

him. The Rev. D. D. Nighswander had before this been elected Minute Secretary, and Mr. Hugh Pedley, Assistant. The

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recommended the formation of a Congregational Building Society, to assist in putting up churches in our mission stations; stated that three graduates of our College had settled over churches during the year—Revs. John Allworth, E. D. Silcox, and Joseph Griffith; that Revs. R. Hay and E. C. W. McColl, M.A., had also recommenced labour among us; that Revs. H. Sanders, E. Ireland, and R. Bulman had come from England to our assistance; also that Revs. D. Macallum, J. Salmon, B.A., J. I. Hindley, M.A., and J. Howell had changed their fields. The Revs. George C. Needham, T. M. Reikie, R. Lewis, and Duncan McGregor had left the bounds of our Union. The letter which the Committee had been instructed to send to the Union of England and Wales, sympathizing in the struggle for religious liberty and free education, had been forwarded, and a warm response received. A petition had been presented to the Ontario Legislature, according to order, praying for exemption of ecclesiastical persons and property from taxation. No change was recommended in Standing Rule 12th, in reference to the travelling expenses of the members of the Union; but a special appeal had been made to the churches for increased contributions. A new rule was recommended as a substitute for Standing Rule No. 1, regulating the admission of members, viz.:—

“Applications for admission to the Union, whether by churches or ministers, shall be made in writing; and after having been read to the Union, shall be referred to a Standing Committee on membership. Churches so applying shall present the written recommendation of three members of the Union. Ministers bearing regular letters of dismissal from a kindred Congregational organization, and those who furnish evidence of having completed a course of study in the Congregational College of B. N. A., and having been ordained to the ministry, may be received at once on these grounds. Other ministers shall be required to bring proof of (1) their membership in a Congregational Church; (2) their ordination to the ministry; (3) if they have come from any other denomination, their good standing therein; and they shall satisfy the Membership Committee in relation to their literary acquirements, and their doctrinal and ecclesiastical views.”

Reference was also made to the visits of a number of English ministers to us during the past year, and to the rich spiritual blessing enjoyed by Scotland and other places, accompanied by the desire that we may experience a similar blessing here.

The Report, with the above and a few other particulars, was adopted at a further stage of the Session.

Most of one morning's session was devoted to the reading and discussion of a paper, read by the Rev. W. F. Clarke, on

“THE INTRODUCTION OF MINISTERS TO OUR BODY.”

He urged in strong language the necessity of literary culture as well as of piety, and condemned the hasty admission to our pulpits and pastorates of parties who might be ambitious to do good, but who were uncultivated and inexperienced. Cowper severely berated bishops in his day for laying ordaining hands on “skulls that cannot teach and will not learn.” Young men from Britain should not expect to receive recognition here at once where they are not known, and where everything is new to them, when they failed in getting it at home under favourable circumstances. The writer thought that our Missionary Society had done right in requiring such to undergo three years' study under their supervision before receiving ordination.

Rev. C. Chapman, M.A., in moving a vote of thanks for the paper, commended the views generally expressed. He spoke of the need of greater caution than is generally exercised in the ordination of pastors. When the choice of inviting