

addressed the meeting. His address told, in the graphic language of one who knew and had passed through them, the trials, the difficulties, the hopes and fears, the advances and delays, the encouragements and discouragements of a new missionary undertaking in one of the most hostile provinces of China. He told of how these sent out found their preconceived opinions very soon rudely shaken before the actual difficulties and work they had to do. His narrative of waiting, watching, of slow but yet of certain advance, of medical and evangelistic work, of their first converts, baptisms, of the number of applicants now, of the change which has come over the feelings of the people towards them, was most interesting, hopeful and encouraging. Dr. Smith's heart is most evidently in the work, and it is hoped that he may in good time, recover so thoroughly as to be able to take it up again.

The Rev. Fraser Campbell, returned missionary from Indore, India, was the next speaker. In the few minutes at his disposal, he pointed out the power of personal influence in the home of a godly mother, and directed attention to this as a field for woman's work. The condition of woman in India was spoken of, and the improvement in it, incidentally brought about by the Gospel. Among these he mentioned in brief, and very hurriedly, that the age of marriage had been raised in India to 12 years; the increasing number of marriages; that widows are not now so badly treated as formerly. These results, though not wholly, were yet mainly due to missionary influence. In closing Mr. Campbell dwelt upon the opportunities which have been lost, which were now being lost for want of men and means to enter into them at once, of many wide-open doors and loud calls for help which are now appealing to the Church. The cry never ceases. Would that the Church would rise up to the full measure of its opportunities and privileges, and send men in to take possession of these needy fields.

A collection was taken up which amounted to \$165. The meeting was closed with the benediction.

THIRD DAY.

The sessions resumed this morning at 9 a.m., and two meetings were being held simultaneously namely, that of the Board in the school room presided over by Mrs. MacLaren, of Toronto, for the election of office-bearers, and, in the church, a devotional meeting, presided over by Mrs. Fletcher, of Hamilton, in which Mrs. J. Fraser Campbell, who is home with her husband on furlough from India, and others took part. At the close of this meeting the general meeting of the delegates was resumed for business and hearing of practical papers on previously appointed subjects by ladies to whom the subjects had been assigned. At this meeting and at the next Mrs. MacLaren, a former president, wife of Rev. Professor MacLaren, occupied the chair, the strength of Mrs. Ewart, the president, owing to the severe strain put upon her by preparation for the meeting, and the anxiety and responsibility connected with presiding at the sessions, having given way and compelled rest.

Auxiliary Work was the subject of a paper by Mrs. Watt, of Guelph. This was a most eloquent and rousing paper upon a branch of the work on which of course the whole success of the Society very largely depends. It was regretted that, as only a limited time could be given to this and succeeding papers, even though some allowance was made, it could not be heard to the end. The same remark applies to the next paper which was presented by Mrs. Mutch, of Toronto, on the subject of Mission Band Work. This was an exceedingly good and instructive paper, and much regret was felt that want of time prevented its being given entire. It is hoped that these papers in a published form will reach all the Societies, and thus all receive the impulse and guidance they were intended and so well calculated to give. The closing paper at the session was a map exercise, by Mrs. MacMurray, of Toronto. This consisted in showing upon prepared maps, the

mission fields of the Church, the stations at which work is carried on with such other information respecting them as made the whole useful and instructive.

These papers concluded, the next matter which came up was one in which always much interest is felt, the next place of meeting, and the town of Peterborough, which has been spoken of before on more than one occasion, was fixed upon as the place in which the meeting will be held next year, and where, no doubt, the Society will meet with a most cordial reception. This session was closed like all the others with praise and prayer, the latter being offered by Mrs. W. A. MacKay, of Woodstock, for all members of the Society, that they may be more earnest and faithful, and that their numbers may be largely increased.

The next and closing Session resumed at 2.30 p.m., and was naturally one of deep interest. The names of the new officers for the ensuing year was announced, and the Executive and Nominating Committees were appointed. The admirable manner in which the different office-bearers of the Society have discharged their duties in the past, their efficiency and experience naturally marked them out for re-election and all were re-elected, except the treasurer, Mrs. MacLennan, who, after faithful service in her important department, resigned, and Mrs. McGaw was appointed in her place. Mrs. Ewart is again president with Mrs. MacLaren, Mrs. MacLennan, the former treasurer, Mrs. G. H. Robinson and Mrs. Ball, vice-presidents; Mrs. Harvie is Foreign Secretary; Mrs. Shortreed, Home Secretary; Publication Secretary, Mrs. Telfer, and of Supplies, Mrs. Jeffrey. The way these different offices have been filled in the past has won the unstinted praise of all the members of the Society, Prayer was offered up by Mrs. Towers, of Sarnia, for the Board of Management, and all officers of the Society, that they may be divinely sustained and directed.

The next important item on the programme for this Session was the disposal of the funds. By a vote of the Society \$25,535.92, in addition to \$14,662.08 already paid over, was to be passed to Rev. Dr. Reid to make up \$40,198.00 the full estimated expenses of the year's work. It was also carried that, as in some former years past, \$1,200 be given through Rev. Dr. Reid in aid of the work of the Foreign Mission Society of the Eastern Division of the church, half to be applied to women's work for women in Trinidad, and half for the same object in the New Hebrides. Further, it was agreed to pay over \$15,000 to the Foreign Mission Committee to meet salaries and other expenses in connection with W.F.M.S. as they become due. The dedicatory prayer of this money and of its disposal was offered by Mrs. Johnston, of Paisley.

The returned missionaries, Miss Jamieson, of Neemuch, India, Miss McIntosh, of Honan, China, and Miss Baker, of Prince Albert, followed with addresses. They all dwelt upon the value of such meetings as those which were then closing, the stimulus and impulse they imparted, the pleasure it would give them could they but convey to their sisters in heathen lands some idea of the interest felt in them, and what was being done for them by women in Canada. The strange manners, customs and sights they saw in their distant fields, their varied experiences, the crushing weight of the sight and practices of idolatry always before and around them, the interest and joy they felt in their work, the gradual awakening of interest in those among whom they laboured, the change for the better whose beginning and progress they could note and follow, the great and pressing need of the religion of Jesus Christ to lighten and brighten the lives of their sisters by the knowledge of the way of salvation, the testimony they bore to the Christian character and devotion of their fellow workers, who had laid down their lives for Christ in their distant fields, and their appeal and plea for constant prayer were presented with force and moving power, and gave great interest to the closing hours of the closing Session.

Mrs. Ross, of Lindsay, made the last address. In a few clear and logical sentences and with a calmness and self-composure which added weight to her words, she dwelt upon the thought that here for a time they had all been hearing, receiving, taking in, how could they put that to the best use by giving it out when they returned to their homes and separate spheres of work; how could they best and most effectually impart to others the great stimulus which they had themselves received. Prayer by Mrs. W. B. McMurich, of Toronto, and the singing of the fourth doxology, closed what was by all felt to be a most successful and delightful annual meeting—taking it all in all, possibly the best of the series, growing year by year and making what there can be no doubt will be one of the brightest pages in the history of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

THE SYNOD OF HAMILTON AND LONDON.

FIRST DAY.

The Synod of Hamilton and London was opened in Knox church, Woodstock, on the evening of Monday, the 15th inst., Rev. Dr. Battisby, moderator, in the chair. A large number of delegates were present besides many members of the congregation. After devotional exercises the moderator delivered the usual discourse which marks the opening of the Synod.

At the conclusion of the sermon the roll was called by the Clerk. After expressing thanks for the honor conferred upon him Rev. Dr. Battisby declared the meeting open for the nomination of a successor, when the Rev. J. L. Murray, M.A., of Kincardine, was unanimously elected to the moderator's chair for the ensuing term. In a few brief words Mr. Murray expressed thanks for the honor conferred upon him and immediately took the chair.

A motion of thanks to the retiring moderator for his services during the past year and also for the excellent sermon delivered was unanimously carried.

SECOND DAY.

The Buxton mission commission next reported. The committee asked that the amount, \$3,000, which has been in abeyance since the death of Dr. King be paid over to the aged minister's fund. A committee was formed to wind up the affairs of the mission in accordance with a decision made at a former Synod. Drs. McMullen and Fletcher were appointed a committee to draft a suitable motion regarding the death of the late Dr. King.

The report of the Brantford Ladies' College was presented. The college is in a flourishing condition and doing good work among the young people of the Church. Many graduates had won high honors in other fields of learning. An appeal was made to the Church members to send their daughters to this college as there was no more desirable place to put them than under the care of the efficient matron.

The Munroe case was next taken up, with the result that Mr. Munroe gave notice that he would appeal from the decision of the Synod to the General Assembly. Rev. Messrs. Henderson and Tally were appointed to support the decision of Synod before the General Assembly.

MANITOBA SCHOOL QUESTION.

Dr. Hamilton gave notice of the following motion:

This Synod views with deep concern the present opposition between the legislation of the Dominion government and the legislature of Manitoba, regarding the Educational Act of 1890, and hereby expresses its sympathy with the position taken by the representatives in the Manitoba legislature against any interference by the central government with the educational matters of the Province.

In speaking to the motion Dr. Hamilton said that there had been an encroachment upon the liberties of the people. If it were successful we would be ruled by Quebec, which practically meant the Roman church. On account of the agitation of past years no Bibles were now used in the schools. The speaker proceeded to give the history of the controversy. The important thing for the Synod to do was to express sympathy with the Legislature of Manitoba. If the resolution of the Dominion were passed, trouble would surely ensue: what the end of it would be, no one knew. They had a great evil to fight and it was necessary to do it manfully. He moved the resolution.

Rev. J. L. Turnbull seconded the resolution. Dr. Laing expressed himself in thorough accord with the principles of the motion, but the form of it was not entirely satisfactory to him. This matter required a great deal of consideration; so a resolution that they would look back to in the future should be framed. In 1846 the impossibility of establishing an educational system which contained no Christian teachings, into which the Presbyterians could enter heartily, was demonstrated. It was the desire in mixed communities to have a system that would in no way offend the conscientious scruples of the school supporters. We can have a system that Roman Catholics cannot honestly object to. The separate school cry was raised in 1860, and separate schools were thrust upon us by Quebec. Now that they have our hands tied, they wish to tie Manitoba's, the North-West's and ultimately British Columbia's hands. The motion, however, should be stripped of its political significance.

Dr. Mackay approved of the aim of the resolution, but also thought that the form might be changed slightly. What do they intend to give Manitoba? Separate schools, certainly, but what kind? Not Ontario's separate schools, but a system that is not a system, an educator that does not educate. By that system that was in vogue before 1890 the priests were paid large sums of money, for which no accounts were ever given. This money was not used to educate the children for proper citizenship. It was not a separate school system but a system that was a disgrace to civilization. Draw the resolution up carefully so it will be a proper expression of our opinion. (Applause.)

Dr. McMullen was in sympathy with the line of thought of Dr. Laing. He did not wish to mix politics with religion and hoped the Synod would avoid that also. He protested against the Roman Catholic church having done for her what no other church had. This was a good matter for judicious consideration and he hoped that the deliberance would be worthy of the Synod.

Dr. Lyle, of Hamilton, took a different stand from that of the previous speakers. The Catholics, he said, had rights and should get them. He claimed nothing himself that he was not ready to give them. However, he saw the impossibility of an educational system with which the Catholics would agree. If they were left to make one of their own they would quarrel with it in a short time. The State was not able to teach religion to the children.

It was moved by Rev. E. Cockburn, and seconded by Rev. W. J. Day, that the resolution be remitted to a committee to prepare a deliverance.

Dr. Robertson made an excellent speech on the all important question and his thorough knowledge of the west gave additional interest and importance to what he said. He asked for the moral support of a large and influential Synod in this matter. Out west there were people of every nationality. The only way to unite them into one people was by one school system, having every child taught the English language and growing up together. The speaker merely intimated that the matter be left to Manitoba to deal with. It was a matter for the province and involved provincial rights. The western people did not want others to legislate for them. They would resent such action and it was difficult to guess what the end of the trouble would be. The west asked to be allowed to quietly and calmly settle the matter itself, but any outside pressure brought to bear would be resented.

The following committee was appointed to draw up a motion: Dr. Hamilton, convener; Dr. Laing, Dr. McMullen, Dr. Lyle, Messrs. Rutherford, D. H. Hunter and D. Turnbull.

Dr. Hamilton reported on behalf of the committee. He read the following resolution:—

Your committee, having considered the matter, report as follows: The religious element in education we deem to be of vital importance. We hold strongly that a non-Christian and purely secular system is unsafe for the State, and cannot produce or foster the spirit of good citizenship.

The truths and moral duties taught by Christ held in common by all, are amply sufficient to supply what we desiderate in a public system of education and teaching the distinctive tenets of any one branch of the Christian Church should not be undertaken by the State.

On these grounds we are opposed to the granting of public moneys for the support of denominational schools.

The system of education established in Manitoba being, according to our understanding, Christian, but not sectarian or denominational, and admirably adapted to her mixed and sparse population, has the approval of this Synod.

Therefore we deprecate any outside interference with the view of forcing on Manitoba a system of separate schools.

The resolution was finally adopted as read.

THE INDIA MISSION FIELD.

Mr. Fraser Campbell addressed the delegates concerning the missionary work in Central India. Seven ministers from Canada were working among the people, one doctor not a minister, and 14 unmarried ladies, besides the missionaries' wives. The work which has resulted most largely in conversions is the evangelistic in the Central stations, the surrounding villages, and, during the cold season, the more distant places. Statistics unexplained did not correctly make known the facts. There are included among the communicants, helpers and their families who have come from other missions. Some of the converts of this mission have gone elsewhere, and some profess faith in Christ and change of heart who have never been baptised. Further, there are persons who confess various degrees of conviction of the truth of Christianity and whose lives are affected thereby. Time did not permit speaking of the greatness of the need, the opportunities lost for want of men to open new stations, men offering to go and no money to send them, while multitudes are passing away without the knowledge of Christ, which is necessary for eternal life. Mr. Fraser Campbell concluded his most interesting address with an eloquent plea for assistance from his hearers.

IN THE NORTH-WEST.

Dr. Robertson, superintendent of missions in the North-west, next addressed the meeting. A deficit of \$10,000 was probable this year. The work had to be extended. Ten thousand dollars a year were promised from the Old Country for a forward movement, so the work had to go on. Icelanders, Germans and other nationalities sent petitions for missionaries to the Synod at Winnipeg last year. Granting as many of their requests as possible led to the extension of the work, which accounted for the increased expenditure last year. No falling off had taken place in the work on

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