

The evening sederunt was occupied in hearing the report of the Committee on the State of Religion for this past year, which was read by Rev. D. D. McLeod, and the report on Sabbath Schools, which was presented by Rev. Mungo Fraser. Rev. W. T. McMullen gave in the report of the committee appointed to take action on the introduction of the Bible into the Public Schools, narrating what had been done since the last meeting of Synod. The recommendations of the committee on the State of Religion were adopted as follows:—1. That the Presbyteries be enjoined to secure returns from every session; 2. That the religious condition of the congregations be carefully watched over by the Presbyteries, and be made the subject of investigation as opportunity will allow; 3. That at all times in the service of the Church earnest prayer be offered for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the membership of the Church.

A lengthened and interesting discussion took place on the methods, influence and apparent results of the Salvation or Gospel armies now found in so many places, and the duty of the Church in our larger cities to the masses that attend none of the regular churches.

The recommendation of the Sabbath School Committee was to the following effect:—That the Presbyteries and congregations be very earnestly urged to attend and carry out from this time the recommendations of the General Assembly in reference to this branch of the Church work. The recommendation of the Committee on the Bible in Public Schools was adopted as follows:—That the Synod continue its efforts in this matter, that correspondence with the other churches be kept up with the view of such co-operation as from time to time the circumstances of the case may call for, and that instructions be given to the Committee to this effect.

WEDNESDAY.

An overture, transmitted by the Paris Presbytery, on the powers of the General Assembly as to the originating of new theological colleges, and the instituting of new chairs of theology was considered at great length.

Messrs. W. T. McMullen and D. D. McLeod were heard in support of the overture. Afterwards the overture was supported by Dr. Ure, Mr. W. S. Ball, Mr. McCoy, and others, and it was unanimously adopted and ordered to be transmitted to the Assembly, Mr. McMullen, Dr. Ure, and Mr. W. S. Ball being appointed to support it in the Supreme Court.

On the motion of Mr. G. W. Rutherford, the Synod agreed to hold its next meeting at Hamilton, in McNab Street Church, on the second Monday of April, 1885.

The conveners of the Standing Committees for the year were appointed as follows:—State of Religion, Mr. John Thompson, Sarnia, on Sunday Schools, Mr. Thomas McAdam; on Temperance, Mr. Alex. McLean; on Sabbath Observance, Mr. George Burson, on the use of the Bible in the Public Schools, Mr. W. T. McMullen.

A minute referring to the life and labours of the late Rev. Donald McKenzie, for nearly forty years minister of Embro, was adopted, and ordered to be engrossed in the minutes.

The complaint and memorial of the Rev. W. P. Walker, of Binbrook, against the Presbytery of Hamilton next came up, and occupied many hours. At the close of the pleadings, a committee of seven ministers and five elders were appointed to prepare a deliverance for the Synod. On the recommendation of this committee the memorial and complaint were sustained. Dr. Laing on behalf of the Hamilton Presbytery protested.

An overture by the Rev. S. Lyle, transmitted by the Hamilton Presbytery, in favour of a term service in the election of elders instead of the present life term of service, with a view to developing the latent talent of the Church and for other reasons, was considered. Mr. Lyle addressed the Synod in favour of the change. A motion made to transmit the overture *simpliciter* to the Assembly was lost by thirty to thirty-five.

The committee appointed at the last Synod to consider the subject of an overture on Psalmody presented their report through Mr. F. B. Stewart. The report was received, and certain recommendations having in view the promotion of congregational psalmody adopted by the Synod.

An overture anent the functions and powers of Synods was read and sent to the General Assembly for consideration. Dr. Cochran moved a vote of thanks to the ministers and office-bearers of the church in Seaford; to the Christian public for their hospitality, and to the Grand Trunk Railway for granting reduced fares to the members of the Synod. The Synod then adjourned after singing part of the 122nd psalm, and the moderator pronouncing the benediction.

THE PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE, MONTREAL.

The closing exercises of the Presbyterian College, came off on Wednesday evening, 22nd inst., in the David Morrice Hall, which was filled to overflowing with the friends of the college and the students. Shortly after eight o'clock the students filed in, attired in their gowns and took the seats reserved for them, and were followed by the senate, faculty, and alumni, who seated themselves on the platform.

The Rev. Principal McVicar was in the chair, and around him were Prof. Scrimger, Campbell and Cassirar, the Rev. W. J. Dey, Dean of Residence, the Rev. Dr. Jenkins, Rev. W. M. McKibbin, Rev. W. H. Geddes, Rev. J. T. Bayne, and nearly all the members of the Montreal Presbytery.

After the opening religious exercises, the following gentlemen were called forward as the prizemen in the different departments:—Philosophical and Literary Society's prizes: Public speaking, W. A. Mackenzie, B.A.; English essay, R. McKnight, B.A.; English reading, J. H. Higgins; French essay, J. L. Morin, B.A.; French reading, S. Rondeau. Music: Students of second year only, J. L. Morin, B.A.; students of all years, R. Johnston. Ecclesiastical Architecture: Students of third year only, A. Lee, B.A.; students of all years, W. A. Mackenzie, B.A. Gaelic: Prize for examination on lectures, J. C. Martin. Sacred

Rhetoric—Students of 1st and 2nd years, R. McKnight, B.A. Students of all years, J. H. Higgins and J. MacLaren, equal Literary Scholarship—N. Waddell. French Scholarships (Literary)—The Paris (Dumfries street), A. B. Clement; the College, P. Cayer; the Knox Church (Montreal), G. J. A. Thompson. French Scholarships (Theological)—The Hamilton, J. I. Morin, B.A.; the Guelph, E. F. Seylaz. University Scholarships (1883)—First year presented by George Stephen, J. McDougall; second year, by John Stirling, J. A. MacFarlane; third year, by William Drysdale, S. Rondeau; fourth year, by Mr. Slessor, A. Lee, B.A. Gaelic Scholarships—MacLennan (senior), J. C. Martin; Campbell, C. MacKerchar; Greenshields (junior), J. W. Mackenzie; Campbell, P. A. McLeod. Sacred Rhetoric Scholarship—J. Graham. Pass Work—1st year, John Redpath scholarship, H. A. McAyeal, B.A. 2nd year, Anderson scholarship, J. L. Morin, B.A., do. do., G. Whillans, B.A. 3rd year, Hugh Mackay scholarship, W. A. Mackenzie, B.A. Anderson scholarship, D. Currie, B.A. Pass and Honour Work—1st year, College scholarship, I. Graham, B.A. Peter Redpath scholarship, W. Ogilvie, B.A. 2nd year, Annie Morrice scholarship, R. McKnight, B.A. Alumni scholar, G. Whillans, B.A. Gold medalist, W. A. Mackenzie, B.A. Silver medalist, D. Currie, B.A. The highest honour of the College, the Travelling Fellowship, was won by W. Mackenzie, B.A.

The following seven gentlemen, having completed the course, were presented with their diplomas by the Rev. Principal McVicar: Messrs. D. Currie, B.A., R. Gamble, B.A., J. P. Grant, A. Lee, B.A., D. MacKay, B.A., W. A. Mackenzie, B.A., and E. F. Seylaz.

The Rev. James Fleck then delivered an eloquent address to the graduating class. The chief end of the preacher's life is to glorify God by preaching the Gospel. It has been said by some writers that preaching is a lost art, but if it is, what brings millions of people to the churches every Lord's Day to hear the Word of Life? Are they all the victims of a great delusion? No; the pulpit is still the place where the voice of God speaks through men. Preaching the Gospel is your great work, and his command and his presence your great power. There are many aspects in which the subject might be looked at, but I will speak only of the personal aspect. The minister should be personal in his remarks from the pulpit, the essayist avoids directness but the preacher should study it. The Apostle Paul "became all things to all men, so that by any means he might gain some." Next to the Bible the best book for the preacher is the congregation. The minister has sometimes hard duties to perform in preaching against popular sins, but he must not shrink from the task. Peter never preached a more effectual sermon than when he addressed the crucifiers of the Lord and brought home their sin to them. If we spent less time in propping up the cross and more in pointing sinners to it more souls would be won.

The valedictory was then delivered by Mr. W. A. Mackenzie, B.A. He mentioned in a humorous manner the feeling of awe with which the students are apt to look forward to the examinations. The graduates will always remember the college, the principal and professors, and their old fellow students, wherever they may take up their residence. He thanked the large audience for their attendance, and spoke of the interest which the Presbyterians of Montreal had always taken in the college, and the gratefulness of the students for their attention. Mr. Mackenzie was warmly applauded at the close of his able valedictory.

The degree of B.D. was conferred on the Rev. C. E. Amaron, M.A. Messrs. W. A. Mackenzie, B.A., and D. Currie, B.A., have passed the third examination, and the Rev. S. Lyle and Mr. R. McKnight, B.A., the first and second course.

The Rev. Principal McVicar then addressed the meeting: He said that the total number of students upon our roll to-night is seventy, of whom sixty-eight gave attendance on lectures during the past session, and already a considerable number of freshmen have applied to be received next winter. We have had two hundred and twenty-five volumes added to our library. During this session a new and very valuable element was introduced into our work. I refer to the Sunday afternoon lectures on "Questions of the Day" which, as many of you know, were fully attended. I may add that we have yielded to requests for the publication of them in a volume soon to be issued. Similar courses will be delivered next session. It is satisfactory to be able to say that the lectures have been financially advantageous to the college. The collection covered all expenses and yielded a contribution to the Library Fund of over one hundred dollars, and whatever profits may be realized from the sale of the volume will be applied to the same deserving object. We are greatly indebted to the lecturers who generously gave their services without remuneration, as has been done for several years by others who are upon our regular staff. It may not always be possible to secure lecturers on such easy terms, and, therefore, what is needed is that some one possessed of the true spirit and requisite means should set such special courses upon a solid financial foundation. I shall be glad to advise with any friend who may be inclined to entertain this suggestion. And here let me say how much our Travelling Fellowship is fitted to advance the interests of the institution and of sound theological education. Mr. Herdridge, who held it last winter, continued his post-graduate studies in Edinburgh, Glasgow and London, and is now visiting seats of learning on the Continent. I know of no more effective way of elevating the scientific and theological standing of the ministry than by founding fellowships to induce distinguished students to prolong the period of strictly collegiate training. We do not believe in the indiscriminate subsidizing of candidates for the ministry. We do nothing in this direction. Our scholarships are all competitive and awarded solely on the ground of real merit. They are not attached to special subjects to which students might devote their time while neglecting ordinary work. They are connected with the general curriculum prescribed for each session and include besides examinations in honour courses which embrace standard treatises in the different departments of the theology. We thus avoid the narrowness which is so apt to characterize mere specialists, and cultivate breadth of

thought and research while in every case securing the fullest attention to the prelections of the class-room. Moreover, students who are qualified to take these honour courses thereby overtake during the three sessions a large part of what is required for the degree of Bachelor of Divinity. In view, therefore, of the very manifest benefits of fellowships and scholarships, I once more bespeak for them a favourable consideration by those who have the good of our college and of our country at heart. The rapid and solid growth of this institution is surely a matter of sincere congratulation to all. In a few brief years it has, by the Divine favour and through the marked liberality and energy of its friends, the ability and loyalty of its students and graduates, attained to a position of influence for good throughout our Dominion, which it would be wrong to overlook on an occasion like the present. Certain features of the success enjoyed by us are visible to all, and speak for themselves. The names of our leading benefactors are household words in this community, and will always be held in grateful remembrance; and who has not admired these magnificent buildings which adorn our beautiful city and are so complete in their adaptation to the comfort and work of professors and students. This much is easily seen and understood. But the mental work, the stern searching drill which secures accurate scholarship, and develops clearness and comprehensiveness of thought, which settles principles and forms character, and makes men strong for the great battle of life—this is known only to those who discharge the duties of our respective chairs, and more especially to students who to-night look back gratefully and triumphantly over scenes of exhaustive examination. And let me, speaking from a personal knowledge of facts and figures, say for all that they have acquitted themselves in a manner with which we and they have abundant reason to be satisfied. We are steadily rising to a higher plane of culture, and I do not hesitate to say that the seven gentlemen who go out from us to-night, and especially those who have gained the highest distinctions, are such as any institution in the old or the new world might well be proud to number among its graduates. As showing the estimate formed of them by congregations, that they will all be asked to accept eligible pastoral charges as soon as they can be licensed. This is what is needed for the prosperity of the Church. Not merely men of adequate learning, but also men appreciated by the people, and who, through real merit and spiritual power, can lay hold upon their hearts. We have now ninety-two graduates in the Master's service, and during the coming summer fifty three students will be busily engaged as missionaries in all parts of the Dominion, making in all a living force of 145 men trained in this college. Who can estimate the good which they have already accomplished and which is yet to result from their devoted labours? Among the earliest who entertained this grand purpose, in common with others who are still with us, were the late Mr. John Redpath, Mr. Joseph Mackay and Mr. Edward Mackay, and nobly did they and those near of kin to them carry it out. It is not yet a year since Mr. Edward Mackay passed away. He endowed, as you know, a chair in memory of his brother, which is known as "The Joseph Mackay Chair." The memory of these two brothers will ever live among us in this city and this country as successful merchants and men of sterling integrity and worth and large-hearted philanthropists.

And now it is with the utmost pleasure that I have to announce the decision of the three nephews, Messrs. Hugh, James and Robert Mackay, to endow a chair in this College in memory of their late uncle Edward to be known as "The Edward Mackay Chair." This is a true and beautiful tribute of affection to the memory of one most thoroughly deserving of it and reflects the utmost honour upon the doers of the generous deed which will be gratefully approved by our whole Church and far beyond it.

I only add my fervent hope that others may now come forward and complete at least the endowment of the requisite number of Chairs to enable us to overtake with more thorough efficiency the growing work to which the Lord is calling us.

The meeting was then closed with the doxology and benediction.

THE death is announced of M. Massari, a member of the Italian Parliament, who was the friend of Cavour and biographer of Victor Emanuel.

CARDINAL HOWARD, who is about to be advanced to a bishopric in the Cardinal College, was once an officer in the British army, and the new Church of England Bishop Ryle, of Liverpool, and Bishop MacLagan, of Litchfield, wore the red coat before they put on the surplice preliminary to their promotion to the lawn.

FRINCE LEOPOLD had always a desire to be created Duke of York. In pursuance of this object, he got together all the portraits and other objects of interest that had belonged to any of his ancestors bearing that title, and it was a grievous disappointment to him when the Queen declined her permission to his assuming the title.

THE worshippers at a church in Solano, Col., went on Sunday night as usual to service, but found that the bats had taken possession of the house and were so thick and aggressive that the service was necessarily postponed. On Tuesday the deacons inaugurated a bat hunt, and behind one of the window casings found and killed 241 of them.

MR. FROUDE has finished the concluding volumes of his interesting biography of Carlyle, but they will not be published before the autumn. The third volume will contain a preface, in which Mr. Froude replies to the abusive criticisms which have been showered upon him for his conduct in his capacity as Mr. Carlyle's literary executor.

THE Pope has intimated to Cardinal Sacconi, who, as Dean of the Sacred College, has succeeded to the rich Bishopric of Ostia and Velletri, that he must pay 20,000 francs yearly out of its revenues to the Holy See, to be used for Catholic schools and the maintenance of ejected nuns and indigent priests. Leo XIII. is applying a similar measure to all Pluralist Cardinals.