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## THE 19TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

IN Brantford, on the evening of the 14th June, the 19th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada was opened, amid heat, hospitality and flowers.

Dr. Cavan, the retiring Moderator, preached the opening sermon from 2 Tim., iii, 16: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable." Both from the man and the text, it is easy, even for those who did not hear it, to judge the tone of the sermon. The Principal gives no uncertain sound on the great questions of Bible truth. He knows what he believes and is able to tell it in language that needs no interpreter. Both these qualifications are desirable in a public teacher. If they were always found there would be less fog.

Rev. Dr. Sedgwick, of Nova Scotia, was then, with great unanimity and heartiness, elected Moderator for the current year, and, on taking the chair and thanking the Assembly for this token of their confidence, spoke, in a few strong tender fitting words, of the year's changes, of the brethren whom God had called home, of the work for those who remain, and of his abiding presence amid all time and change. Then followed the usual routine of the first evening in preparation for the coming days and the Assembly adjourned.

## THURSDAY, 15TH JUNE.

This morning, as is customary and fitting, the first hour was spent in worship, seeking God's guidance and blessing.

One subject, or group of subjects, brought before the Assembly was the receiving of new members and the retiring of aged ones. Eight ministers have applied to be received from other churches, Congregational, Reformed Episcopal, and Presbyterian, in our own country, Britain, and the United States. Besides these there are workers added from another source, from which we should ever seek a larger number, viz., our own colleges, and so there were applications from Presbyteries for leave to license students. But there was also in the fact of ten applications

for leave to retire and be placed upon the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, a solemn reminder that the laborers are passing away and a call to work while the day lasts. Committees were appointed on each of these subjects, to examine carefully each case and report to the Assembly.

One rule, which shows the care taken with regard to receiving ministers from other churches, is that not only must satisfactory certificates be furnished in the case of each one, but the applicants must appear in person before the Committee. This answers a double purpose. It guards the Church against receiving any but those who may be thought desirable, and it is a guarantee to those who are received. While thankful for all the excellent helpers that come, it goes without saying that the source upon which every church must mainly depend for its supply of ministers is from the boys of its godly families, trained like Samuel, for the Lord.

Thursday evening is always "Home Mission Night" in our Assembly.

In the East, the Maritime Provinces, the work was much the same as the previous year, there were six more laborers employed by the committee, being in all 103. The contributions reached \$10,489, and the expenditure \$11,553. Some members of the committee think that the work would be more effectually overtaken if a superintendent of missions was employed. This was referred to the Synod of the Maritime Provinces.

In the West, which reaches from Quebec to Victoria, the Home Mission work broadens and deepens as one nears the setting sun. In the Province of Quebec there are a few Home Mission fields, in Western Ontario there are more. Barrie Presbytery alone has forty groups embracing more than one hundred stations; while in the Northwest, stations increase so rapidly that only an expert can keep track of them. In the Edmonton district, where four missionaries labored last summer, this summer there are nine. In Kootenay Valley, where the first missionary entered two years ago, they are asking this summer for five men.

West of Lake Superior, where, a few years since, our work was almost nil, we have now two