to all the Assembly.

The motion to adopt the report was then put and carried unanimously by a standing vote.

The MODERATOR gave out the last three stanzas of the 122nd Psalm, which was sung with deep feeling by the Assembly, at the close of the singing, Rev. Robt. Sedgwick, of Musquodobit, led the prayer, and the Assembly in prayer. Many members were already weeping tears of joy, and while the "old 124th" was sung, offered up thanks to God for his great mercy in extricating the Church from the great difficulties by which it had been surrounded, and imploring a continuance of the Divine favour on the work of the Assembly, there was scarcely a dry eye in the meeting.

After prayer, Rev. Mr. MIDDLEMISS withdrew the resolution he had moved in the morning, which had been left to await the results of the Committee's deliberations. He had never more pleasure in his life, he said, than now. It was his intention, had the resolution remained before the Assembly, to have modified it, but he had greater pleasure now in withdrawing it altogether. For himself, and he felt sure for others as well, he could say that if members had, at any time last year or previous to it, seen Mr. Macdonnell they had all passed away.

The Assembly now adjourned in a mood for work. Dr. Topp felt this, and moved an adjournment which was agreed to. The meeting closed and the fathers and brethren of the Church went off as happily as school boys out for a holiday. The applause that followed the reading of the committee's report, the earnestness with which the psalm was sung, the fearful tears that were shed, the countenance and vigorous handshaking at the close of the meeting, all told how deep was the feeling and how great the joy over the happy deliverance.

SYNOD OF HURON.

LONDON, June 19.—The Synod of Huron opened this morning with divine service and the Holy Communion at 11 o'clock. The Bishop was assisted in the services by the Very Rev. Dean Boomer, Archdeacons Sandys and Marsh, J. Ellwood, and R. Innes. The sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Potts, of Grace church, New York. A large number of delegates are present, but the majority will not arrive till to-morrow, when the business will be fairly entered upon.

This afternoon was devoted to the reading of the Bishop's address, as follows:—

THE SUMMON'S HOMES.

BELOVED BRETHREN,—Most cordially do I welcome you once more to this our annual Council, in the name of our Lord, and next you in the fulness of the blessing of the Gospel of Christ. May God the Holy Ghost be present in our midst, to bless and sanctify us in all our deliberations; may He further us with His continual help, that as we have hitherto begun, so, blessed, and ended in Him we may glorify His holy name and finally, I pray, be partakers of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen, amen, and amen.

The details of my public official acts during the past year will be printed in the usual way with this address. The summary is as follows:—

1. Ordained to the Order of Deacons, 3.
2. Ordained to the Order of Priesthood, 3.
3. Confirmed, 1,000.
4. Opened 3 new churches.
5. Consecrated 3 churches.
6. Consecrated 1 burial ground.
7. Baptized 3 adults.
8. Baptized 1 infant.
9. Administered the Holy Communion 15 times.
10. Preached 61 sermons.
11. Delivered 82 lectures and addr. ses.
12. Attended 3 Synod meetings.
13. Laid corner stones of 3 new churches.

MISSIONARY MINISTRY.

The missionary work of the Diocese has ever engaged my most earnest care and thought, and while deeply regretting to learn that we have fallen short of our income for the year by some $300—I feel truly thankful, that by the judicious and successful management of the working Committee, we have been enabled not only to maintain our established missions, but to meet diminishing their income, but we have a small surplus in hand to meet the claims of growing demands of our mission work.

There are, however, indeed, much to be thankful for in the present condition of our Diocese, as also Rev. J. M. King, of Toronto, and Rev. Dr. Waters, of St. John.

Rev. Mr. McTavish, of Woodstock, Ont., opposed it as a waste of time.

Dr. Cochrane's motion was carried almost unanimously. The names were called for, but nobody responded. The Committee was named, including leading men on both sides, and at once retired.

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SYNOD OF HURON.

LONDON, Ont., June 16, 1877.

MY DEAR LORD BISHOP,—I have the honour to inform you that I have pleasure in being able to report that we may fairly compute the synod expenditure of the Diocese in about 700,000 The district constituting the Diocese contains 13 counties, 16 ridings, 18,000 square miles, with numerous flourishing towns and villages, and a population larger than that of the present Diocese of Toronto.

The top limits of the city of London now is larger than that of Toronto when the Provincial University was first established there.

FURTHER REPORTS.

Our body as a church, feels the necessity there is in the progressive increase of its work and population, of our local institutions for adequately meeting the demands for spiritual help, that in our young country, as has "—in its present finished form, the Church of England, in the Province of Ontario, has been in operation for upwards of 40 years, and yet, from the very nature of the case, it is only now that we are in a position to meet the demands of our population; and an active canvass by competent hands among our people, was instantly commenced in this city. It was a—ing work, for in little less than a week, we succeeded in raising $6,000 towards the endowment of our Diocesan College, and the work is only fairly commenced, we hope that we shall be able to raise the amount intended, before Mr. Logan also reports having met with a most cordial response to his application from those upon whom he has called.

I feel confident that, with God's blessing, success will speedily crown our efforts.

Your faithful and affectionate brother,
J. W. P. SMITH,
Secretary Huron Diocesan Synod.

The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Huron.

The report of the Synod was heard and encouraged by this report. Let us thank God and take courage.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, beloved brethren, let me say that it is to me an occasion of great joy to permitted one more to address you, my fellow-labourers in the best of causes. Accept the assurance of my sympathy with you in all your labours and efforts for the good of souls. Let us have peace, let us be at one, let us remain sin and extend the Kingdom of our God, and the God of peace shall be with us. Difficulties will be seen and felt, that when we separate to our respective fields of labour, we shall carry with him the feeling that some from spring of spiritual power has been shed abroad in his heart, and summer ground discovered, refreshing and amply supply to our Church, Protestant, and Evangelical branch of the Church of Christ.

Let us understand that we are here, not as a political estate for the good government of our Church, nor as a literary institution, but as a congress may require—but for the great and important work of the salvation of our souls, and the salvation of our fellow men. Every one who has attended previous synods, and in consequence of our synodical gatherings in instinctively conversant with this great work.

I beseech you, then, beloved brethren, "let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." Let us strive and pray for that spirit of meekness, humility and love, which is the spirit—under God—will more than all else save our Church, and bring her members to the fullness of the stature of the perfect man.

The times are too hard, and the members of our Church too poor to contribute to such a work, etc, etc.? I unhesitatingly say that I am not of that opinion. While I are ready to admit that there are occasional periods when every one feels the pinch of hard times, from financial stringency, yet when I look around me, and consider the vast resources of our country and the prosperity of our people, I cannot but feel that the cause of such remarks, so long as we have, and our sacrificial offerings, are not in proportion to our responding ability. On the contrary, we feel that we are rich, and have need of nothing to add to all other denominations around us, and yet, we have made provision for the higher training of their minister, we have yet to put in the common school people; I would not speak of the higher aspect of the question, I would not say a word about our common duty to labour for the glory of God and for the salvation of souls, but lay down in its purity—but I would put it upon the question of selfishness, and I would do it boldly and fearlessly, that there is no form of stupendous wrong we could do to our Church, and to us as good a return to the Church as giving our money for the purpose of obtaining a higher education.

I am quite conscious of many difficulties in our way to consummate this undertaking.

Dioceses never been any great and noble enterprise that has not had difficulties to meet and to overcome.

Difficulties should never deter us from doing a work which we trust will redound to God's glory, and for the extension of Christ's kingdom.

I thank God for the manifestation of the intense earnestness already evinced in the matter, and I trust we have no fear of the result, in view of such an array of noble, earnest-hearted, self-sacrificing friends. Once more I feel my spirit stirred within me to resume, and to carry forward, the work of God, the work which I have been enabled, by God's help, to begin, and to carry forward, to a point, I doubt that I shall be able supported, or even in view. While concurring in the decision of the course recommended by the Executive Committee, I may be allowed to express my adhesion to a part of its details, namely, that such conference should take place in the Diocese in each day on which the Synod shall meet. I feel that the effect would be that this plan would throw upon the members of the Synod a support, and sense of work; and that, in consequence, we should not obtain the advantages that would appear to be gained by holding several hour close attention to business, and that, if the subject matter of business to proceed indeed and wanted is to be discussed in a satisfactory manner, a portion of the night, seems more than enough to be imposed upon its members. The reading of the Gospel—men who by this unity act in which they are engaged, by their general conduct, forming illegality, are proving themselves worthy of the name, and fully alive to the spiritual and educational requirements of the Church, and, in fact, the Church, and the business of the Synod on Thursday, and, and, which could be, and, in fact, is, and, in developing the whole of the Church, and, in fact, the Church, and, in fact, the Church, and, in fact,