

his missionary labours will allow, the Presbytery shall have authority to ordain him.

#### THE MARRIAGE QUESTION.

The report of the Committee on the question of Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister was submitted by Prof. Gregg, stating that owing to diversity of opinion it had been found quite impossible to bring in a deliverance.

Rev. Principal Caven moved that a committee be appointed to elucidate the scriptural authority on the subject and submit an opinion to next Assembly, recommending what action the Church should take as to marriage within the prohibited relationship, and that the report be printed in time for the meeting of the next Assembly.

This was accepted as the decision of the Assembly.

#### RETURNS TO REMITS.

The report of the Committee on Returns to Remits was presented. The remit on the subject of the nomination of Standing Committees was ordered to be laid on the table, and that with regard to the appointment of the Board of Examiners was not entertained by the Assembly.

#### RETIRING MINISTERS.

The Committee on Applications for leave to Retire from the active Duties of the Ministry reported as follows: Rev. Joseph Elliott, Rev. Alex. Grant, Dr. Neill, John Morrison, Walter Thorburn, Wm. King, Wm. Stewart, Matthew Wilson, were granted leave to retire.

#### THE TEMPORALITIES FUND.

Rev. Principal Grant presented the report on the expenses of the Temporalities Fund, showing that in response to the appeal to remove the cost of litigation and legislation, about half the necessary amount of \$1,000 had been subscribed, and about one-ninth of the congregations have responded to the appeal. By the litigation those dependent upon the fund have suffered to the extent of about \$300 each, and legal opinion asserts the beneficiaries must lose the amount of arrears.

Rev. J. K. Smith moved to receive the report, thank the committee, especially the convener, and urge upon the congregations the claims of the fund, and that this motion be printed and forwarded to the ministers of the various churches. - Carried.

#### A MARK OF RESPECT.

The following, moved by Rev. John Laing, and seconded by Dr. Cochran, was submitted: "The Assembly desires to put on record their sense of the very valuable services rendered for many years by Hon. John McMurrich, late Chairman of the Finance Committee, and of the readiness and diligence with which at all times he gave attention to the important interests of the Church entrusted to his care." Carried unanimously.

An overture was read from the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew, and referred to the Finance Committee, agent the publication of certain accounts, emphasizing the necessity for detailed statements in all cases, in order that no suspicion may obtain as to the destination of any fund contributed toward the schemes of the Church, and also asserting that the cost of the printing the minutes of the Assembly was unnecessarily high.

#### LADIES' COLLEGES.

Rev. D. D. McLeod presented the report of the Ladies' College of Brantford. One hundred and twenty students had been accommodated during the year; five had presented themselves at the local examinations at the Toronto University, and four had taken honours. The Board suggested that scholarships for ministers' daughters be established, and a fund created for the purpose. Adopted.

Dr. Moore, on behalf of the Ottawa Ladies' College, reported one hundred and twenty students in attendance, of whom seventy-four were boarders. The college was in every respect prosperous, and the prospect satisfactory. Adopted.

#### SUPPLY OF LABOURERS, ETC.

The report of the Committee on the Supply of Labourers for the Church was presented by Rev. Dr. Reid, and referred to the following committee: Rev. Messrs. Bruce, R. Campbell, R. H. Warden, Dr. John Laing, C. B. Pitblado, Prof. Ross, Principal MacVicar, and Principal McKnight.

Owing to the edition of the book of forms being exhausted, and a new one having become necessary, it was remitted to a committee to prepare one in conformity with amendments made to the forms since the publication of 1878, and to report to next General Assembly.

#### FRATERNAL MESSAGE.

A congratulatory and fraternal message was presented from the Reformed Church in America, and the Moderator and Rev. Dr. Reid, Clerk of the Assembly, were appointed to draft a reply.

Votes of thanks were tendered to the citizens of London for their hospitable entertainment of the delegates, the trustees of St. Andrew's Church, the railway and steamboat companies, and the press.

The Moderator, in closing, expressed pleasure at the excellent tone of discussion, and the steady advancement of the work in the Church; the prosperity of the colleges, their prospects of endowment, and the success in foreign mission, the designation of another foreign missionary, the enlargement of the field of foreign missionary operations, the evidence of the confidence cherished by two laymen of a sister Church, the steady extension of Home Mission work, the Sabbath Observance Committee's aims, and especially the effort entered upon for the better support of our ill-supported ministers. The Moderator here expressed his grateful sense of the kindness and forbearance of members toward the chair.

The Assembly then adjourned to meet again in St. James' Square Church, Toronto, the first Wednesday in June, 1884.

The cross surmounting the entrance to the cemetery of Pere Lachaise, Paris, was removed on June 6th.

## MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

REV. J. A. TURNBULL, B.A., of Knox Church, Goderich, has received the degree of LL.B., from Toronto University.

THE honorary degree of D.D. has been conferred on the Rev. John Laing, Dundas, by Rutgers College, New Brunswick, N.J.

REV. DR. BURNS, of Halifax, administered the sacrament of the Lord's Supper in the Presbyterian Church, Clinton, on Sabbath week.

REV. DR. HAMILTON, who has been for some months conducting the services in the Davenport mission church, preached his farewell sermon last Sabbath.

REV. W. T. HERRIDGE, B.D., son of Rev. W. Herridge, of London, has accepted a call to St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa, at a salary of \$3,000 per annum. He is going to Europe on a short trip.

A newly erected school house at Broadview, Manitoba, has been opened for public worship. The Rev. Mr. Livingstone, Presbyterian, preached in the morning; Canon O'Meara in the afternoon, and Rev. Mr. Bridgman, Methodist, in the evening.

THE Oddfellows of St. John, N.B., on the 20th inst. observed the sixth anniversary of the great fire in that city by attending St. Stephen's Church, where the service was conducted by Rev. Dr. McCrae, who preached an appropriate sermon on the occasion.

THE annual report, a printed copy of which has been recently received, of the united congregations of Chalmers Church, Keady; Zion Church, Peabody; and Desboro' Presbyterian Church, under the pastoral oversight of the Rev. Hugh Currie, indicates that a gratifying measure of prosperity has been enjoyed during the past year by these congregations.

REFERRING to the introductory sermon by Mr. Goodwillie at Newmarket, the "Era" says: "The congregation was unusually large at the Presbyterian church last Sabbath morning, and Rev. Mr. Goodwillie delivered an excellent discourse on the need of God's presence, leaving a very favourable impression of his ability and earnestness. He enters upon his labours with the hearty co-operation of the church and encouraging prospects.

A NUMBER of ministers from a distance who have been attending the General Assembly at London, occupied pulpits in the Presbyterian churches in Toronto last Sabbath. Rev. Mr. Mowatt, of Fredericton, N.B., preached in the Charles Street Church, and may possibly be one of those from amongst whom the congregation will select a successor to Rev. John Hogg. Rev. Mr. Donald, of Picton, N.S., preached in the Central Presbyterian Church in the morning, and, together with Rev. Mr. Robertson, a missionary from Eromanga, delivered an address in St. James' Square Church in the evening.

THE Halifax "Presbyterian Witness" says that the Rev. W. S. Whittier intimated to the congregation of Chalmers Church, what he had previously intimated to the Session, that he intended at an early meeting of Presbytery to demit his charge. He intends in the autumn to start on a tour around the world, devoting eighteen months or two years to this object. His projected tour will embrace China, Japan, India, Australia, Egypt, the Holy Land, and Southern and Western Europe. Mr. Whittier has given timely notice of his purpose in order that the congregation may have due time to prepare for the change.

#### THE CONDITION OF THE MINISTRY.

The lack of students in our theological halls is a subject which is being discussed to some extent in some of our religious weeklies. While some of the causes have been faintly hinted at, others have not been mentioned. I am afraid most of the causes are internal, and not external. They do not exist either in lack of piety amongst our young men, or in any absolute unwillingness to study for the ministry, but in evils which do actually exist within the Church, evils which, unless they are in some way remedied, will continue to decrease the number of students for the ministry.

One of these evils is the matter of salary; and here I make no hesitation in saying the average salary of ministers is too low. A young man spends six or seven years in college preparing for the work of the ministry, and in the majority of instances is settled on a promised

salary of \$600 or \$700 per year (a part of this, in some cases, being poorly and irregularly paid by the congregation, the balance from the funds of the Church), while it is not an unfrequent thing to have to report a year's deficit, which in many instances is never made up. I was told of an instance which occurred not long ago where the congregation reported arrears of about \$100, and the Home Mission Committee refused to pay what they had promised until the congregation had paid up in full. In the meantime

#### THE MINISTER HAD NO MONEY,

nearly \$200 of his small salary was not paid, and he was forced to support his wife and family as best he could. A case happened last year in one of our western presbyteries in which, at the end of three and a half years, the arrears amounted to over \$300, a large part of which has not yet been paid, and I am doubtful if it ever will be. Another man reported at the end of three years a balance due him of more than \$200. In 1881 the arrears of salary amounted to \$5,845. Small salaries are bad enough when paid in full, but when large deficits occur yearly, I really do not see how many of our ministers live and maintain any degree of respectability. Not only are the majority of our ministers compelled to live in

#### GENTEEL POVERTY,

but in case of death their families are left penniless, and the widow forced to support herself and family by keeping a boarding-house, teaching music, taking in sewing, or however else she chooses. Comparing ministers' salaries with the pay received in nearly every other department of life, whether professional or mechanical, and taking into consideration the qualifications required to fit young men for the different positions, I must say the pulpit has no pecuniary inducements. Look over the list of students in our different colleges, and is it not a lamentable fact that a very, very small percentage are sons of our manse? One of our ministers asked a young man if he would not study for the ministry. The reply he gave was: "No, I am not going to run the gauntlet of starvation."

A writer in the CANADA PRESBYTERIAN truly says: "There is a great scarcity of ministers, and the sons of ministers are driven away from the work by the straitened circumstances and anxieties with which they have been too familiar." I do not propose that the Church should hold out large salaries to induce young men to study, but I do say our ministers should receive sufficient salary to enable them to live comfortably, and the Church should every year see that the promised salary is paid in full regularly and promptly. Put the ministry, in this respect, on the same footing with other callings;

#### ENABLE MINISTERS TO LIVE,

as their position demands, without an everyday worrying how to make ends meet. Dr. Guthrie presented this matter clearly in his address as Moderator of General Assembly in 1862. "I would not," he says, "hold out any lure to avarice, I would tempt no man to enter the Church by the hope of wealth, but I wish no man to be deterred from it by the certainty of poverty, that stands as a barrier at this moment." . . . "I want to remove that barrier." I say let our Church remove that barrier. It has the power. For the past two or three years we have had abundance of talk about supplementing and sustentation funds. It is time now to look for some practical result. The sooner some plan is adopted to give our ministers a comfortable maintenance, the better for the Church.

The words of the "Herald and Presbyter" apply to our Canadian Church as forcibly as to the Church in the United States:—"When we guarantee to every work a man trained and competent, and to every man a work at fair living rates, say \$1,000 a year at least, and this without interruption, both on the part of ministers and churches, young men of requisite talent and piety will in much larger numbers be induced to enter our ministry." It is a shame that the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the largest Protestant Church in the Dominion, does not support its ministers better.

#### BELEAGURED PULPITS.

The second evil to which I would call attention is the system by which ministers are forced to look for settlements. As stated on the floor of the American Assembly, "The sight of beleagured pulpits repels every man of ordinary sensibility, when he thinks that it is through such a crowd he is to work his way to a position for uttering truths more precious to him than