

tinued in session until the close of the business at five p.m. Among matters considered was "Sabbath Observance." The following resolution was unanimously carried:—"The Synod deplore the continued prevalence of the public profanation of the Sabbath, especially on the railways of the Province, and urge on all our people to use their influence for the suppression of this great evil." The report of the Buxton building fund was read, showing that \$260.89 had been received during the year and paid to Rev. W. King. The report was received and the committee re-appointed. The congregation of Bervie was transferred from the Presbytery of Bruce to Maitland, and that of Trowbridge from the Presbytery of Stratford to Maitland.

Mr. McMullen, acting convener of the committee appointed by last Synod to wait upon the Ontario Government with a view to having the Bible used as a text-book in the Public Schools of the Province, gave in the report. After remarks from the members of the deputation appointed to wait upon the Government, and other members of the court, it was moved by Rev. Dr. Cochrane, seconded by Mr. Chrystal, and carried unanimously that the report be received and the thanks of the Synod given to the committee, and especially to Mr. M. Mullen, for their diligence in prosecuting the work committed to their hands; that the committee, with Mr. McMullen convener, be re-appointed with instructions to continue their efforts in the direction indicated by the Synod's resolution of last year. It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Synod at Seaford, and within the First Presbyterian Church, on the second Monday of April, 1884. The report was received and ordered to be transmitted to the convener of the Assembly's Committee on Sabbath Schools.

Leave was given to Presbyteries to license Mr. James Ballantyne and Mr. R. M. Craig. The standing committees for the year were appointed with Mr. D. D. McLeod as convener of the Committee on the State of Religion, Mr. Archibald McLean on Temperance, Mr. Mungo Fraser on Sabbath Schools, and Mr. George Burson on Sabbath Observance. An overture on psalmody, transmitted by the Presbytery of Chatham was read and committed to a committee to consider the whole subject and report to the next meeting of the Synod, Mr. F. B. Stewart, convener. An overture, transmitted by the Presbytery of Hamilton, to employ ordained missionaries in aid-receiving congregations—was read, and Messrs. Yeomans and Goldsmith were heard in its support. After some discussion it was agreed to transmit the overture *simpliciter* for the consideration of the next General Assembly.

An overture from the Rev. Mr. Lyle, of Hamilton, requesting the Synod to overture the General Assembly in favour of time service in the eldership, instead of their being elected for life, was read, and Mr. Laing heard in explanation of the overture, in room of Mr. Lyle, detained by sickness. The overture was received, and the following motion, moved by Mr. McMullen, and seconded by Mr. Cuthbertson, was adopted: The Synod having heard an overture by Mr. Lyle, and being informed of his necessary absence through sickness, express sympathy with him, and agree that the overture be laid on the table for fuller consideration next year, it being, however, understood that Mr. Lyle's liberty to overture the Assembly is not hereby interfered with.

The records of the various Presbyteries within the bounds were duly attested in terms of the reports given in. Mr. Thompson reported that the treasurer's books were audited and everything found correct, and a cordial vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Rutherford, of Hamilton, treasurer, for his efficient services. Votes of thanks were then given to the pastor and office-bearers of Knox Church for the use of their building, to the Christians in the city for their kind hospitality, and to the different railways for granting reduced rates of travel to the members. The Synod then joined in singing three verses of the seventy-second Psalm, and the moderator declared the Synod adjourned and pronounced the benediction.

WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The seventh annual meeting of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada (western section) was held last week in the lecture rooms of St. Andrew's Church. The ladies met at half-past ten a.m. and half-past two p.m.

There was a very large attendance, nearly 200 delegates being present, including representatives from the following places: Ashburn, Cobourg, Almonte, Hamilton, Peterboro' Fergus, King's Road, Newcastle, Lindsay, Ottawa, Newtonville, Uxbridge, North Georgetown, Port Perry, Seaford, Bowmanville, Port Hope, Agincourt, Toronto, Beaverton, Harrington, Sarnia, Oshawa, Brooklyn, Whitby, Galt, and Ypsilanti, Michigan.

The morning session was taken up with the reception of delegates, the address of welcome and reply, the President's address, an address from a returned missionary, and general conversation on the prospects and work of the Society.

At the afternoon session full reports of the work done during the past year were presented. The branches of this Society now extend throughout the Presbyterian Church in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec; that it has sixty-six auxiliary societies, eleven mission bands, and four Presbyterian societies, numbering in all about 2,000 members, including twenty-five life members. The total amount contributed during the year was over \$7,000.

The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Ewart; vice-presidents, Mrs. McLaren, Mrs. Macdonnell, Mrs. W. Reid, Mrs. McMurrich, and the presidents of all the auxiliaries and Presbyterian societies; recording secretary, Mrs. MacMurchy; home secretary, Miss Topp; foreign secretary, Mrs. Harvie; treasurer, Mrs. King; general committee, Mrs. Morrison, Ormestown; Mrs. Beattie, Port Hope; Miss Gordon, Whitby; Miss James, Hamilton; Mrs. Cooper, Chatham; Miss H. Man, Ottawa; and the following from Toronto: Mesdames Alexander, Blaikie, Bryce, M. Clark, Crombie, Ewart, Harvie, King, Kerr, Kirkland, Macdonnell, McLaughlin, H. H. McLachlin, MacMurchy, Milligan, MacLennan, Miller, Morris, McCracken, Paterson, Richardson, W. Reid, J. Y. Reid, Smith, Thom, and the Misses Topp, Haight, and Jeffrey.

PUBLIC MEETING.

In the evening a public meeting under the auspices of the Society was held in the lecture room of Knox Church. Professor McLaren occupied the chair, and on the platform were Rev. Dr. Reid, Rev. Dr. King, Professor Greig, Rev. Mr. Parsons, Rev. Dr. Castle, and Rev. Mr. Lowry. There was a large attendance of ladies, the spacious hall being crowded.

The proceedings opened with singing the hymn "Rescue the Perishing," after which Rev. Dr. King led in prayer.

The chairman said that he considered it an honour to preside at a meeting held under the auspices of their Society, and he regarded such an occasion as one of the happy incidents of his official work. During the seven years that the Society had been in existence the contributions had largely increased, and the amounts for the different years were as follows: First year, \$2,107; second year, \$2,166; third year, \$3,225; fourth year, \$3,682; fifth year, \$4,666; sixth year, \$5,629; seventh year, \$7,125. Progress had been made in another direction. Miss Rogers had been obliged to return from India to Canada on account of ill-health, but it was expected that she would be able to go out again in a short time. In the meantime another lady missionary, Miss Ross, had been sent out to India, and Miss Oliver had entered upon a course of study in medicine to qualify her for more effective mission work in the same country. The operation in which the ladies were engaged was deserving of the warm encouragement of every true Christian. Christianity was now making more progress in India and heathendom than ever before, and principally because it offered for the despairing future of unbelievers the golden hope of the cross.

The Messrs. Gordon then sang a duet, "Consider the Lilies."

Rev. Dr. Castle then addressed the meeting. He said that it was a touching spectacle to see so large a gathering assembled for the purpose of promoting the welfare of people, not their neighbours nor their kinsmen, but residing in heathen lands on the other side of the world. It was only those who took the Gospel for their guide that would undertake so benevolent a work. He congratulated the ladies on the satisfactory progress of their Society. They must ascribe their success, however, to the blessing of God, who had been pleased with their efforts. The subject of foreign missions would ever be a fascinating one so long as the Divine command "to preach the Gospel unto all the world" was not forgotten. It was fascinat-

ing on account of the grandeur of the enterprise, bringing intelligence to man, woman and child, Christian Sabbaths and Christian homes, bringing hospitals, churches, and schools, and life and liberty. It was fascinating also on account of the vastness of the field. In China alone they had only one ordained minister to every million of the population. There was fascination in the enterprise when they considered the character of the workers, their self-denying zeal and devotion to the cause of Christ. He thought that Christian parents did not do enough for mission work. They ought to consecrate their best sons and daughters for the foreign mission field.

Miss Gunther then sang, "O Rest in the Lord," from Mendelssohn's "Elijah."

Rev. Mr. Parsons delivered the closing address. He referred to the fact that while Christianity was progressing, sin was also advancing, and that fact should make them redouble their efforts in the work of evangelization. The origin of the foreign mission was referred to in the 13th chapter of Acts, when the Holy Spirit commanded the Church of Antioch to send out Saul and Baranabas to preach the Gospel in foreign lands. After pointing out how the Holy Spirit had directed Saul's wanderings, he went on to allude to the importance of foreign missionaries being supported by the sympathy and contributions of their brethren at home. The prayers and support of the Christians at home were just as necessary to secure success as the efficiency of the missionaries themselves.

The meeting closed with the doxology and the benediction.

On Wednesday afternoon the closing meeting was held. The attendance was larger than ever. The lecture room was beautifully decorated with the choicest flowers.

The meeting on Wednesday afternoon was chiefly occupied by an address from Miss Weed, Ypsilanti, Michigan, U.S., delegate of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the North-West, and an interesting, practical paper by a Toronto lady. Some general business was transacted and a portion of time spent in informal conversation on the plans and prospects of the work of the Society. A number of votes of thanks were passed. Hamilton was selected as the place of holding the next annual meeting. The proceedings were closed by singing the seventy-second Psalm.

SYNODICAL CONFERENCE.

The conference to precede the meeting of the Synod of Toronto and Kingston at Guelph, from the subjects for consideration and the speakers announced, promises to be of more than ordinary interest. The pressure of routine business, essential in its place, has a tendency to throw directly devotional and spiritual exercises into the shade. Meetings of the character projected are of great value in giving prominence to the spiritual side of Christianity, in raising the tone of piety in the churches, and in refreshing and invigorating the faith and devotion of the ministry. From the appended programme it will be seen that the topics selected and the speakers engaged, most interesting and profitable meetings may be expected:

Programme of Conference in connection with the Synod of Toronto and Kingston, Chalmers Church, Guelph, April 30th, 1883: Chairman, Rev. A. A. Drummond, Newcastle, moderator of Synod. Half-past seven, p.m.—Devotional Exercises. Collection to defray expenses. Eight p.m.—"Source and Conditions of Spiritual Power." Introduced by Rev. E. F. Torrance, M.A., Peterboro'. Nine, p.m.—"Religious Life and Intercession in the Home." Introduced by Rev. D. L. McCrae, Cobourg.

Tuesday, May 1st.—Chairman, Dr. E. McGuire, Guelph. Half-past nine, a.m.—Devotional Exercises. Ten, a.m.—"Helps and Hindrances in the Congregation to Ministerial Success." Introduced by Rev. R. N. Grant, Orillia. Eleven a.m.—"The Promotion of Life and Interest in the Prayer Meeting." Introduced by Rev. J. A. R. Dickson, Galt.

Tuesday Afternoon.—Chairman, W. Barclay McMurrich, Esq., Toronto. Half-past two, p.m.—Devotional Exercises. Collection to defray expenses. Three p.m.—"Development of a Missionary Spirit among the young." Introduced by the Rev. R. P. McKay, M.A., Scarboro'. Four p.m.—"How to Enlist Church Members in Christian Work." By Rev. Geo. M. Grant, D.D., Kingston. Half-past four p.m.—"The Spirit's Power in the Preaching and the Hearing of the Word." By Rev. H. M. Parsons, Toronto.

WALTER M. ROGER, Ashburn, Ont.
Convener of Synod's Committee on State of Religion.