

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

(Continued from last issue)

PRESBYTERIAL OVERSIGHT OF ART STUDENTS.

An overture from the Synod of Hamilton and London was considered, asking the Assembly that no art student should be employed in mission work without the imprimatur of the Presbytery and to take oversight of such students before their entrance on theology. Dr. Cochrane and the Moderator were heard in support of the overture. Judge Stevens, in speaking to the question, spoke strongly against the employment of art students at all in the mission field. Rev. D. J. Mardonnell felt that, in view of the large number of students now unable to find employment in the summer months, the time had come when only theological students should be employed in mission work. Rev. Dr. Cochrane felt that the time had long since come when theological students should have precedence over art students in the appointments to the Home Mission fields. Finally it was resolved to send the whole down to the Home Mission Committee, East and West, for their consideration, to report to the next General Assembly.

APPOINTMENT OF EVANGELISTS.

An overture from the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa was taken up, recommending the official appointment of evangelists. Mr. G. M. Clark spoke in its behalf. A lengthy discussion took place, in which considerable diversity of opinion was expressed. The Assembly was a unit on behalf of evangelistic efforts, but many were decidedly opposed to any class apart from the regular ministry being singled out for this work. Dr. McCrae moved substantially that the Assembly's resolution of last year be re-affirmed. Mr. Selgwick moved that while re-affirming that resolution, a committee be appointed to consider in what respects the last clause of said report may best be carried out so as to meet the views of such as desire help in evangelistic work. On the vote being taken the motion of Mr. Selgwick was carried by a large majority, 111 voting for it and thirty-six for Dr. McCrae's.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

At the Friday evening Session the Foreign Mission reports, east and west, were presented by the joint Conveners, Dr. Wardrope and Rev. A. McLevin. These contained interesting and detailed reports of all the mission fields under the charge of the committee—the New Hebrides, in Trinidad, in Manitoba and the North-West among the Indians, in China and India. In the Eastern section of the committee the year commenced with a debt of \$2,206.03 against the funds. The Woman's Foreign Mission Society resolved to raise a jubilee offering of \$1,000 to liquidate that debt. They raised \$1,023.59 and congregational ladies' societies sent in \$1,004.11, which may be credited to the same purpose. The Women's Foreign Missionary Society also paid the amount required for the salaries of the lady teachers in Trinidad, viz., \$1,624. The receipts, including these amounts, were \$21,848.48. Of this sum \$973.32 was sent by Dr. Reid towards the payment of Mr. Lumsden's salary, \$1,200 by the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the West, \$1,247.27 by congregations, Sabbath schools and others in the West, and \$485 by the Free Church of Scotland, the second instalment of the price of the mission premises at Aneleinhate, leaving \$17,942.89. In the east the expenditure was: For the New Hebrides Mission, \$6,495.34; for West Indian and South American missionaries, \$11,475.52 and for specials to other places and expenses, \$1,313.14; making a total of \$19,194. This shows that the receipts exceeded the expenditure by \$2,654.58, or a sum sufficient to wipe out the debt of last year and leave a balance of \$448.45 in fund at the present time. The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society (Eastern section) and the Congregational Woman's Societies are entitled to special praise for their respective donations. Their efforts have called forth the thoughts and exertions of hundreds that would otherwise have possibly taken little interest in the cause. This educational work, carried on through auxiliaries and Presbyterian societies, is more in value than the money contributed at present, and will result, year by year, in a deepening interest, the outgrowth of intelligent observation and conviction in the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom.

The financial statement of the western section is as follows: Total receipts for the year, \$65,018.70; balance at debtor at the close of the year, \$5,552.87; total, \$70,571.57. The gross receipts of the year have been \$65,018.70, being an increase of \$15,210.97 over the amount received last year. There is, however, a balance at debtor at the end of the year of \$5,552.87, but against this there is a special fund in reserve of \$5,000. The adverse balance is greater than that of last year by \$2,647.43, but a debt due by the mission in Formosa, to the financial agents there, is now entirely removed, so that our position may be regarded as better than last year. While it would be unwise to incur any greatly increased liabilities in the meantime, it is hoped that the receipts for the year may enable the committee to continue the work in the different centres without impairing the efficiency of the service. With regard to the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, the report says: In 1876 the society was organized, and with fifty members. For some years prior to 1887 the average increase was at the rate of 800 members per year. The increase in 1887 was 2,000. The report for this year shows an increase of 4,294. The report for 1887 showed contributions to the amount of \$18,581; the report for 1888 shows contributions to the amount of \$25,657.54. Of this amount the Mission Bands have contributed \$5,273,255. The total membership is 12,854. The number of life members last year was 161; this year it is 251. The work of the society tells upon the life of the whole Church, and without its efficient aid the result, for which we have to thank God, in the way of support to the mission cause would be very different from what it is to-day.

After presentation of the reports, interesting and stirring addresses were delivered by Rev. Dr. Smith, missionary-elect to China, and Rev. J. Wilkie, returned missionary on furlough from Central India. It was then moved by Dr. Cochrane in a brief but thrilling address, seconded by Mr. James Craig, That the General Assembly adopt the report and tender thanks to the Committee East and West, and especially to the Conveners, for the zeal and diligence manifested during the past year in carrying on their most blessed but, at the same time, arduous labours. The General Assembly records its gratitude to Almighty God for the marked success that has attended the preaching and preaching of the Word among the heathen, and the increased and pressing demands that are made for the glorious Gospel of the grace of God in other regions that are still in moral darkness and under the thralldom of superstition. They recognize the noble efforts and splendid contributions of the women of our Church, East and West, in order to give to their degraded sisters the blessings of a Christianized civilization. They recognize the large measure of the liberality that has characterized the Church during the present year, including the gratifying gifts of our students, and express the fond hope that the contributions of the present year may be greatly increased in order to accept of the many missionaries that are offering for service in the heathen world. In regard to entering upon missionary work among the Chinese in British Columbia, urged upon the Church by the Presbytery of British Columbia, the Assembly remits the whole matter to the Committee of the Western section to take such action in the premises as they deem warranted by the state of the funds. Finally, the Assembly bends with submission to the will of God, who has during the year removed from our ranks Mr. and Mrs. Murray, Miss Archibald and other native workers and pray that these mysterious bereavements may but stimulate the Church to press forward in that work in which they cheerfully laid down their lives. The motion was carried unanimously, after which the Assembly adjourned.

COLLEGES.

At the Session on Saturday morning the reports of the various colleges were presented. The Rev. A. T. Love presented the report of Marjorie College, indicating progress through the year. Twenty-eight students had been in attendance, fifteen of whom were studying for the ministry. The revenue for the year was \$4,600. Mr. Love stated that the Assembly would be asked to commend to the Church the effort being made to raise an endowment of \$150,000 to found new professorships. Dr. McCrae, of St. John, moved and Mr. Dwyer seconded the reception of the report, and that the Assembly commend the college to the interest and liberality of the Church in further efforts to extend its usefulness. Marjorie College had given to the Church at little cost many able ministers, and its continuance in Quebec was an absolute necessity in that part of our land.

The Rev. Dr. Burns presented the report for Halifax College, and indicated the very prosperous condition of the institution, not only as regards attendance and efficiency, but as regards the funds. The revenue for the year was \$1,000 in excess of the expenditure. On motion of Dr. Cochrane, seconded by Principal Forest, the Assembly expressed its gratification at the prosperous state of the institution. The report was received and adopted.

Professor Scrimger presented the Montreal College report, which stated among other things that the class that graduated in April was the largest that had ever passed out of the institution, and that all but one of the graduates had received the degree of B.A. Professor Scrimger moved, seconded by Rev. A. H. Scott, as follows, which was adopted: That the Assembly receive the report, express its satisfaction at the prosperity and success of its work during the year, commending anew the further endowment of the institution to the liberality of members of the Church, and adopt the recommendation to continue the Rev. L. H. Jordan as lecturer in Church government.

Professor Ross, in the absence of Principal Grant, presented the report of Queen's College. He stated that in 1869, Queen's College had a revenue of only \$7,783 and ninety three students. In 1888 the revenue was \$32,000 and the students in attendance 420. Dr. Smith had been appointed to take charge of the Jubilee Fund of \$250,000 which had been subscribed mainly through the indomitable perseverance of Dr. Grant, whose efforts had greatly impaired his health. An additional professor was required for the Faculty of Theology. Dr. Proudfoot moved a resolution, seconded by Mr. Cumberland, which was adopted, rejoicing in the growing prosperity and efficiency of the college, and the grand success of the Endowment Fund, and expressing its gratitude to the citizens of Kingston for their great liberality, and also expressing sympathy with Principal Grant in his serious illness, by which he had been laid aside for a time from his duties. The Assembly recognized the necessity of appointing another professor at an early date.

Principal Caven submitted the report for Knox College. Fifty-two theological students had attended the classes last year, and thirteen had graduated. The receipts from all sources during the past year have amounted to \$16,659.99, while the expenditure has been \$16,207.53, leaving an apparent surplus of \$442.46, as at the 1st May, 1888. The endowment had now reached the sum of \$205,000 of which \$176,000 had been paid. He emphasized the need of a still larger endowment, which was small compared with Princeton with its \$1,300,000, and Union Seminary, New York, with its million and a half. He spoke of another professor being added as soon as possible, but in the meantime they would continue as best they could with the three professors and two lecturers. Speaking of the Common College Fund, he felt that it did not meet the desire of the Church from various reasons and might as well be abolished. Dr. Bryce moved the adoption of the report, seconded by Dr. Burns. The resolution contained an expression of gratification at the growing prosperity and improved financial condition of the college and asked the Assembly to appoint as permanent

lecturer the Rev. R. Y. Thompson, M.A., B.D. The resolution was adopted.

The Rev. Dr. Bryce presented the Manitoba College report. The college had been in a highly satisfactory state during the year. They were to-day \$3,000 better off than they were a year ago. The salary of the theological chair was provided for by the congregations in the North-West. Over 2,000 had been received from college fees. There were eight students in theology. The total number of students enrolled was 104, as compared with ninety-one last year. The number engaged in the study of theology was smaller than in the former year; on the other hand the number ready to enter the Theological classes is much larger than at any previous period in the history of the college. The admission of ladies to the privileges of the college has been attended by no untoward consequences. They have thus far shown themselves able to keep their own in their competitions with the students of the other sex. The revenue of the college was \$22,785, as compared with \$17,084 last year. The congregations of Ontario and Quebec have contributed \$5,506. Sixty-one of the 108 students in the University of Manitoba were from Manitoba College and a very large number of the honours of the University had been taken by our students. Dr. Bryce referred to the sad bereavements that had befallen Dr. King during the past and other years, but was glad to say that his health, which had been so sadly undermined, was now in a fair way for restoration. Rev. D. M. Gordon, seconded by Dr. Caven, moved the adoption of the report, and spoke of the exceedingly gratifying results now attained compared with earlier years, the debt on the building having now been completely extinguished. The salaries of Rev. Dr. Bryce and Rev. Professor Hart were increased from \$2,000 to \$2,250. Rev. Dr. Burns reminded those of his brethren who had subscribed in Winnipeg for the reduction of Manitoba College debt that it was most desirable to have these amounts paid at once. Out of the \$10,000 subscribed only \$11,000 had been paid in.

COMMON COLLEGE FUND.

The Rev. Dr. Reid, the agent of the Church, presented a statement of the amounts paid into the College Fund during the year, and the amounts paid to the several colleges. On motion of Dr. Bryce, seconded by Rev. William Burns, the report was received and it was agreed to abolish the Common College Fund in the future, leaving it to congregations to give to whatever college or colleges they see fit. A committee was appointed to send an explanatory circular to congregations in regard to this change and enforce the claims of these institutions.

DISTRIBUTION OF PROBATIONERS.

On Monday morning the report of the committee was read by the Rev. Dr. Torrance. It stated that sixty-four vacancies had been reported during the year for partial supply. Thirty-three of these had been settled and three others placed under ordained missionaries. Forty-six names of probationers had been upon the list. Of these only nineteen remain and four have withdrawn, one from ill-health, two from going to other fields and one from dissatisfaction with the scheme. The recommendations were: (1) That the committee be not required to accept applicants for service under their direction, except from Presbyteries regularly reporting in full. (2) That the committee be authorized to drop from the roll of probationers any name that has been on it for two years. These were agreed to.

STATISTICS.

Dr. Torrance presented the report of the Committee on Statistics. The statistics of the Church are first dealt with, and it is shown that there are now forty-three Presbyteries on the roll of the Assembly, one of which is in India and not reported upon save under the head of Foreign Missions. The number of pastoral charges is 783, being eight more than for the preceding year. Of these, 184 are in the Synod of the Maritime Provinces, 151 in that of Montreal and Ottawa, 210 in that of Toronto and Kingston, 197 in that of Hamilton and London, and forty-eight in that of Manitoba and the North-West Territories. The number of mission stations reported is 429, of which eighty-two are in the Presbytery of Barrie, fifty-four in Bruce, forty-six in Calgary, eleven in Rock Lake, nine in Orangeville, twenty-five in Regina, twenty in Brandon, seventeen in St. John, fifteen each in Winnipeg and Owen Sound. The number of vacant charges is reported at ninety-one as compared with ninety-four for the previous year. During the year forty-six ministers have demitted their charges, ten were translated to other charges in the same Presbytery, and twenty-four to charges in other bounds during the year. The number of students licensed was forty-three. Thirteen ministers were removed by death in the course of the year. The total number of churches and stations supplied by ministers is 1,831, being fifty-eight more than the number given in last report. In the last report to the General Assembly it was stated that there was seating accommodation provided for 1,410,975 persons. This report gives that accommodation as for 426,717, being an increase of 15,742. The number of families reported last year as being connected with congregations was 70,226, this year 78,649, an increase of 2,423. The number of single persons not connected with families of congregations has been reported as 13,261, an increase of 2,564 on last year's report. In the last report the increase in the number of communicants was stated to be nearly 9,000. Your committee give it in this report as being 9,042, or an aggregate of say 18,000 for the two years. To these numbers 605 have to be added, brought from delayed returns, and from the increases reported 2,129 require to be deducted, the decrease on their returns for 1887 compared with 1886, thus reducing the aggregate of the increase as given for each Synod from 11,171 to 9,042, as showing the net increase for the year. Those admitted to the fellowship of the Church on the personal profession of their faith numbered 12,471, as against 12,564 the previous year. In all the Synods there has been an increase,