

Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America, Australia, and the islands of the Pacific were all represented. The strong churches of Scotland, Ireland, England, Wales, the United States, North and South, Canada, and Australia sent, of course, the larger contingents, while mingled among them were representatives, too few in number, of the ancient Reformed Churches of Europe, which have, under persecution, achieved such heroic deeds, and given so many of their sons and daughters to swell the noble army of the martyrs. With these were associated a goodly band of missionary laborers, representing the recent triumphs of the cross in the domain of heathenism. A gathering which brought together so many men of mark from all lands, and made us acquainted with our kindred in the faith throughout the world, could not fail to be an occasion of interest to all loyal Presbyterians. And the occasion was none the less noteworthy and interesting that the council was held in a city which stands where, one hundred years ago, bears and wolves held high carnival in the primeval forest.

The meetings were worthy of the occasion. The attention of the public was fully aroused, and the largest buildings were too small for the audiences which desired to hear the discussions. If after the opening services and the first day's proceedings there seemed a lull in the interest, it was of brief duration, and as the council advanced the public interest steadily grew, and, at the evening meetings, hundreds failed to find even standing room; and on two evenings, when the experiment was made of throwing open two churches at the same time, they were both crowded with deeply-interested audiences. The citizens of Toronto rose to the occasion, and extended a right hearty welcome to their honored guests. And if half the pleasant things said of Toronto and its people by visitors can be accepted, without too large a discount for the kindness which prompted them, the citizens must have succeeded reasonably well in making their guests comfortable and the meetings a success. Comparing the recent meeting with other councils of the Alliance which I have attended, I would say that, while each council was distinguished for some feature in which it excelled the rest, the Toronto council, to borrow an ecclesiastical phrase, "on a conjunct view of the whole," will not yield the palm to any of its predecessors.