

Close of the Financial Year.

We again remind our readers that the financial year of the church terminates on Thursday, the 30th April. Considerable sums of money are yet required to enable the respective committees to end the year free from debt. It is earnestly hoped that the Treasurers of Congregations, Sabbath schools, and Christian Endeavor Societies, will forward all money on hand to the Rev. Dr. Warden, Confederation Life Bldg., Toronto, so as to reach him on or before the 30th inst., as the books close promptly on the evening of that day.

Correspondence.

Dominion Christian Endeavor Convention.

To Editor Presbyterian Review:

At the Canadian Rally held in Phillip's church, South Boston, July 13th, 1895, it was resolved: "That in the interests of Christian Endeavor work in Canada it is desirable that a Dominion Executive Committee be formed, consisting of representatives from each Provincial Union." It was also decided that a Dominion Convention be held in Ottawa during 1896, provided the different Provincial Executives and Conventions should approve, it being understood that there be such a gathering quadrennially, and that, as far as possible, Provincial Conventions be withdrawn that year, the necessary Provincial business being conducted at Rallies in connection with the Dominion Conventions.

In accordance with the above action, a Provisional Dominion Executive Committee was appointed to carry out the recommendation for a Dominion Convention. The matter has been brought before all the Provincial Conventions since held, and approved by them, the Ontario, Quebec and Maritime Unions voting to unite in convention at Ottawa 6th, 9th October, 1896. The Executives of these Unions are made principally responsible for the programme, but it is expected that all Provincial Executives will assist, and representatives from every Union will take part.

This will be, without doubt, the largest and most influential gathering of Canadian Christians ever held in the Dominion. We are expecting not less than one thousand delegates from points outside Ottawa. Every Provincial, County, City, and Town Union as well as local society is requested to use every effort to make this first Dominion Interdenominational Conference of young Christians an unequalled success.

The prayer and co-operation of all churches of whatever name are asked, that the consecrated manhood and womanhood of the land may be represented from the Atlantic to the Pacific in such numbers and spirit that it will give a decided uplift and new impulse to the Kingdom of Heaven in our whole Dominion.

Yours for Christ and the Church,
A. M. Phillips,
Chairman of Provisional Executive,
33 St. Luke Street, Montreal, P.Q.

Public Worship.

To Editor Presbyterian Review:

Sir.—An overture to the General Assembly which was prepared by Rev. A. T. Hartley and myself, was read at a meeting of Maitland Presbytery held in Lucknow on March 17th. A motion was made that it be adopted as an overture of the Presbytery, but after some discussion that motion was withdrawn in favor of another that a committee be appointed to prepare an overture for next meeting. Omitting for the sake of brevity, the considerations on the five points, I send you part of the overture read which may be of some interest to your many readers.

Yours truly,

A. MacKay.

Lucknow, Ont.

Whereas, in January Rev. Dr. the Convention of the Assembly's Committee on Public Worship gave a report of their work, which report ignores a fundamental principle that should be observed in making any proposal for change or improvement in existing modes of worship—a principle set forth in Confession of Faith, Chap. 21, sec. 1 viz: "But the acceptable way of wor-

shipping the true God is instituted by himself, and so limited by His own revealed will, that he may not be worshipped according to the imaginations and devices of men, or the suggestions of Satan, under any visible representation, or any other way not prescribed in the holy scriptures." A principle founded on Ex. 20:3, Deut. 12:32, Matt. 4:9-10, 15:9, 28:20, John 4:24, Acts 17:25, Col. 2:8, 28; and that said report consequently favors ritualism as will be seen from the following considerations on its five points.

Whereas, we are grieved at heart in seeing many things practised by congregations and Sabbath schools in connection with the worship of God, that are entirely unscriptural, and were never authorized by the Assembly.

Whereas, in the past, churches degenerated and became corrupt through ritualistic departures in worship from New Testament principles.

Whereas, God's word frequently and solemnly warns against such departures, Deut. 4:1-40.

Whereas, the committee do not give one word of such warning or caution in regard to the departures from the word that are so manifest to-day in the encroachments of ritualism, and not one word of scripture in support of their proposed changes.

The Venerable the General Assembly is therefore most respectfully and earnestly overtured

First. To deal cautiously with any report that may be in line with the one in January Record, so that no countenance may be given to ritualism.

Second. To make due enquiry, by committee or otherwise as in its wisdom it may deem best, regarding all unscriptural practices; and formulate such a deliverance thereon, with appropriate scriptural authority attached thereto, as shall help the lower courts to preserve the truth and watch against error, and shall tend to bring congregations back from their ritualistic wanderings into harmony with God's word and our subordinate standards, and into the uniformity of worship sanctioned by Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit guiding the inspired Apostles; and thereby remove the serious apprehensions now burdening many hearts regarding the tendencies of unscriptural innovations.

Church News.

[All communications to this column ought to be sent to the Editor immediately after the occurrences to which they refer have taken place.]

Montreal Notes.

As usual after Easter, the decrees of the fifth council of bishops of the Province of Quebec, concerning marriages of Catholics by Protestant ministers and mixed marriages were read in all the Roman Catholic churches a week ago. In the church of Notre Dame, the Rev. Cure Troie referred at some length to the question of mixed marriages. He pointed out that the church had always been opposed to such marriages. When it tolerates such alliances it is always with reluctance on account of the danger for the harmony that should exist in the family circle, the peril for the faith of the Catholic party, and the poor chances of a Roman Catholic training for the children to be born of such marriages. He referred to statistics showing that the number of Roman Catholics in the United States was ten millions less than it should be according to immigration figures and the two causes of this were neutral schools and mixed marriages.

On Sunday afternoon last, the Rev. Theodore Lafleur gave a very interesting lecture in English at St. John's Church, his subject being "A Vindication of French Evangelization." There was a good audience and close attention was given to the speaker. He said that the work of reform, to which he and others were devoting their lives, was not undertaken on the assumption that there is not, nor cannot be any real true Christians among the millions of adherents to the Roman Catholic form of Christianity. In the minds of all fairly educated men this is not a debatable question. But the question may fairly be asked in this country whether the Church of Rome teaches the gospel of Jesus Christ purely and simply as the Apostles preach-

ed it after the death of Christ. To that the answer must be in the negative. She has laid herself open to the charge of Christ. Ye make the word of God of none effect by your traditions. The few spiritual souls the Romish church contains have to dig for the truth in a mass of superstitious rubbish as Pascal, Fenelon, Massillon and others did. The masses resort to empty forms of worship, or crowd around healing shrines or relics and the evermore invading devotion to the Virgin Mary. It is because we know too well that it is this degraded form of religion which the masses follow that we would fain offer them out of loving hearts the pure, simple, comforting and saving teachings of Jesus Christ. Can any Christian minister or humble believer find fault with us for so doing? Mr. Lafleur proceeded to define the character of the religion of the masses in this province, giving pertinent examples and telling quotations to make clear and undeniable the fact that the people are given stones instead of bread. To the charge that the French Protestant missionaries are a disturbing element in the province he replied that we are laboring to force more light and more air into that mass. You find fault for our ventilating it. You say it is disintegrating. That is precisely what we mean to do. We want to spiritualize that mass with the knowledge of the Gospel, to make it for a time if need be as fragmentary as our Protestantism. We are not afraid of the fragments being lost in space as long as we keep them in sight of our eternal centre, our Sun of Righteousness, Jesus Christ. The address was considered such a valuable one that it has been printed and is to be had from the Rev. C. E. Amaron, pastor of the church.

A young man named Fialdes, recently a novice in the Trappist monastery at Oka, has sent in his abjuration of the Church of Rome to the Cure at Otter Lake. His reading of the Bible had satisfied him that the church is in error as to transubstantiation.

A similar abjuration has been sent in by a whole family at Lachute. In this case the parishioner had first taken his doubts to the Cure, and after some conversation requested him to discuss the matter with the Presbyterian Missionary, Mr. Menard. He consented to do so, but on the day appointed he had fled the parish, and no one knew where he was to be found. Rome is apparently conscious of its weakness when confronted with the Bible.

General.

Rev. J. A. Dow, a graduate of Knox College, has been appointed assistant pastor of Knox church, St. Thomas.

Rev. A. S. Grant, B.D., has resigned the pastorate of St. Andrew's church, Almonte, much to the regret of the congregation.

Presbyterian Synod of Toronto and Kingston.—For the first time in its history the above named synod meets in Collingwood, this year on 11th of May.

The Presbyterians of North Bay are endeavoring to secure the services of Rev. Thomas Macadam, who has been supplying them for the last six months, as their stated pastor.

Rev. Robert Johnson, pastor of St. Andrew's church, London, has been granted three months leave of absence to enable him to make a tour of Britain and the continent.

Rev. Andrew Armit, minister of the Kirk church, Pictou, has accepted a call to Monikie, Scotland, and has sailed for the field of labor. On the eve of his departure the congregation gave him a well worded address.

The unanimous call to Rev. Dr. Ross, of Cannington, from the St. George's Presbyterian church was considered by the presbytery of Paris at Brantford on April 13th, and unanimously sustained by that body. Rev. Dr. Cochran was appointed presbytery delegate to prosecute the call before the presbytery of Lindsay.

The Rev. Dr. Sexton is still in the Lower Provinces, where he has been preaching and lecturing during the past three months. He expects to be in Ontario at the end of May, and will be open for pulpit supply in August, and September. Address St. Catharines, Ont.