

word of the New Testament in verse men could be farastray. He pointed out that according to the terms of Union, it was agreed that the practice of congregations as to worship at that time should be allowed to continue, and he held that the agreement was made to cover hymns as well as psalms, and if it had not covered hymns the Union would not have taken place. The Assembly should not imagine that by throwing out this overture it would be throwing out the use of hymns. It might as well try to drive back the genial breezes of spring by legislation, and he implored it not to take an action so adverse to the views of so many in the Church. While the use of hymns would be continued, something like order was desirable, and he hoped a hymn book which could be used by the whole Church would be compiled. He did not care if the hymn book only contained 150 hymns, so long as there was a good hymn book.

Rev. M. Fraser, on behalf of the Synod of Hamilton and London, urged that action in the matter should be taken now.

"Now's the day, and now's the hour."

Rev. W. M. Roger, in behalf of the Presbytery of Whitby, said he was convinced that it was possible for the Church to introduce a hymn book which would supersede the variety of books now in use. There were three courses for the Assembly to take; first, to stop the use of hymns in the Church entirely, and he did not think the Assembly would do that; secondly, to let things go on as they were, and that would be very unsatisfactory; or, thirdly, to try and prepare a good selection. It was to take the third course that he asked the Assembly.

Rev. Mr. Laing moved, "that the overtures be received and remitted to a committee for consideration, with instructions to prepare a deliverance which may give effect to the prayer of the overtures in their general terms."

Rev. Dr. James seconded the motion.

Rev. Principal Caven advised the Assembly to move in the matter with the greatest care. He would not like the Church to take any action that would have a tendency to put the Psalms in a subordinate position, and if the question were raised as to whether the Church should have the Psalms alone, or the hymns alone, he would, without a moment's hesitation, favor the Psalms. Before the General Assembly came to any decision he would like to find the mind of members of the Church on both sides of the question. He would suggest, in the first place, to any committee that might be appointed, that it would not be desirable to enter into the question of the scripturalness of the use of hymns. That subject had been discussed until he was quite hopeless of some brethren ever receiving any more light upon it. He would move "that the General Assembly recognizes the great importance of the subject brought before it in the overtures on hymnology now submitted, as well as the evils involved in the use of so great a variety of hymn books as are at present found in our churches, and is earnestly desirous of having the service of praise regulated and conducted within the Church in the way that shall best promote the glory of God and the edification of the brotherhood; it therefore appoints a committee to prepare a remit on the whole subject to be submitted to the General Assembly at an early Sederunt, to be sent down to Presbyteries in terms of the Barrier Act in order that the mind of the Church may be ascertained, and to be transmitted afterwards to the General Assembly." He would also suggest that the overtures be sent down to the Committee.

Rev. Mr. Black suggested that the remit should be sent down to sessions instead of to Presbyteries in order to find the real mind of the Church.

Rev. Mr. McMullen questioned whether it would be desirable to send the matter to Presbyteries seeing that the Moderator had already ruled that the use of hymn books was allowed already.

Rev. Principal Caven said he did not propose to send the general question to the Presbyteries; he wished to send only the matters raised in the overtures.

Rev. Mr. Sedgwick said there was this difficulty in Principal Caven's motion. If the Presbyteries reported against hymns it would prohibit the use of hymns in the churches which now used them, and that would be unconstitutional and contrary to the terms of union.

The Moderator thought Principal Caven's motion could be constructed with a greater regard for the constitutional position of the Church on this question. It seemed to him to bring up questions which had been settled on a constitutional basis.

Rev. Principal Caven agreed to change the form of his motion so as to read that the subject of hymnology should be considered by the Presbyteries only so far as raised in the overtures.

Rev. Dr. Reid protested against appeals being made to the Moderator on constitutional questions instead of questions of order.

Rev. Principal Grant said Principal Caven was no doubt right in proceeding on the principle that he had a right to send the matter down to Presbyteries, but the question was whether it was expedient to do so. He (Principal Grant) thought it was inexpedient to receive the overtures at all, and would advise that they should be dismissed. If the question was sent down to the Presbyteries they might vote to take away rights many congregations now enjoyed, and he would strongly object to that. Besides it was inexpedient to raise a question which was now at rest, upon which so many differences of opinion existed, and which if sent down to Presbyteries or sessions might result in dividing many Presbyteries and many congregations. There was a danger of a confusion of opinions, and he would say that the honest opinions of others should be guarded as well as his own or any one else's. The Assembly must, on both sides of this question, remember that men may hold opinions honestly, even though others had no intellectual sympathy with those opinions, and no course should be taken which should take from any one his liberty on matters of this kind. He held that there were good collections of hymns in use; there were certainly inconveniences, but all must put up with certain inconveniences rather than incur a danger on the one hand or a danger on the other. He therefore thought the Assem-

bly should let the whole matter alone. The Assembly was composed of persons holding a great variety of opinions, and it was inexpedient to raise a question upon which there were such strong feelings. He would move that the overtures be dismissed.

Mr. Croll seconded the motion. He held that the Church had a good collection of hymns already, and if the Sabbath schools were bound to the use of one class of hymns, a rebellion would certainly be raised.

Rev. John Scott said no one need be afraid that hymn books would be voted down by the Presbyteries or sessions. He thought that two-thirds of the Presbyteries and two-thirds of the sessions were fully in favor of them. There was a serious danger, however, in allowing churches to introduce just such hymns as they like without the sanction of the church courts and that should not be permitted. There was one Sunday-school spoken of as having introduced hymn books of a denomination holding views on scriptural points different from the Presbyterians, and unless this was carefully guarded against, members of the church would drift into Arminianism or Arianism before they knew where they were.

Rev. Mr. McLennan thought the matter should be referred to a committee of the Assembly, and the expediency of moving on the subject at all reported upon. To do otherwise would be acting very discourteously to those who had overtured. He therefore moved "that the overtures be received and referred to a committee to be named by the Moderator, with instructions to report to the Assembly at its present meeting."

Rev. Mr. Laing asked Mr. McLennan wherein the motion he (Mr. McLennan) proposed differed from his (Mr. Laing's).

Rev. Mr. McLennan said Mr. Laing's motion looked for a report in the direction of carrying out the representations of the overtures, while his (Mr. McLennan's) left the committee unfettered.

Rev. Prof. Gregg said he thought the use of hymns was scriptural, legitimate, and highly desirable in many respects, but there was one objection to hymn books, and that was that they did not give sufficient prominence to the character of God. They did not represent him as a God of inflexible justice, unspotted purity and holiness, as well as of infinite love, mercy, and goodness. They spoke of the love, mercy, and goodness of God, but in very few of them was to be found a single line suggesting the idea that God was just and holy, as well as merciful and good. He would suggest that if a hymn book should be prepared, due prominence should be given to the attributes of God.

Rev. Mr. Campbell, (Montreal,) objected to the matter being sent down to sessions, because it would be exceedingly unfortunate to commit Kirk sessions to an expressed opinion on the matter.

Rev. Mr. Cameron, (New Edinburgh,) thought it was the duty of the Church to see that the hymns sung were according to the word of God. A great many hymns were sung in the church that he was afraid were not in accordance with the Confession of Faith, and he held that the Church was to a great extent responsible for it, for, in his opinion, it was just as much the duty of the Church to see that the hymns sung were not heresies, as it was its duty to see that heresies were not preached from the pulpit.

Rev. Principal McVicar said it was conceded on all hands that there was a wide-spread evil in the Church on this matter of hymnology. He thought it would be unwise to dismiss the matter altogether, but he was sure that its transmission to Presbyteries and sessions would lead to unnecessary debate and trouble. He favored the motion of Rev. Mr. Laing to move at once in the direction of a remedy for the evil.

Rev. Dr. Robb moved the adjournment of the debate, which was agreed to.

FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

According to previous arrangement, Rev. Mr. Chiniquy was heard on the subject of French Canadian mission work.

Rev. C. Chiniquy expressed his gratitude for the great things his hearers were doing in the direction of the conversion of his countrymen. He stated that many people had come to him in Montreal asking what they should do to be saved. He had given them the Scriptures and many of them had gone home and read to their fellow men and had converted them in addition to being converted themselves. From Winnipeg he said he had received letters from persons desiring information. He had sent them the Gospel Book and they had been converted. To show what had been done, he stated that Lower Canada had put a Protestant at the head of affairs which would have been impossible five years ago. He expressed his gratitude at belonging to such a Church as the Presbyterian Church, which was doing so much for French Canadians. One reason why he had come to the Assembly was to ask for a year's leave of absence in consequence of an affection of the lungs from which he was suffering. He had been ordered to travel on the sea, and he intended to go to Australia and New Zealand, in which colonies he would be happy to represent the Church.

Rev. Dr. Robb moved, "that the Assembly grant Mr. Chiniquy leave of absence from his mission for one year, and while recognizing his eminent services in the past cordially commend him to the sympathy of lovers of Evangelical truth and supporters of Protestant principles with whom he may come in contact during his travels."

Objection was taken to the motion, and it was withdrawn to be considered by the Committee on French Evangelization.

FIFTH DAY—MORNING SEDERUNT.

The General Assembly met this morning at eleven o'clock in the Central Presbyterian Church. Devotional exercises were engaged in by the Moderator and Rev. Mr. Mitchell, of Mitchell.

Rev. Mr. Torrance read the report of the Committee on Bills and Overtures as to the order of proceedings for the day, which was agreed to.

A motion to print the order of proceedings was lost.

OBITUARY NOTICES.

The Moderator nominated the following Committee to

prepare obituary notices:—Mr. Croll (Convener), the Clerks of Assembly, Rev. Dr. McGregor, Professor Gregg, and Rev. Dr. Bennet.

RECEPTION OF STUDENTS.

Rev. Dr. Reid read a number of applications with reference to certain students pursuing their studies. There were two applications from the Presbytery of Montreal in favour of the reception of two ex-priests of the Church of Rome, Revs. G. A. Barnard Tanguay and Antonio Intermoscio, one from the Presbytery of Chatham in favour of the reception of Mr. John Cairns, one from the Ottawa Presbytery in favour of James Robertson, one from the Synod of the Maritime Provinces with reference to Mr. E. Gidies.

The applications were referred to the Committee on Licentiates.

APPLICATION TO BE RECEIVED.

An application was read from Rev. Geo. Coull who had been in connection with the Church of Scotland, to be received as a minister of this Church.

Rev. Mr. Duncan, of Halifax, moved that Mr. Coull be received.

Rev. Dr. Waters thought the proper course was to refer the case to the Committee on the Reception of Ministers, which he moved accordingly.

The motion was adopted.

CONTINUOUS SUPPLY OF MISSION STATIONS.

Rev. Dr. Cochrane presented the report of the Committee appointed to prepare a scheme for the continuous supply of mission stations. The following was the report:—

In drafting the following scheme, the Committee have had in view the continuous supply of Mission Stations in order to secure their more rapid development into congregations, and their early settlement as pastoral charges.

And in presenting their report, this Committee would respectfully call the attention of the Assembly to the serious loss the Church is sustaining in connection with the working of her mission field under the present system, according to which a large number of the stations are left virtually without supply during one-half of the year.

The result of this is painfully manifest in the weak and discouraged conditions of many stations which would have become vigorous, self-sustaining congregations under a system of supply, such as that contemplated by the Assembly in the appointment of this Committee.

The scheme herewith presented embraces the following points.—I. Mission Districts. II. Missionaries. III. Financial Arrangements.

On these points the Committee respectfully submit the following provisions, as, in their opinion, necessary to the working of the scheme, and practicable:—

I.—MISSION DISTRICTS.

1st.—Mission Districts, in connection with this scheme, shall be such as Presbyteries have formed in new or necessitous localities, where there is a reasonable prospect of the formation of pastoral charges at an early date.

2nd.—When a Presbytery desires any Mission District to be connected with this scheme, they shall apply, for this purpose, to the Home Mission Committee, and shall accompany the application with detailed information as to the extent, population, resources, and religious condition of the field.

II.—MISSIONARIES.

1st.—The missionaries employed in such districts shall be:—

- (1) Ordained ministers.
- (2) Licentiates.
- (3) Students of Theology, who are willing to engage in this work.
- (4) Laymen, whose gifts for edification have been ascertained to the satisfaction of the Presbytery within whose bounds they are to be employed.

2nd.—It shall be the duty of the Home Mission Committee to call the missionaries to the work, and to appoint them to their several fields with the consent of the Presbyteries.

(1) At the close of each college year, the Home Mission Committee shall secure the services of as many students as may be, by them, deemed necessary for the work.

(2) Students who have finished their theological studies, may, when employed under this scheme, be ordained by their Presbyteries as soon as convenient after leave has been obtained from the Superior Court.

(3) Missionaries shall be appointed for a term of not less than two years, and the appointment may be renewed.

III.—FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS.

1st. The salaries of missionaries shall be as follows, viz:—

- (1) The ordained missionaries, who are married, not less than..... \$700 per annum
- For unmarried men, not less than.. 600 "
- (2) For licentiates..... 550 "
- (3) For students..... 450 "

(4) The salary of laymen shall be determined in each case by the Home Mission Committee.

The above amounts shall be held to cover board, house rent and all other expenses.

2nd. The mission field shall contribute towards the salary of the missionary according to its ability, and the amount to be contributed shall be fixed by the Home Mission Committee in conjunction with the Presbytery.

3rd. When the contributions from any district exceed the amount promised by that district, the Home Mission Committee may augment the salary of the missionary if the circumstances seem to them to make such action advisable to the extent of one half the amount of such excess, but the total increase of salary shall not exceed one hundred dollars.

All of which is respectfully submitted. G. BRUCE, Acting Convener.

The report was referred to the Committee to consider the report of the Home Mission Board.