

TUESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 22.

The Convention met this evening in the Central Presbyterian Church.

Hymn 63 was sung by the Convention, after which the Rev. Mr. McEwen led in prayer.

MR. PEAKE—Now, friends, we have a very full programme this evening, hence any words that I may have thought of saying will, as far as to-night is concerned, remain unsaid. I have a very pleasant duty to perform now, and that is the handing over of the care of this Convention to the gentleman who has been this afternoon elected to the responsible and honorable position of President of this body. I have peculiar pleasure in welcoming to this platform—I can scarcely say introducing to this audience—a gentleman who is so much better known here than I am myself; but, without further remarks on my part, I beg leave to introduce to this audience the President elect of the Convention, Mr. J. K. Macdonald.

MR. J. K. MACDONALD—*Mr. Peake, Ladies and Gentlemen,*—My election to the position of President, by the kindness of the Convention, has caused me a great deal of surprise. I feel that in conferring upon me the very honorable position of Chairman of the Convention they have offered to me, and conferred upon me, the highest compliment and the greatest honor that has ever been conferred upon me in my life. I believe that if I failed to say this I should fail to do my duty to my own feelings, and the appreciation which I have of the position to which the Convention has been good enough to elect me. I feel myself entirely unworthy of this position; and, whatever kindly feeling the members of the Convention may entertain in regard to me, I feel that it is an honor of which I am altogether undeserving; it involves duties which I shall endeavor to discharge as best I can, yet in all probability not as well as others who might have been selected for that purpose. If the deputation which waited upon me to day had allowed me to name some other gentleman, I could have done so without any difficulty whatever; still, from the way in which they presented the matter to me, I felt it to be one of those things which the Master calls upon us sometimes to do; and, although it did not conform in any way with what I liked myself—I like the quiet life, rather than such a prominent position as the one to which I have been elected—yet I felt, as they put it, it was perhaps a greater responsibility to decline the position than to accept it, and to discharge, as best I may be able, the duties appertaining to the office. I have, therefore, consented; and I must ask the members of the Convention to bear with me in what I feel may be a faulty administration of the Chair. I shall discharge the duties to the best of my ability; but, at the same time, I am only too conscious that I may fail in that discharge; and that, had some other