

It had, for instance, original jurisdiction over matters which the Assembly could not interfere with. The Assembly might, of course, take cognizance of the case in the regular way, but not in the way of original jurisdiction. He reviewed the practice of the churches on that point. After speaking of the action of the Presbyterian Churches in Australia, he pointed out that when the Free Church of Scotland desired to institute a new chair of evangelistic theology some years ago, the matter was sent down to Presbyteries; and a majority of churches having approved of the appointment, the General Assembly proceeded to institute the chair. The Assembly could not have all the powers of the old Synod when it was the supreme court of the Church. For example, the old synodical Court could adjourn for a year. The Assembly so soon as the business was done dissolved. Otherwise, the rights of the Presbyteries would be invaded. The speaker quoted from the records of the appointment of professors to colleges of the Canadian Church; and in conclusion affirmed that the Assembly had departed from the old constitutional doctrine of the Presbyterian Church in instituting new theological chairs without consulting Presbyteries. No great harm had yet been done, but the time might come when a member would give almost his right hand to get the Assembly under constitutional restraint, from which it had departed. The Assembly soon afterwards adjourned.

#### FIFTH DAY.

Monday, June 9.—The Assembly met at ten o'clock, when, after being constituted, a report of the committee of business was presented, bringing up a number of new papers.

The applications of Mr. Craig sent up by the Presbytery of London, and of Mr. McLeod sent by the Presbytery of Manitoba, were sent to the committee on the reception of ministers; also that of Mr. S. Hutchison for leave to retire, sent up by the Presbytery of Barrie, be sent to the committee appointed to consider such applications.

The case of Mr. Vernier, whom the Presbytery of Ottawa wish to license, was taken up. The papers were read. The case was referred to the committee on the reception of ministers.

Mr. Dewar's case was remitted to the committee on the retiring of ministers.

Mr. Fourriau's case was stated by Dr. McKnight. It is asked that he be received as a student of theology, though he has not gone through the Arts' course.

The overture on the power of Assembly to found new colleges without referring the matter to Presbyteries was then taken up as left off on Saturday. Dr. Ure was now heard in support of it. He said that the overture asked for two things: 1st, that no new college be instituted by the Assembly alone; 2nd, that no new chair be founded in an existing college by the court. He did not think there was much immediate danger, but it was safe to bring this forward, and in the development of the Great North-West, in which we all rejoice that they may be demands very soon. The second part does not strike at existing arrangements. In passing he does not see why the expression should be theological colleges, he would have it apply to literary as well as theological institutions. He does not dwell on the constitutional point, as that is rather out of his line. He thought it expedient for these reasons, because: 1st, it enables the Assembly to find out the mind of the Church; 2nd, in this way the wisdom of the Church is more fully brought to bear on it. He thinks the session is the apostolic Presbytery; 3rd, in this way we guard all the better against hasty legislation. We have no Upper House.

Mr. Ball did not speak at length, though he was one of those appointed by Synod to do so.

Dr. Proudfoot moved to the following effect: That the overture be laid on the table.

He does not agree with the statement that the Assembly was the creature of Presbyteries, but the Presbytery does not create the Assembly. When once a supreme court is erected it takes cognizance of all matters in the Church. There are two efficient checks—1st, the Presbytery elects its representatives, and sees that the men sent represent its views; 2nd, there is the Barrier Act. With these it is impossible for the Assembly to act tyrannically. We should act in the spirit of the overture, but we ought not to tie up our hands in a hard and fast manner. We are not delegates here: we are commissioners. He could not agree with those that cry out against colleges. It is the genius of Presbyterianism to create colleges; it is to our credit that we have so many colleges.

Dr. McRae seconded the motion. He thought that the object contemplated by the overture had been gained by the discussion. He sympathized with the spirit of the overture. He deprecated hasty legislation. He did not propose to discuss the constitutional question. The point raised is like the ancient logical hair-splitting. As to Manitoba, that is not to happen again. As to the founding of a new chair, supposing a full endowment were given, either by one or many, who would refuse it?

Dr. Reid wished to express his dissent from the constitutional argument put forward by Mr. McMullen.

He did not agree with the statement that the Presbytery is the root of our system. Any of our courts may be called a Presbytery and that rightly. The origin of the Church, how was it. Ministers were settled all over without any tie, and then they met and formed a General Presbytery and erected particular Presbyteries. They called the General Presbytery a Synod. He sympathized with the object in view, but he did not lay any stress on the constitutional point.

Mr. Campbell, of Montreal, was not in accord with Dr. Reid. The point is what is the theory we follow now? It is not what is the genesis of this or of any other Church. He referred to the origin of the Barrier Act. It arose because all the ministers were not any longer members of the Assembly.

Dr. Grant moved in amendment. Receive the overture and, while approving of it so far as new Theological colleges are concerned, deem it inexpedient to deal with the other points of the question. He thought the Assembly did right, for the Church was led up to it for years, and the whole Church was seized of the matter. He utterly refused to accept of the question as applying to new chairs.

Dr. Caven seconded the amendment. He regretted that the great work of the Church is delayed with questions of a speculative nature. He does not think that the Assembly shall bind itself down. Four things are embraced in the Barrier Act, doctrine, government, worship, and discipline. We ought not to add a fifth thing. The Assembly will forget itself, but it will not forget itself if it goes in that direction. The assumption is put forward that this Assembly is going in the same line as that in which the old Canada Presbyterian Church, but that is not so. We have the procedure of other Churches to follow, or to take into consideration. Even that relied on does not support the theory put forward. In Queen's College the Professors are appointed by a Board. He protested against Knox College being bound up any more than other colleges. He respectfully submitted that we have not the best mode of appointing Professors, but he did not wish to cut before the point.

Mr. McLennan, of Charlottetown, was disposed to move in this way: receive the overture but the Assembly does not deem new legislation necessary. He had no desire to go back in any way on the action of last Assembly. There are many ways of finding out the mind of the Church besides formally sending the matter down to the Presbyteries. He did not consider that in the question at issue any constitutional point is at stake.

Dr. Proudfoot withdrew his motion in favour of Dr. Grant's.

Mr. White seconded Mr. McLennan's amendment.

Mr. McMullen came forward to move a motion. He is willing to let the whole preamble of his overture go if any objected to it, if the result remained. Regarding Queen's College it came with its mode of action, and he does not want to interfere with it. He moved: That the overture be received and, without the preamble, be sent to Presbyteries.

Mr. Ball seconded the motion.

The motions were then put.

Dr. Grant's motion was carried by a majority of one.

The Assembly, after being constituted, Rev. W. S. Ball, as a question of privilege, desired to know whether he could enter his dissent from the finding of the Assembly on the overture from Synod of Hamilton and London. It was ruled out of order.

Professor McLaren, Principal McVicar taking the chair, proposed the following resolution. That in the opinion of the Assembly it is desirable that the Foreign mission work of the Church be carried on by one committee; and that the General Assembly appoint a committee to mature a plan to report to next General Assembly. Dr. McLaren thought that the time was come when there should be a unification of the Foreign mission work of the Church. There might be a committee of from twenty to twenty-five members. This would be sufficient, as it was not desirable to incur heavy travelling expenses. It might also be necessary to have a convener who was neither a professor nor a pastor, who would be able to devote all his time to the duties of the office.

Dr. McGregor was much pleased to hear that the Moderator had been converted. For himself he had always been of the opinion that there should be only one committee. It would greatly facilitate the business of the Assembly to have only one committee, one convener, and one secretary. As it affects our missionaries, we cannot tell whether they belong to the east or west. They belong to the whole Church. They have longed for the termination of the present arrangement. Then the people want it. The most liberal-hearted men want it. They look upon the union as incomplete, and if it is not completed it will be weakened. He had much pleasure in seconding the motion. It was carried unanimously. Dr. McGregor then proposed the following motion, disposing of the report of the eastern section.—“The General Assembly adopts the report (eastern section) and records gratitude to God for the encouraging facts which it presents—the recovery of invalid missionaries, the settlement in Couva of Rev. J. K. Wright, the appointment by the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland of Rev. Mr. Hendrie as mission-

ary to Indian immigrants in St. Joseph, Trinidad, and the steady expansion of the work both in the New Hebrides and Trinidad, with the development of liberality among the Christian converts in both these fields. The General Assembly extends a cordial greeting to Mr. Grant, and trusts that his visit home may prove refreshing to himself and beneficial to the mission, and cordially endorses the opinion and desire of the committee that our people may express their welcome by providing for him, as recommended by the mission council, a healthful and comfortable dwelling-house. The General Assembly presents farewell greetings to Mr. Robertson, praying that before the meeting of the next Assembly he may have rejoined the mission synod of the New Hebrides, and carried the Eromanga New Testament to his people. The General Assembly would further make grateful mention of the increasing usefulness of the Women's Societies in the Maritime Provinces, and of valuable aid given by them to the mission cause.” In referring to the mission work under the care of the Church in the Maritime Provinces, he said that Rev. Kenneth G. Grant must have a new house as the one in which he resided at present had become unfit for habitation.

It was suggested by Rev. T. Lowry that the Moderator name the committee to whom the maturing of a plan for uniting the committees was to be entrusted.

It was moved by Principal Grant, and seconded by Rev. W. T. McMullen, and carried unanimously that the Foreign Mission Committee, western section, place at the credit of the committee in the eastern the sum of \$2,500 for the purpose of procuring a home for Mr. Grant, should such sum be required for the purpose.

Principal Grant then proposed the adoption of the Foreign Mission Committee's (western section) report and the thanks of the Assembly tendered to the Convener. The motion was seconded by Rev. L. G. McNeill, and agreed to.

At this stage the Board of Management, the Members of the Senate and the Board of Examiners of Knox College were appointed as were also the Home and Foreign Mission Committees.

Hon. Alex. Morris spoke to his motion respecting the union of the Methodist Churches in Canada. We ought, he said, to hold out the right hand of fellowship to those engaged in the same work as ourselves. He concluded by proposing that a committee be appointed to prepare a congratulatory resolution expressing the satisfaction with which this Church recognizes the union of the Methodist Churches of the Dominion, and that such resolution be conveyed in fitting terms to that church. The motion was seconded by Dr. Laing, and agreed to unanimously. Mr. Morris, Dr. Laing, and Principal Caven were appointed to frame the resolution.

#### APPEAL FROM A DECISION OF THE SYNOD OF TORONTO AND KINGSTON.

The appeal of Professor Gregg and others against the decision of the Synod of Toronto and Kingston in the complaint of Rev. T. S. Chambers against Rev. J. Gallagher for celebrating a marriage between a widower and his deceased wife's sister was then heard. Dr. Gregg was heard for himself and on behalf of the other appellants, Mr. Wilkins for the Presbytery of Kingston, Revs. D. J. Macdonnell and P. McF. McLeod were heard in defence of the action of the Synod.

Dr. Proudfoot moved and Mr. J. G. Forbes seconded that the General Assembly dismiss the protest and appeal, sustain the decision of the Synod of Toronto and Kingston and the action of the Presbytery of Kingston.

Rev. Robert Campbell moved in amendment that the General Assembly sustain the appeal and remit the case to the Presbytery of Kingston, to be dealt with according to the law of the Church.

Rev. H. H. McPherson seconded the amendment which was supported by Dr. Laing. Dr. Proudfoot, having replied, the question was put when eighty-two voted for the amendment and forty for the original motion.

In the evening, the Assembly being constituted for business,

Principal McVicar, in submitting the report of the French Evangelization Committee, stated that they have fifty-four missionaries of all grades, comprising eleven colporteurs, nineteen ordained missionaries, and twenty-two missionary teachers. They have seventeen mission schools, 537 pupils, forty-two mission fields, seventy-eight preaching stations, 965 families, and there were 934 persons of French origin in full communion with the Church. There were about 2,200 in attendance on the Sabbath, and 973 attending the Sabbath schools, and they had twelve young men studying for the work of the Gospel. They had disposed of 1,962 Bibles, and distributed 22,000 tracts. They also had a mission to the Italian people in the city of Montreal, conducted by a very devoted expatriate. They also had an ably conducted French paper. The work of colportage could be expanded to any extent. One difficulty was the obtaining of suitable men. This mission he believed was one of the most difficult in the world. Those engaged in it deserve the sympathy, not only of this Assembly, but that of all