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## Contributors and Correspondents

### ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE LATE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

I am sorry that I said anything that appears to be incompatible with the magnanimity of a man so opposed to grumbling as your correspondent of last week is. How he manages to growl at my grumbling is to me mysterious, as well as his use of the word "chronic." I did not know before that chronic could be applied in that way. It is consolatory, however, to a man from the country to be patted on the back so nicely and yet so pityingly by a patron from Toronto. In such circumstances even the smart things may be endured. Nevertheless, until further light comes, in other words, until I am better posted up in some way or other, I claim to exercise even in public the Briton's right to grumble.

1. There are many who think that the Assembly had very little to do with striking the Committee on Bills, further than in acquiescing in the nomination of the fifteen names by one man at the instance of a clique, as it is believed, to serve a purpose, and that purpose was to be served by leaving out in the cold some of the very men named in "Anti-Grumbler's" letter, men that he takes under the wing of his patronage.

2. I was aware that Clerks of Presbyteries being members of Assembly are on the Committee of Bills, but they are not of those that the Assembly strikes, they are of that Committee because of a standing order. Any one save an Anti-Grumbler might have seen that I did not refer to those who are on the Committee ex-officio.

3. I do know so much of the work of the Committee of Bills as to be aware that it does not directly appoint any of the Boards. I do not learn for the first time that it is the work of a special Committee to nominate. But who appointed the special Committee? Was it not the Committee of Bills that made the nomination of the Committee to strike Standing Committees? Here are the links in succession. A certain dictator (not of Toronto) nominates the Committee of Bills, the Committee of Bills nominates the Special Committee referred to, the Special Committee nominates the Boards, that of French Evangelization among the number. That is reasoning in a circle in another way than according to the circles referred to in treatises on logic.

4. The argument that other Synods are as bad as that of the Maritime Provinces does not amount to much, unless it be true that three or four wrongs make a right. But there is more to be said. There is a considerable French population in the Maritime Provinces; there are French missionaries employed by the Board at work in the Maritime Provinces. I am not aware of any operations of this kind being at work within the bounds of the Synods of Toronto and Kingston, of Hamilton and London, or even of Manitoba.

5. I said that four of the five Maritime representatives on the French Board came from the West not long ago. "Anti-Grumbler" says that what I said is not true. He does not say how my statement is not true. Perhaps the assertion of a Toronto man, especially of one who does not grumble, is considered sufficient for Western readers. Would "Anti-Grumbler" condescend to tell us how it is untrue that the following four, Drs. Burns and Waters, and Messrs. Mitchell and Goodfellow, came from the West not long ago?

6. When I say or imply or even think that Western brethren are not eligible for appointment on Committees equally with the "blue noses," it will be time enough to take me to task. It was the glaring inequality on the other side to which I referred. Supposing the Western men constitute ten per cent. of our Synod Roll, is it equal eligibility that consists in the ten per cent. having four places on the French Board while the ninety per cent. have but one place; or that the ten per cent. have two places on the Committee to strike Standing Committees, while the ninety per cent. have but one? Some of the Western brethren know that Sigma never did and does not now grudge them the prominence to which their talents and business capacity have raised them. If some of them were conspicuously left out in the cold in appointments made at last Assembly, they know that it is to Western men that they owe the slight which small men attempted to put on them. "And by the way" did not one of the three whose names are indicated as ostentatiously receive a large amount of his education in the Maritime Provinces?

"Anti-Grumbler" tell us where the information that Mr. Black's salary was \$4,000 came from? It was not the salary of \$4,000 that I was

Montreal as "Anti-Grumbler" does, I would most likely be better posted on such a subject as that.

In conclusion, may I ask "Anti-Grumbler" when he again appears in public to post us down in the East here on the reasons why the Board of French Evangelization needs a paid agent, while the other schemes get along and have for so many years got along without agents whose time was devoted exclusively to the work. I am told that so far as the Treasurer's duties are concerned, Drs. Reid and Macgregor are willing to discharge them. The question was asked in the Assembly, and a Montreal man was set up to answer, but many, including the eminent brother who put the question on the floor of the Assembly, are yet in the dark as much as ever. I am sure "Anti-Grumbler" is as willing as he is able to post us on a subject on which we are now so much at sea. SIGMA.

Oct. 9th, 1877.

### INTELLIGENCE OF FEMALE MISSIONS.

A LETTER FROM A LADY ASSISTING MISS PIGOT AT CALCUTTA.

During the past year, I have visited among twenty-two houses; of these, twelve are not learning; such changes of pupils are always occurring. I visit about five houses a day, ten twice a week, and on Wednesday inspect ten houses taught by native teachers.

I give the following incidents to show the variety among my pupils.

I have one pupil in a family living quite near our Mission Home; she is a bright intelligent person; she learns the first book of English, reads very nicely and takes a great interest in her lesson; it seems her husband and brother help her in Bengalee; she learns geography and grammar. She is very delicate, and suffers much from fever, but since I got her some medicine, she seems a little better. Every time I go, her mother never forgets to thank me for the medicine. My pupil has a little girl about five years old, who goes to one of our schools.

Three years ago when first I visited this house, they would not hear of the Bible being read to them, and my pupil's brother was very rude to me for a long time. I had a great deal of trouble with them, but now I have all to listen to the Bible; even the boy who was rude to me sits quietly and listens. The other day my pupil's mother said to me, "You all are gods; we should worship you and not our gods, you have eyes, but we are blind, all in darkness. So long I have been praying, making vows to one of our gods, spent so much but to no effect. My son is just the same, not a bit better, but as soon as you gave my daughter medicine she got better; now you must cure my little son, I leave him in your hands." I promised the next time I went I would take the child some medicine. I had a long, interesting conversation with the poor woman.

In another house I visit close by, I have one pupil. She is very intelligent, reads the second book in English, can read and write Bengalee well, and does sums in long division, which she takes a great interest in; as for the Bible, she loves to read it and learn verses by heart. The last time I visited her, she said to me, "I long for you to come, you are the only one that is kind to me, you don't know how unhappy I am, I do wish I was born a Christian, and my greatest wish is, that the next time I am born it may be in a Christian family. They all tell me here that I shall be born a dog, as I am so unfortunate in having no children. What am I to do? It is all in God's hand." The poor girl is miserable; she does not complain to her husband as she is afraid of her sister-in-law; she said to me, "I always read the Bible; that is my only consolation."

In a new house I visited, lately taught by one of our native teachers, I had nine women to listen to me. My pupil read from the "Line upon Line," "Abraham's Trial of Faith," to which all paid great attention, and each one had something to ask me, and seemed much affected; I could see tears in their eyes. One of them who had a child in her arms said, "Oh ma'am, I am sure I would not like to take my child and offer him up as a sacrifice, not if all my gods and priests told me to." I asked how many gods she believed in, and how many she had; she answered, there is one chief god, and from him other gods come one.

Scarcely a week has passed without my getting some encouragement from my pupils.

SUSAN I. DARRIN.

There were a man desires himself the more he shall obtain from God.

### For the Presbyterian. SABBATH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION OF CANADA.

FOURTEENTH PROVINCIAL CONVENTION FOR ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.

The fourteenth Provincial Convention of the Sabbath School Association of Canada was held in the town of Guelph on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of last week.

There was a large attendance of delegates from Sabbath Schools, and from Township and County Associations, as well as a goodly number of ministers of various denominations. The good people of Guelph entertained the strangers in the most hospitable manner, and did everything in their power, both by personal kindness to the members of the convention and by attendance at its meetings, to make the Convention a success. We missed the faces of prominent Sabbath School workers from the Province of Quebec, but Ontario, especially its western portion, was well represented. The personnel of the Convention conveyed the impression that this most important department of the Church's work is in good hands; while the whole proceedings were characterized by great earnestness and a manifest desire to arrive at practical results. In these respects the Convention has not been surpassed by any of its predecessors.

The meetings were presided over with great dignity and ability by Dr. McGuire, of Guelph, one of the superintendents, and most prominent Sabbath School workers of that town. Eight Sessions in all were held, and the interest continued unabated to the very close.

Prof. W. F. Sherwin, of Newark, New Jersey, and Mrs. W. S. Clark, of New York, were present throughout the Convention, and contributed largely to its success. Prof. Sherwin, genial, witty, enthusiastic, but withal intensely practical, a veteran in the work, dealt with the following subjects:—"Teachers' Meetings," "Whom shall we gather into the Sunday School? Why these? and how accomplished?" "The true place and purpose of the Sunday School," "Difficulties." The Teachers' Meeting was held to be essential to the welfare of every Sabbath School. The pastor, as responsible for the character of all the religious instruction imparted in the Church, ought to have a place in the meeting, though not necessarily as the leader. The Teachers' Meeting should not occupy itself solely with the preparation of the lesson, it should also be a "council of war." On the question, "Whom shall we gather into the Sunday School," particular stress was laid on the desirability of gathering in the adult portion of the congregation. The writer remembers preaching near Plattsburgh, N.Y., where all remained for the Sabbath School after the morning service, and were formed into classes according to their years, ranging from the "infants" to the grandparents. He has never seen a school where apparently every one was so much interested in the exercises. "The place and purpose of the Sunday School" was admirably brought out. It is not a substitute for home religious training, nor for the pulpit; children should be taken to Church even when the preaching is above their capacity, should be trained to reverence the sanctuary; nor for the other religious meetings; but the Sunday School is "that department of the Church of Christ in which the word of Christ is taught, for the purpose of bringing souls to Christ, and building up souls in Christ;" The Church is bound to have a Sabbath School and to supervise and support it.

The three addresses of Mrs. Clark on "Primary Class Work" will be exceedingly useful to those engaged in that difficult department of the work of the School. Mrs. Clark is very decided as to the advantage of having a single teacher for the primary department. Her own class numbers 199. Very much can, in our opinion, be said in favor of forming the "infants" into classes of five or six, provided that these can be properly separated from one another in the school room. Mrs. Clark's whispering exercise in which the whole class unites and which precedes the lesson for the day as a sort of sedative, was much admired. The words are as follows:

Softly whisper, softly speak,  
Little children, still and meek;  
Hush and listen—do not play,  
Hear what teacher has to say."

Her method of marking the attendance is also excellent. Each child is provided with an envelope marked "Present" for every Sabbath in the year; this envelope contains the "collection," and it is dropped into the "Post office box" by the child on entering the school. The idea of keeping the primary class separate from the rest of the school in both the opening and closing exercises is a new one to most of our teachers, but deserves attention.

Of the addresses by our own Sabbath School workers, those of Rev. W. Williams on "The obligations of the most exemplary Christians to engage in the work;" Rev. D. J. McDermott on "The character-

istics of the teaching of Christ;" Rev. Dr. Castle, on "The teacher no substitute for study;" Rev. C. Goodspeed, on "The teacher—His aim;" Rev. Dr. Cochrane, on "The discouragements;" and Rev. J. M. Cameron, on "Our encouragements;" were the principal. Rev. Messrs. Grindley and Bruce, and Mr. S. A. Marling gave specimens of review exercises.

The subject of Normal Classes, introduced by Rev. J. McEwen, of Ingersoll, who has successfully conducted such classes in his own town and county, proved of special interest. Mr. James McNab, who, with the pastor of the Church, carried on, last winter, a Normal Class in the East End Presbyterian Church in this city, gave the Convention his experience in regard to it. Mr. McEwen hit the nail on the head when he said, "The very quick of the necessities of our Sabbath School work is teacher preparation;" and a resolution was carried asking the Executive Committee to take measures to foster Normal Classes, and to bring the matter before the authorities of our Theological Colleges and Ladies' Colleges.

An account of the proceedings of the Convention would be incomplete without reference to the admirable historical and statistical paper of Rev. A. Andrews on "The claims of the Mission work of the Association upon Ministers and Churches." This paper with the address of Mr. Craswell, the Association's Missionary Agent, showed that a very valuable work is being done in the organizing of Sunday Schools in the newer districts of the Province of Ontario. Our Sabbath Schools could not better use a portion of their missionary collections than as a contribution to the funds of the Association, which by its annual Conventions, the various town, county and township Conventions and Institutes, and its missionary work, fully justifies its existence. The income last year, fell far short of the expenditure.

If criticism be allowed, the writer would add that in his opinion it would be advantageous to allow more time for free discussion of the various topics, and that a fuller exhibition of Canadian methods would be desirable. The work done by our American friends, it is not intended to disparage, but one would like to see how a Canadian Convention would be managed by Canadians.

### MARITIME PROVINCES.

The Synod of the Maritime Provinces met in annual session in Charlottetown, P.E. Island, on Tuesday evening, the 2nd of this month, and sat till Friday after one o'clock in the afternoon. Rev. Thomas Duncan, Moderator of last year preached, and Rev. James Byers of the Presbytery of Truro was elected as Moderator during the current year. Rev. P. Morrison of Dartmouth was elected clerk in room of Rev. A. Falconer, who during the past year accepted a call to the Island of Trinidad. The attendance of members was small. The roll showed that 149 ministers and 185 elders were entitled to seats, but so far as your correspondent could ascertain there were only eighty-five ministers and thirty-three elders present.

As to the business done, a whole day was given to an appeal which came up from the Presbytery of Sydney with reference to the supply of mission stations in mining districts. By a large majority the appeal was sustained whereupon the representative Presbytery protested and appealed to the General Assembly. Statements were made on behalf of the various mission schemes. In connection with the Foreign Mission, one of our own missionaries, Mr. Morton of Trinidad, was present and gave a very effective address. Mr. Morton has been ten years on the Island, and was the pioneer Missionary to the Coolies there. He stated that there are now three European Missionaries, five catechists, fifteen schools in which are 400 scholars, 50 communicants and 100 have been baptized. There are 80,000 heathen on the Island, and somewhat more than half of these are on the plantations at and around the stations which the missionaries occupy. Our Church is the only one that has a mission to the heathen on the Island. The U.P. Church of Scotland supports three Missionaries to the whites that are on the Island, and these co-operate very cordially with our missionaries. Indeed the last appointed missionary in the service of the U.P. Church was one of our ministers, the Rev. A. Falconer late of Dartmouth, Halifax. Mr. Morton made a very earnest and touching appeal for more missionaries to be sent so as to enable them to overtake in some measure the whole Island.

On the same evening that Mr. Morton spoke, Dr. Burns, Chairman of the College Board, made a very interesting and encouraging statement as to the Divinity Hall Building and Endowment Fund. A year ago it had been unanimously resolved to raise a hundred thousand dollars for that purpose. It was some months after that ere the canvass actually was commenced. Dr. Burns gave a rapid but detailed account of the canvass in the several Presbyteries, and showed that while a considerable portion of the field remained to be gone over, yet there was nevertheless about \$90,000 already promised, and the prospects

were that the subscriptions would reach \$125,000. In only one Presbytery, that of Pictou, had the work been completed and the result was over \$20,000, one-fifth of the whole sum asked for. It is not any disparagement to the other members of the Board to say that Mr. Grant and Dr. Burns stand *facile principes* in the labour of the canvass that was carried on during the last year. Messrs. Pibbado, Duncan, Forrest, and McNeil as well as the Professors have done well, have rendered yeoman's service in the cause, but Grant and Burns occupy the first rank. It was therefore with a feeling of pain that the Synod learned of the decision of Mr. Grant to accept of the position of Principal in Queen's University, Kingston. Of course all rejoice in his getting such a position, and follow him with best wishes, but regret his removal from these Provinces. The Synod put on its records an expression of what the members universally feel in losing him. He is not lost to Canada however, and he is not lost to our Church, so it is not as bad as it might be. SIGMA.

### Ordination by Presbytery of Manitoba

The Presbytery of Manitoba held a special meeting on Wednesday, 28th ult., in Knox Church, in this city. The members present were: Rev. Prof. Hart, ex-moderator, Dr. Black, Prof. Bryce, Rev. H. McKeller, Rev. A. Stewart and Mr. McMicken. The business of the meeting was the examination and ordination of Rev. F. Straith, B.A., who proceeded west to Battleford. Mr. Straith passed a searching examination in Biblical Greek and Hebrew, Systematic Theology, Church History, and Personal Religion, and read extracts from Greek critical discourse, Latin Thesis and English sermon, Homily and Lecture prepared by him. His examinations were sustained as satisfactory. In the evening Dr. Black preached a sermon from Acts v. 17, 20. Mr. Straight answered questions of formula and expressed willingness to subscribe to the Confession of Faith when presented. He was then ordained by the "laying on of the hands of the Presbytery," after which addresses were delivered to the young minister by Prof. Hart, and to the people by Prof. Bryce.

### Presbytery of Lindsay.

An adjourned meeting of this Presbytery was held at Wick on the 4th inst., the Moderator, Rev. J. T. Paul, presiding. Rev. John Rennie, of Carlisle, and Rev. Stewart Acheson, of Cookstown, being present were invited to sit and deliberate. The court being duly constituted proceeded to the induction of Rev. Samuel Acheson into the pastoral charge of Wick and Greenbank. Rev. D. D. McLennan, of Kirkfield, preached a brief, able and instructive sermon from Heb. ii. 8, and also presided during the induction ceremony. Suitable addresses were then delivered to the newly inducted minister and to the congregation by Rev. J. Campbell and Rev. J. L. Murray respectively. At the close of the services the congregation on retiring gave the right hand of welcome to their new pastor. The court now took up other business. Rev. A. McKay intimated that Mr. Alexander Gillander resigned his position as representative elder of the Eldon congregation, and that Mr. Colin McPhadyen was appointed in his place. After other items of business which are not transacted, the clerk's office in favour of Cambray. He stated that the duties of the clerkship were onerous; yet that Mr. Scott, being at present without charge, could perform the duties of the office with pleasure to himself and satisfaction to the Presbytery. It was moved by Mr. McNab, seconded by Mr. McLennan, that the resignation of the clerkship by Mr. Murray be, in the circumstances, accepted, and that the Presbytery record their high appreciation of the generous and disinterested spirit manifested by the clerk in the matter of his resignation. The Presbytery desires also to record their hearty recognition of the efficient, faithful and satisfactory manner in which Mr. Murray has discharged the onerous and responsible duties of clerk during the period he was pleased to serve in that capacity. The motion was unanimously passed. It was then moved by Mr. McNab and duly seconded, that Rev. Jas. R. Scott, of Cambray, be appointed clerk of Presbytery. The motion was cordially agreed to. Mr. Scott signified his acceptance of the office. The court now adjourned to meet within the Eldon Presbyterian Church on the 18th inst., at 1 p.m.—Rev. J. L. MURRAY, Pres. Clerk.

One cannot learn everything; the objects of knowledge have multiplied beyond the powers of the strongest mind to keep pace with them all.—*Froude*.

Rev. Prof. McLAREN, of Knox Church, preached most acceptably last Sabbath morning and evening, to large congregations in Knox Church, Galt.

We ought to think much more of going in the right path than of getting to the end. We should desire to succeed. If by one wrong we accomplish the liberation of a man in no other way, we ought to be good, for which, perhaps, we should be with an agency of desire, and God, and was reserved for other hands.