



**IT LESSENS LABOR
AND
BRINGS COMFORT
AND WILL SAVE ITS COST
MANY TIMES OVER.**

COMMISSION OF SYNOD OF HAMILTON AND LONDON.

The Commission of Synod on Mr. Gordon's appeal against the Presbytery of Maitland, met in the Presbyterian Church, Wingham, May 14th. The members of the commission present were Dr. Cochran, chairman, with Dr. Battisby, Moderator of Synod, Dr. Fletcher, Dr. McMullen, Rev. Alex. Henderson ministers, and Mr. Adam Spence, elder. All the parties in the case appeared. After lengthened conference with them, and having heard explanations given by all in answer to questions put to elicit the facts, the following deliverance was adopted by the Commission and accepted by all concerned as a peaceful and final settlement of the whole case:

"In the opinion of the commission there were other ways open to the Presbytery of dealing with the case, than that of reopening it on May 9th, 1893, when it had been virtually settled at Kincardine on March 15th. At the same time the Commission sympathize with Mr. McQuarrie in seeking to have his veracity vindicated when certain reports were being circulated to the contrary."

After mutual explanations Mr. McQuarrie and Mr. Gordon having expressed confidence in each other's veracity, and both having expressed regret if they had said anything to hurt each other's feelings, and further having agreed to resume their former Christian and friendly relations, the Commission see no necessity for proceeding to hear parties or examine witnesses, and with gratitude to God for the feelings manifested, now declare the case formally closed, and recommend all concerned to follow after the things which make for peace.

As a consequence of this, Mr. Gordon is hereby restored to the fellowship of the church.

The Commission further direct that this deliverance be recorded in the minutes of the Presbytery of Maitland and also in the minutes of the Session of Wingham Presbyterian Church.

W. T. McMULLEN, Clerk of Commission.

Wingham, May 14th, 1894.

PRESBYTERY MEETINGS.

Presbytery of Orangeville met May 1st, at Orangeville, Rev. R. Hughes, Moderator, in the chair. Dr. McRobbie reported that Rev. E. A. Harrison's charge had decided to become self-sustaining. Mr. Wells resigned his appointment as commissioner to the General Assembly, and Mr. Farquharson was appointed in his place. Mr. Elliott was appointed a member of the General

Assembly's Committee on Bills. Mr. Hudson reported that he had moderated in a call at Maple Valley and Singhampton in favour of Rev. R. M. Croll, of Dresden. The call was sustained and ordered to be transmitted to the Presbytery of Chatham with the request that they issue the call as soon as convenient.

The Presbytery of Brandon met in Brandon on Tuesday, May 8th., at 5 p. m. In the absence of the Moderator, Mr. Lockhart was appointed Moderator *pro tem*. Reports of following standing committees were read, Systematic Benevolence; State of Religion, Temperance, Sabbath School. The recommendations attached to each were adopted and a copy ordered to be sent to all the congregations within the bounds. Supervising pastors were selected for the different mission fields of Presbytery. Mr. Thompson was appointed Moderator of Breadalbane Session. Mr. Polson resigned his commission to the General Assembly and Mr. Urquhart was appointed in his place. Messrs. John McLeod, Portage la Prairie; John Murray, Brandon; F. H. Chrysler, Ottawa; Hon. D. Laud, Charlottetown; D. Walker, St. John; James Forrest, Halifax, were selected to hold elders, commissions. Mr. MacLean laid his resignation of Carberry congregation before the Presbytery. The Convener of Home Mission made a verbal statement regarding the proposed work of mission fields this summer. An overture proposing a change in the Assembly's Home Mission Committee, by which the Synod of Manitoba and North-West Territories and the Synod of British Columbia may obtain a more equal representation on the committee, was adopted and ordered to be transmitted to the General Assembly. On Tuesday evening a devotional meeting, conducted by the members of Presbytery, was well attended by the congregation of the Presbyterian Church.—T. R. SHREAN, Clerk.

The Presbytery of Ottawa met in St. Paul's Church, Ottawa, on 1st May, at 2 p. m. The call from Knox Church, Ottawa, to Rev. Jas. Ballantyne, of London, was sustained. The Rev. W. T. Herdridge, B.D., Rev. Dr. Wardrope and Mr. George Hay, were appointed commissioners to represent Presbytery at the meeting of the London Presbytery. A conference on Sabbath Observance was held, when several facts were brought to light as to the violation of the Lord's Day. In several villages in Ontario where Roman Catholic influence largely predominates, stores are open for a good part of the Sabbath day. In lumber camps, men and horses deprived, often needlessly, of their day of rest. The Gatineau Valley Railway conveys parties of pleasure-seekers to hunting and fishing grounds on Saturday nights and these greatly increase the violators of the Sabbath. It was agreed that members of Parliament and candidates for Parliamentary honors be waited upon, especially at election times, to secure their pledge to support a better Sabbath law for the Dominion. Communications were read from several of the Presbyteries ancient the reception of ministers; from Halifax as to Rev. W. S. Archibald, Ph.D.; from Montreal as to Rev. Calvin E. Amaron; from Hamilton as to Rev. P. A. Tinkham; from Victoria as to Rev. Joseph Hamilton; from Brandon as to Rev. F. Lamb, and from Kingston as to Rev. C. E. Dobbs. Ancient the latter it was noted that he had applied last year through the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew and that his application was fallen from at the last General Assembly and the clerk was instructed to advise the Presbytery of Kingston and the clerk of Assembly of this fact. The report of the W. F. M. S. of the Presbytery was read by the clerk. This is a very cheering report as it notes progress all along the line. Eight new societies have been formed, six of which have arisen in Ottawa itself to replace the old union one, which already proves to be a step in the right direction as the membership has increased about 100 during the year. The amount of money sent to the General Society is \$1,049.19, besides gifts of goods sent to Indore and to the Indian Missions in the North-west. The clerk read the report of the Committee on Statistics. This was also a cheering report as in almost every column progress and increase is shown. The membership has increased by 237 and the givings for all purposes is over \$10,000 more this year than last. There is a more general contributing to the schemes of the church by the several congregations, although there are still a few congregations that are more interested in themselves than the demands of the whole work of the church necessitates. The Foreign Mission Fund is the only fund that reports decrease, but this is almost made up by the givings of the W. F. M. S., which reports an increase. The report was a very elaborate one and the committee received the thanks of the Presbytery for their diligence. On the remit ancient the appointment of Theological Professors there was a very unanimous opinion that appointments were made without a sufficient guarantee of fitness. The finding of the Presbytery was that this Presbytery regards the mode of appointment as a matter of secondary importance, provided that suitable measures be taken to secure competent men, save that in any case the Assembly retains the power of veto. The Presbytery is also of opinion that some way should be devised whereby professors can be tested as to their ability to teach, guide and inspire students before they receive permanent appointment.—JAS. H. BEATT, Clerk.

Though the special meeting of Presbytery of Toronto followed so hard on the Synod, there were thirty-six ministers and a fair number of elders present to discuss the overtures to be presented by the Presbytery to the General Assembly. The first considered was the overture on the administration of the Augmentation Fund, which has already occupied the attention of Presbytery for two months. The final deliverance was to adopt the report of a committee into whose hands the overture had been given. It was reported that the reduction proposed by the overture would much more than meet the actual deficit, and that it was very undesirable to reduce the grants at present. It was recommended, however,

that if reduction were necessary it should be in the ratio of \$2 in the city for \$1 in the country, so as to realize in some measure the present discrimination. The clerk was instructed not to transmit to the Clerk of General Assembly, but to the Assembly's Committee on Augmentation.

The overture in respect to the calling and settlement of ministers, presented by Mr. Macdonnell, is as follows: Whereas the present method of calling and settling ministers in vacant charges is often injurious to the welfare of the congregations and detrimental to the estimation in which the office of the ministry is held and; whereas it is much to be desired that vacancies should not be long continued and that ministers should not be without employment and; whereas it is demanded by the spirit of the Presbyterian system that the Presbytery should have some share in guiding congregations in the choice of ministers: it is humbly overtured to the Venerable the General Assembly to take such steps as may be thought best in order to secure that Presbyteries shall exercise their rightful power in caring for vacant charges and in endeavoring to secure speedy and suitable settlements. This it was agreed to transmit, having adopted it unanimously, and Revs. D. J. Macdonnell and R. P. Mackay were appointed to support it at the Assembly. The next overture considered was one of the Confession of Faith, of which the following is the text: "Whereas it is very desirable that the Confession of Faith should be the actual expression of the living faith of the church; whereas it is important that the Confession when used as a test of admission to office in the church should deal only with matters that are vital, and should not include matters on which the opinion of Christian men are and may rightfully be divided; whereas the Westminster Confession of Faith includes many statements on matters that are non-essential; whereas it is much to be desired that there should be one creed for office-bearers and for private members of the church; whereas there is at present no document subordinate to the Scriptures which can be appealed to, as containing an authoritative statement of the faith of private members of the Presbyterian Church in Canada; whereas there is a growing desire in many branches of the Church of Christ for greater unity, which can hardly be hoped for unless by a simplification of the distinctive creeds of the several churches; whereas the Presbyterian Church in Canada has indicated its desire to come into closer relations with some other branches of the church; whereas the inviting of ministers of other churches to occupy pulpits in the Presbyterian Church without any restriction being placed upon their teachings has become so common that it no longer occasions remark: it is humbly overtured to the Venerable the General Assembly that such action be taken in the premises as the Assembly may deem wise for the shortening and simplifying of the Westminster Confession of Faith, or substitution of a shorter and simpler creed, for the said Westminster Confession of Faith, so far as its use as a test of admission to office in the church is concerned." This caused much discussion and a motion to transmit *simpliciter* was lost by a vote of 9 to 14. The motion to adopt and transmit was lost by a vote of 8 to 15. The third overture considered was one on the employment of students in the Home Mission field, of which the following is the text: whereas a number of students in their literary course are appointed every summer to our Home Mission field by the General Assembly's Home Mission Committee; whereas several students in their theological course who have applied to the Home Mission Committee for work in the mission field have not received appointments; whereas the opinion prevails that students in their theological course are better qualified by reason of their advanced training to undertake the work of our mission field; whereas it is well known that some mission stations secure their supply by private arrangement with students or Presbyteries: therefore we humbly overture the Venerable the General Assembly to instruct the Home Mission Committee to give appointments in the Home Mission field, first, to students in their theological course, then to students in their literary course according to their years in attendance on classes; and further we would ask the General Assembly to enjoin all Home Mission stations to procure their supply through the Home Mission Committee. This was adopted and ordered to be transmitted to the General Assembly.—R. C. TIBB, Clerk.

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