

the utter extermination of the traffic in intoxicating liquor as a beverage by the power of example, public opinion, and the strong arm of the law; 3. That we rejoice at the wonderful advancement of Temperance and prohibition sentiment throughout the world, and especially in our own land, and would recommend our people by voice, vote, and example, and by all peaceful and righteous means, to work for the abolition of this great evil; 4. That we reassert our approval of the principle of the Canada Temperance Act of 1878, and recommend the adoption of said Act as the best available means for the legal suppression of the traffic, that sessions be recommended to form temperance societies in congregations, and Presbyteries be instructed to hold annual conferences on Temperance; 5. That the Assembly make thankful recognition of the good work accomplished by the women of our land, whether in their organized or individual capacity, and would express the hope that their self-denying efforts may be in the future more abundantly fruitful. The report was, on motion, received.

Rev. D. Fraser, Mount Forest, moved the adoption of the report as a whole, and instruct the Committee to be appointed to issue the circular to the sessions not later than December 1.

Rev. Mr. McKay, Summerside, P. E. I., said the most pronounced feature of the report was the hearty endorsement given to the Canada Temperance Act, and that was certainly the most burning aspect of the question before this country. That Act was passed by the Legislature in 1878. It was a remarkable fact that so few of the counties of the Dominion had adopted the Act considering the earnest and advanced temperance sentiment which everywhere seemed to be springing up. One or two facts furnished an explanation, and it was very important that those should be stated to throw light into the constituencies which were now considering the subject. First. The constitutionality of the Act was in question, and counties were cautious about changing the law. Second. Many of the counties had temperance laws already in force, which did not wish to introduce new machinery. Many counties were under the Dunkin Act, which was doing excellent work. In Nova Scotia they had the best temperance law in the country. In some counties no license had been issued for forty years, and they are in no hurry to adopt an Act to appoint vendors, as would be the case by adopting the Canada Temperance Act, although only for sale for medicinal and scientific purposes. The Dominion Parliament passed the Canada License Act, and although Ontario repudiated it, it came into operation in the East, and swept away all local laws, and threatened to place a tavern at each man's door. Counties were now making haste to adopt the Canada Temperance Act, to protect themselves from the Canada License Act. He believed that before two years had elapsed, nearly all Ontario and the Lower Provinces would be under the operation of the Act. He could introduce them to a town where no arrest for drunkenness had been made for six months—to a town where the docket of the circuit court, now in session, did not contain a criminal case, where fifteen violators of the Canada Temperance Act at one time had been placed behind bars and locks, and this had been accomplished by half a dozen young men. From his experience and knowledge of the Canada Temperance Act it was perfectly competent for half a dozen young men to carry it out, even in such a city as Toronto. Those facts showed that there was no foundation for the assertion that the Act was unworkable. After three years' trial of the Act it was re-affirmed in February last in the county where he lived by a majority of 1,874 votes.

Rev. W. D. Armstrong, Ottawa, urged that all the ministers should be recommended or instructed to call the attention of their people, when the Temperance Act is before the people, to the propriety of supporting it at the polls. He moved an amendment to that effect.

Rev. W. Meikle, Oakville, hoped the amendment would not be pressed, and spoke of the difficulties experienced in carrying out the Scott Act in Halton.

Mr. Armstrong's amendment having been withdrawn, the report as a whole was then adopted.

#### SABBATH SCHOOL WORK.

Rev. H. H. McPherson, Halifax, presented the report on Sabbath School Work. The committee are thankful to be able to say that there are some indications of increased interest in that important branch of the Church's work entrusted to their supervision. The number of schools reporting this year is in advance of last, and the returns generally will be found to be an improvement on those of previous years. The following is a summary of the reports received:—

Number of Schools reporting, 919; number of officers and teachers, 7,512; scholars on roll, 74,411; average attendance, 47,846; number in Bible classes, 15,268; number of communicants under instruction, 4,811; number of communicants received from schools in year, 1,618; Amount given to missions, \$17,024.

If the number in Bible classes be added to the number on the roll, the sum-total will be 89,679. And while this is a great improvement on the figures of last year, it still fails to give us the full strength of our Sabbath Schools. In our 800 charges there must be not less than 100,000 children of school age. The

amount given to missions, \$17,024, shows that the children of the Church are being trained to give to the Lord's cause, but if all gave as some do, that amount could very easily be doubled. Some schools gave as much as \$600 a year. Several recommendations were offered, which after discussion and alteration, were adopted.

The hour of adjournment having come, the session was closed with the benediction by the Moderator.

#### EIGHTH DAY.

##### THE COLLEGES COMMON FUND.

Wednesday, June 11.—When the court was constituted for business the question of appointing a committee to reconsider the proportions of the Common College Fund was then resumed.

Rev. D. J. Macdonnell thought there was no need for unpleasant feeling on this question. He thought that Dr. Caven made an unwarrantable use of the statement that special thanks to God three years ago when this Common Fund was established. It was the unification that thanks were given for, not the proportions, when Dr. Caven said he would rather throw the matter open, than have a re-adjustment he showed one of two things, either that he was not sure of the soundness of his position, or else that he had not confidence in the committee. He (Mr. M.) was not afraid of the whole thing being left to congregations, but he doubted the wisdom of it on other grounds. Something had been said about special contributions. He wished to state, that not a cent was received by Queen's of special contributions, so far as congregational givings are concerned. The \$8,000 referred to, is not for the theological department, but for arts. So far as he understood, it was not intended that the Common Fund was to be permanent. When endowment is completed will these proportions be continued? A day will come when these annual contributions will or may not be needed. Circumstances have changed since the Common Fund was established. The basis of adjustment was the actual needs of Montreal, Knox and Queen's, three years ago. If the needs have changed, are we to take no account of that now. I do not agree with the statement in the College Fund report to the effect that the Fund is in an unsatisfactory state when \$12,000 odd was given instead of \$19,000. I think that \$12,600 is not so unsatisfactory. It is found that Knox College is getting interest to the amount of \$5,000 and the whole expenditure was \$12,000. (Principal Caven here said that they were waiting, and waiting anxiously for a fourth professor, and they think they are within sight of it now). The speaker replied that Queen's waited a long time for a third professor, and only got one now. His whole position is that circumstances have changed. The remark was made that Queen's College lost within the last years, some \$5,000 a year which went to the theological faculty.

Mr. Mortimer Clark moved in amendment, that in the opinion of the Assembly, existing arrangements be allowed to continue for another year. Mr. David Elder, seconded the amendment.

Principal Grant said the motion does not ask one dollar more for any college. It asks that the Assembly do itself justice. We have again and again stated that with less than a certain sum we must come here with a deficit. Next year we will have no alternative but come and say that we are \$2,000 behind. The other colleges have got what we have not got during the last three years. The motion simply asks for an equitable adjustment. Is this house going to vote that down? Will it refuse to commit the matter to a Committee? The amendment asks that the House will not consider a case on its merits. No argument to support it, only an analysis. I will not consider that, for an analysis demands that we go further back and take wider ground, and that cannot be done now. If we could do it we should not do it. Then we had an alternative, that we have no common fund. Then again, the whole ground from Newfoundland to Winnipeg to be opened up. I leave the case with an independent House.

Principal Caven explained. He did not introduce the analysis, Dr. Grant did it when presenting the College Report. At all events the statement was made that Queen's College had suffered from the Union. How can this be rebutted but by an analysis. I would be the last man to disturb the union, or say or do anything that would weaken union bonds.

Rev. D. D. McLeod thought that the discussion should be conducted by men out of the colleges. There was no disposition to withhold from any college what is due, but the Church could not give what it did not get. If not another dollar is asked then it will do no harm to let the matter rest for another year. It does seem hard that after all the labour undergone by the Professors of Knox College, and before their labours are ended, to come in and disturb existing arrangements.

Principal McKnight suggested that the amendment should run in the direction of appointing a committee to report to next Assembly.

Principal Grant was quite willing to accept of the suggestion, and thought that all might agree.

Dr. Caven would not agree to it.

Mr. Charlton, M. P., said he was struck with the idea that we had rival institutions and these are somewhat bitter towards one another. It seems to him that there is room for one college and one only in Canada. If we had one like Princeton we would be far better. It would be easy to aid students by bursaries from the different parts of the country. He knew that wealthy men would rather give to one great institution than to many.

Rev. K. McLennan closed the debate. He did not suppose when he brought forward the motion that he was touching an old sore. The gentle wail of Dr. Caven showed him that he had. He explained how it was that he had moved in the matter. They were not with such difficulties at the last meeting of the trustees of Queen's College, and they all thought that they should come to the Assembly and take it into their confidence. They thought they might expect a fair hearing and a careful consideration. Until Dr. Caven spoke they did not expect to be met as they had been met. He knew somewhat of the arrangements that led to the Common Fund. Queen's College lost heavily in various directions since then. He had no doubt that if the circumstances of Queen's had been improved and those of any other impaired and a re-adjustment had been asked he would not have refused such a claim. We think our claim is a just one still. As it is not received with favour, he was willing to withdraw his motion if the seconder, Mr. Morris, consents. He would substitute for that motion, that the Assembly enjoin congregations to contribute more liberally to the Common Fund. Mr. Charlton seconded the substitute. Mr. Morris in a few words consented to the withdrawal of the motion to appoint a committee.

Principal Grant could not consent to leave the matter where it is. We want to know where we are. We cannot go away feeling that we are trampled upon. If the suggestion of Dr. McKnight is not put forward he would move it.

Mr. Charlton moved that a committee be appointed to consider the question of uniting the colleges into one. Mr. A. McL. Sinclair seconded the motion.

Mr. J. K. Smith seconded the motion to appoint a committee to consider the whole question and report to next Assembly. He did not think that there was such want of harmony, but that we are greatly in earnest.

Principal McKnight supported the motion. He did not think that the arrangement of three years was like the laws of the Medes and Persians.

The Moderator ruled Mr. Charlton's motion out of order at present.

Principal Caven did not think that the proposal to appoint a committee solved the difficulty before the Church. I long to see the day when theological education will be conducted as it ought to be, as in Britain and the United States. It is simply impossible to have four institutions properly equipped. I hope to live to see the day when we will have one efficient college. Re-adjustment will not help that. He did not object to the committee, but it does not meet the question. In the large committee on Union he brought consolidation forward twice, but it was not possible and so he did not press it then and he would not press it now.

Principal Grant deprecated the insinuation that Queen's was anyway opposed to consolidation. He was as ready as any one to consider a definite scheme.

Principal Caven explained and entered into details. In the large committee already referred to Dr. Snodgrass refused to consider consolidation if union was to be completed.

Principal Grant said he was on that committee one year earlier than Dr. Caven was and stated that a scheme of one university was mooted, of which Dr. Snodgrass was in favour.

Dr. Campbell, Renfrew, moved in amendment that Mr. Warden be continued treasurer of the Fund, that the several colleges be instructed to inform the treasurer of their needs, and the treasurer give to each as they need. The motion was not seconded.

The motion to appoint a committee to report next year was then put and carried by a large majority.

An overture from Prince Albert with respect to the establishment of a high school was read and referred to the Foreign Mission Board.

The Assembly then adjourned.

The Assembly having been constituted, Rev. J. K. Smith moved the appointment of a committee to consider the management of the common colleges fund, which was agreed to.

Hon. A. Morris presented the congratulatory resolution on Methodist Union, which was adopted. The Moderator, Dr. Reid, Mr. Morris, and Dr. Laing were named a deputation to convey the resolution to the Methodist Conference.

Rev. R. H. Warden then submitted the report of the committee nominating standing committees which, after several alterations, was adopted. The report of committee on reception of ministers was submitted by Dr. Laing, recommending that the following ministers be received: Revs. A. K. Caswell, John Fraser, Walter Reid, Hugh Rose, John McLeod, M.D., J. B. Dugan and Alexander McTavish. The Ottawa Presbytery was granted leave to license Mr. P. Vernier,