

**Synod** was ordered to be entered in the statistics as a scheme of the church.

The question of marriage with a deceased wife's sister came before the Assembly in consequence of one of the applications for admission to the ministry, Mr. Carbone, being thus married. After considerable discussion the application was allowed to lie on the table.

The report on French Evangelization was submitted, and followed by addresses from Messrs. Dondiet, Crouchet, Tanner and Chiniquy.

#### WEDNESDAY, 21.

##### AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS FUND.

Mr. Middleton submitted the report of the Western, and Mr. Sinclair that of the Eastern Section. The Eastern Fund is in a satisfactory condition but will soon have a larger number of ministers upon it and will need increased support.

The proposal to appoint a central examining Board for all the colleges was sent down to Presbyteries for consideration.

##### WIDOWS AND ORPHANS FUNDS.

Dr. Reid submitted the report on this Fund for the Western, and Mr. Sedgewicke for the Eastern Section. Both are in good condition.

On recommendation it was agreed that the grant hitherto made to Manitoba College from the Home Mission Funds, do now close and that the College Board be henceforth responsible for its support.

#### THURSDAY, 22

The following ministers in the Maritime Provinces were allowed to retire from active work on account of age and infirmity. C. G. Glass, Dr. Sedgewicke, Samuel Bernard, W. MacCullagh, Dr. Bennett, Murdoch Stewart, W. G. Forbes and A. P. Millar.

Adopting an overture by Principal Macknight, Dr. Gregg and others, the Assembly appointed a special committee of experts to investigate the scriptural grounds prohibiting marriage with a deceased wife's sister, the committee is as follows:—Professors Cavan, Mowatt, Currie, Scrimger, Weir, McKenzie, Mac-Vicar, and Messrs John Laing, D. B. Blair and E. Ross.

The Report on Temperance was adopted and approval of recent temperance legislation expressed.

The Hymn Book Committee reported that the book has paid all expenses and that a surplus of royalty of about \$1500 a year was expected.

The Assembly closed to meet next year at London, Ontario.

## SERMON BY THE REV. DR. POLLOK, RETIRING MODERATOR, AT THE OPENING OF THE LATE SYNOD IN CHARLOTTETOWN.

### I TIM. IV, II. THESE THINGS COMMAND AND TEACH.

These words must be viewed in connection with the character and mutual relations of Paul and Timothy. They are the words of an eminent minister of Christ, addressed to one only less eminent—of a father, to one whom he had begotten in the faith—of the most learned of the apostles, to one who from childhood had known those writings which of all writings are the best—of a great teacher, to one who knew his mode of teaching and method of church administration—of the founder of the church of Asia Minor, to the man whom he had left to carry on the work in Ephesus, the seat of the most influential of the churches and the great capital of Asia—of a distinguished apostle, to a no less distinguished pastor; and they occupy a place in a treatise, which contains the principles and rules by which pastors are to be guided in their office in every age. These words are part of a collection of directions for the right discharge of the duties of the pastoral office. They may form a seasonable study at the present time.

They are the more important, that they are in some measure the substance of the whole treatise—an index at least, to the matter which it contains. They are the key note to this melodious and beautiful exposition of pastoral duty. The apostle seems to pause amid the current of his affectionate counsels, in order to throw in the short exclamation: "These things command and teach." So that, "these things" must be understood to apply not only to the immediate context but to the whole epistle, which throughout contains directions for the teaching and ruling of the church.

But, when we consider the words more closely, we discover a certain want of congruity between the two principle words in this sentence. For the actions of ruling and teaching are of a nature so different and have so little in common that their combination in the same office seems impracticable. These two words describe operations that are opposed and mutually exclusive. A teacher may indeed rule and a ruler may teach but not in the same act; for ruling and teaching