

LAY ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of the members of "The Lay Association in support of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland," was held in St. Paul's Church Vestry Room, in this city, on Tuesday evening, the 9th instant. The chair was taken at eight o'clock by the Honorable Peter McGill, when there was present a larger number than usual of the members of the Association.

The meeting having been constituted, the Recording Secretary read the following Report:—

The Office-bearers beg leave to submit to the Members of the Association the following as their Report of their proceedings for the past year.

In accordance with the wishes of members, as expressed at the last annual meeting, it was intimated to the authorities of Queen's College, that three bursaries of ten pounds each would be placed at their disposal, to be awarded to meritorious students, subject to the regulations adopted by the Association.

After some correspondence with the Professors of that College, it was determined that the regulations alluded to should not be enforced till the ensuing year; but that for the present year the Senatus Academicus should be empowered to distribute the bursaries as they saw fit. The following is the arrangement they reported, with the names of the recipients: John Hugh McKerras, and David Watson, £10 each; and John McLennan and Donald Watson, £5 each. The Office-bearers would, however, recommend that, for the future, the regulations adopted by the Association for the allocation of the Bursary Fund should be strictly adhered to.

The Office-bearers would urge upon the attention of the Members of this Association and of the Church at large, the advantages which would accrue from an extension of the Bursary Scheme. Every day brings more convincing evidence that, for the future, our pulpits will have to be chiefly supplied from within our own land, for although the Parent Church is most anxious to respond to our applications for assistance, the demands upon her from every quarter, for pastors, are so numerous and so urgent, that the Colonial Committee have again and again been compelled to echo the exclamation: "The harvest is great, but the labourers are few." The Office-bearers are of opinion, that this Scheme demands the serious attention and is entitled to the warm support of all the Members of the Church in this Province, for by its means many a promising youth will be enabled to devote himself to the sacred office of the Ministry. The Office-bearers trust that the attention of our Clergymen will be seriously directed to the claims of the Bursary Scheme, and would respectfully invite them to enlist the sympathies of their congregations, towards the support of so easy and efficient a means of training up a native Ministry.

Since the last general meeting, the Office-bearers had it in contemplation to publish a Manual of Devotion, containing Sabbath Exercises, which might be appropriately used in destitute localities by the adherents of our Church. A Committee was appointed to superintend its arrangements, and obtain contributions from various Clergymen. A circular was issued by the Committee, explaining the objects of the publication, and detailing the plan intended to be pursued in its execution; but the Committee have reported that so few replies have been elicited, that there is but little inducement to carry out the Scheme. While the Office-bearers deeply regret this, they would recommend that the idea should not be wholly lost sight of, as they conceive that such a publication would be regarded

as a boon by many who still cling with fond attachment to the Church of their fathers, though deprived of the ministrations of a regular pastor.

The Office-bearers take this opportunity of tendering their cordial thanks to those Ministers, who kindly offered contributions of sermons,—as well as an expression of their confident belief that, should the Association hereafter be enabled to accomplish the design, their successors in office will gladly avail themselves of their assistance.

The Office-bearers have to report, that the attempt to organise Branches of the Lay Association throughout the country has not been successful, as they are not aware that a single branch has yet been formed. They deeply regret this, for they conceive that the interests of the Church would be materially advanced by the establishment of Associations of the Laity throughout the Province; but they confidently trust, that the example set by the formation of this Association will yet be extensively followed.

The Office-bearers have greater satisfaction in reporting, that the Publication Scheme continues to be attended with a large measure of success. The Committee, charged with the publication of the *Presbyterian*, report that the subscription list shows a constantly increasing number of subscribers, and that the payments for the year have also been made with such promptitude, that although there is still a balance outstanding for the past year, and a considerable sum uncollected of the present year's subscriptions, there is every reason to think that, with exertion on the part of the friends of the publication in the various localities, the *Presbyterian* will this year be self-supporting; and no demand on its behalf will be made on the funds. The Office-bearers would, in this connection, state that, some time ago, Messrs. Armour & Ramsay intimated to them, that, while they felt the warmest interest in its success, they were reluctantly compelled to discontinue the publication of the *Presbyterian*, as it interfered too much with their business, in consequence of which, the publication was transferred to Messrs. Lovell & Gibson, from whose office it now issues.

The Office-bearers have now to submit the appended statement of the Funds of the Association, as exhibited by the Treasurer's Books.

The Office-bearers would further observe, that they would recommend to the Association, a modification of the existing Constitution, so as to dispense with the Quarterly General Meetings, leaving it discretionary with the Managers to call special meetings, when any business of interest or importance might render the step necessary.

In conclusion, the Office-bearers would urge upon the Members of the Association the necessity of individual exertion, in order to effect the objects sought to be obtained by the Association and to promote and extend its means of usefulness.

The whole respectfully submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Treasurer has to report that no addition has been made, during the past year, to the Donation Fund. The amount, at its credit, was invested in 1845 and 1847 in eleven shares of City Bank Stock, costing the Association £275 15s. By an Act of the Provincial Parliament, passed last Session, diminishing the Capital Stock of that Bank, the par value of the Association's investment was reduced to £206 5s. No dividends have been obtained since last annual meeting; but a dividend is looked for next December.

The subscriptions this year, in accordance with the Resolutions of last annual meeting, adding the Education of young men for the Ministry to the objects of the Society, have been divided into three, viz: the Relief, Bursary and Publication Funds.

The amount reported this time twelve-month at credit of the Relief Fund was.... £150 6 10
Since which has been received 93 5 0

293 11 9

The available assets of this Fund have been diminished by £100 16s. 5d. paid to Saving's Bank for mortgage taken for amount of deposit, and £10 15s. 2d. retained by that institution till its affairs are wound up

111 11 7
82 0 3

The disbursements consist of £25 to Laprairie Church, being balance of the grant for re-building; £25 to Packenham Church for a similar object; £10 to Mr. Macrae, Catechist at Melbourne, granted in Oct. 1848, and £10 paid to him in Oct. 1849; £4 1s. for sundry small charges.....

74 1 0

Leaving in Treasurer's hands..... 47 19 3

The Bursary Fund has only received in subscriptions £15 5s., and there has been transferred to it £14 15s. from the Publication Fund, to meet the expenditure for Bursaries to Students attending Queen's College.

The amount reported last year at credit of Publication Fund, was..... £37 17 5
Since which has been received.... 44 0 0

81 17 5

The expenditure from the Fund consists of £31 9s. 6d. on account of the "Presbyterian;" £14 15s transferred to Bursary Fund; and £6 19s. 3d., petty disbursements for advertising and delivering notices...

58 2 0

In Treasurer's hands..... £23 15 5

The assets of the Association may be shortly stated as follows.

Bank Stock..... £206 5 0
Mortgage..... 100 0 0
Cash in Treasurer's hands..... 31 14 8

£337 19 8

ANDREW H. ARMOUR,
Treasurer.

A prolonged discussion having ensued, and remarks on various subjects connected with the Report, having been made by William Edmonstone, John Frothingham, John Smith, H. E. Montgomery, Esquires, and others of the members present, it was

Moved by Mr. R. Blackwood, seconded by Andrew Allan, Esq., and

Resolved, That the Report now read be received, adopted and printed in the *Presbyterian*.

The following series of Resolutions, proposing a modification of the existing Constitution of the Association, were then

Moved by John Frothingham, Esq., seconded by Andrew H. Armour, Esquire, and adopted by the meeting.

That for the word "last" in Article third of the Constitution be substituted "third," and for September be substituted October.

That Article five of the Constitution be expunged, and that the remaining Articles be numbered five to eighteen respectively.

That the word Quarterly in Article seven be expunged, wherever it occurs.

That Article ten be altered, as far as regards the first sentence, which shall read as follows:—

The Officers enumerated in Article three shall constitute a Board for the management of the affairs of the Association, and shall meet on the second Tuesdays in January, April, July and October, and on such other occasions as it shall be deemed necessary or expedient, and at all such meetings five shall constitute a Quorum.

The ensuing Resolution was then submitted to the notice of the meeting, with