

that I doubt it extremely. I see congregations nowadays where everything almost is musical, everything is chanted; and a vast number of the people who attend never look at their Prayer Books at all. They take no part in the services and do not pay much attention; and many of them, I am sorry to say, go more to listen to the musical performance than to worship Almighty God in spirit and in truth." Depend upon it, there is a great deal too much of that kind of thing, but I earnestly hope we shall all learn a lesson from the history of the Jewish Church, and not flatter ourselves by thinking how we are getting on, what a number of bright services we have, what splendid singing, and what magnificent organ playing. They are not the things we must think of. We must ask ourselves: Where is the Holy Ghost, where is the faith, where is the hope, where is the walking with God? These are the fruits of the Spirit, and by these alone God judges the churches and congregations of the present day, and of every other day.

## FOREIGN.

During last year, 2,104 persons, mostly Roman Catholics, joined the Evangelical Church in Germany being 200 more than in the previous year.

**PROTESTANT UNION IN ITALY.**—Meetings have been held in Florence, under the name of the *Assemblea Promotrice*, consisting of delegates from the various evangelical churches, to bring about a Protestant union in that country. The discussion on the principal subject, "Is Union Desired?" was opened by Signor Gavazzi, who said that it was not only desired, but desirable and necessary. He spoke for Rome. All the delegates then said:—"Let us unite." Geymonat said that the time was come when the taunt of their divisions must be flung off. The *Assemblea* came to the unanimous resolution, on the motion of Signor Prochet—"That union is desired by the Churches." *Il Fiaccola* says that "the impression left by this *Assemblea* has been most excellent. The hearts of all were filled with the hope of better days." At the closing session such was the emotion that the feelings of the brethren choked their utterance. Old Gavazzi broke down, and could not speak; and at the moment of separation, amidst the profoundest silence and the deepest emotion, the President said, at the close of a speech which he could scarcely articulate, "that their greatest hopes were more than realised, and that this meeting, with its statutes, would form an epoch in the evangelisation of Italy. It was the first step, but one that would count. He felt as if a great blessing was to fall on all their churches. They would respect one another and love one another more. They would labour more, having this one object before their eyes—the advancement of the kingdom of God in Italy."

## Home News.

## DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

## DEPUTATION TO THE METHODIST CONFERENCE.

The Honorary Secretaries of the Synod, having sent a letter to the Rev. President of the Toronto Conference that the Synod had appointed a Deputation to convey to the Conference the fraternal greeting of the Synod, received a reply as follows:—

"I am instructed to inform you that the communication from the Synod in reference to a deputation has been received.

"The Conference will be most happy to receive the deputation at 11 o'clock on Saturday morning. A committee, of which Rev. Dr. Rose is convener, has been appointed to meet the deputation and introduce it to the Conference in the Elm St. Church.

"Signed by order of the Conference,

"THOMAS GRIFFITH, Secretary."

Accordingly the deputation waited on the Conference at the appointed time. It was introduced to Rev. Dr. Sutherland, the President, and received by the Conference standing. The members of the deputation present were, Venerable Archdeacon Boddy, Rev. John Langtry, Rev. Septimus Jones, Rev. J. D. Cayley, Rev. John Pearson, Hon. Senator Allan, Dr. J. George Hodgins, and Dr. Richard Snelling.

## ARCHDEACON BODDY'S ADDRESS.

Ven. Archdeacon Boddy said:—Mr. President, reverend brethren, and brethren—Some days ago we had the honour to bear fraternal greetings from the Church of England Synod of the Diocese of Toronto to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in

Canada. To-day we have the honour of bearing similar greetings to the first United Conference of the great Methodist Church, and this is an honour which we very highly appreciate. (Applause.) I say we very highly appreciate this honour for we cannot forget that the bond between us and you is in some respects stronger than that between us and the Presbyterian Church. (Applause.) John Wesley having originally been a clergyman of the Church of England, for which he retained to the last I believe a warm affection—(hear, hear)—was so impressed with the beauty of our liturgy that he compiled and published a prayer-book for the special use of the people called Methodists. (Applause.) As we think of this we cannot but anticipate the time when the breach between our Churches, the English Church and the Methodist Church, shall be thoroughly healed—(applause)—and that God will bring this about in his own good time is one of the things for which we devoutly pray. Meanwhile, if we cannot work together, at least we can regard each other with mutual respect and esteem. (Applause.) Nay, more than this, we can love each other, as brethren in the Lord, as those whose faith and hope are essentially the same, and aim at least to make this the only question between us: "Who shall walk most closely in the footsteps and aid most to promote the honour of our common Redeemer." (Renewed applause.) That in many respects you set us a noble example, we freely acknowledge: if we prefer our own system as a whole we are deeply sensible that in many particulars we might learn from you with advantage. May we be stirred up by your zeal, your liberality, and not least by your brotherly forbearance one towards another, as evidenced by your coming together on this occasion, and may the union now happily consummated between the various sections of your Church be overruled for your own spiritual good, and for your more extensive usefulness in the Church of Christ. (Applause.) Mr. President, the resolution under which we act is couched in the following terms. (The resolution appeared in our last issue.)

I wish to say also, Mr. President, that we are charged with a special message to this conference asking you to appoint a committee to confer with a committee of our synod and also with a committee of the Presbyterian Church on the subject of religious instruction in the Public schools. I will not dwell upon that point, but will leave it in the hands of the Hon. George William Allan, who will explain further the views of our synod in regard to it. (Loud Applause.)

## SENATOR ALLAN'S REMARKS.

Hon. G. W. Allan said: Mr. President,—In the unavoidable absence of the Hon. Edward Blake, chancellor of the diocese, the duty has devolved upon me of presenting to you and this conference the resolution which has been already alluded to by the Venerable Archdeacon Boddy on the all-important question of religious education in the Public schools. Mr. President, you and the members of the conference are doubtless aware that a similar resolution to this has already been conveyed to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, and was most cordially responded to by them in a resolution appointing a committee to co-operate with a committee of the Synod of the Diocese of Toronto and the committees of any other Christian bodies disposed to act towards the same end. Remembering, sir, how important and prominent a part the members of your body took in the conference which was held on this same subject some short time ago, I venture to hope that upon this occasion we shall have your hearty co-operation. I think I shall not greatly err, sir, if I venture to assert that nothing would be more grievous to the heart of that most distinguished member of your body, the late venerable Dr. Ryerson—(applause)—whose name will be forever associated with our Public school system, than the thought that the reading of the Bible should ever be discontinued in our Public schools, or that religious instructions of all kinds should be decreased or greatly eliminated from our Public school system. I believe, sir, that if we are all happily of the same opinion, holding the same views that that great man held, that our representations shall have their due weight with the Government upon this subject. What we desire, sir, as members of the Church of England is this, that the Bible, God's holy word should be carefully and reverently read as part of the daily exercises in the Public schools throughout the country. And we desire, sir, to go further still, if possible, and to secure that suitable provision should be made, and suitable opportunities afforded,

## FOR GIVING RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

by those ministers of the various denominations who are willing to give it to the children of the Public schools during school hours. We desire, sir,—and I

am sure I shall find a hearty response by this assembly—we desire as a Christian people that our school system should be a Christian system—(applause)—that it should not be upon Sunday alone that our children should hear God's holy word read, or be reminded of what they owe to that Saviour who redeemed them, and reminded of Him who made them, and of that Holy Spirit who alone can guide and direct them safely through the battle of life. I trust, sir, that we shall live to see such changes made as shall ensure that not only on Sundays but during the week our children in the Public schools shall have a certain amount of religious instruction imparted to them there. I trust, sir, that we shall not slacken our efforts, nor rest until this is accomplished, so that what we all as Canadians feel a pride in—our Public school system—shall in all particulars, and above all in this important particular, commend itself to the cordial and hearty approval of all Christian people. (Applause.) Mr. President, I may be permitted to say just one word as a layman of the Church of England in this province, and I think that I may safely say that I represent the feelings of those who are, like myself, lay delegates to the synod, when I say how greatly I esteem and honor the privilege of being present with this deputation here to-day. Sir, I yield to no one in my attachment in my own Church, and my preference for it—but I do believe that that is no reason why I should not have the strongest feelings of love and sympathy for those who are serving, as I am trying to serve, the same Lord and Master. (Applause.) Moreover, sir, I, as a Canadian, feel that that which will conduce most to the prosperity of our country is a united people, and do not know anything that will unite us more closely than that feeling of Christian brotherhood and love which I feel is the commencement of a new era amongst us, and which I trust will grow stronger and stronger. (Applause.)

The President said he was sure the conference would be delighted to hear from Dr. Hodgins the Deputy Minister of Education.

## DR. HODGINS' REMARKS.

Dr. Hodgins, who was received with applause, said he felt it a special honor to be asked to address a few words to the conference. He could not tell them how delighted he felt at the circumstances which called them together; it was one of those events he had looked forward to for many years. (Cheers.) He had been delighted to hear his brethren, both clerical and lay, in the synod express over and over again many kind words towards the Methodists of this country. He knew that they had been endeavouring from time to time to get practical lessons in the administration of the Church from that distinguished body. Therefore it was with peculiar pleasure that they had, as it were, given a more decided expression of goodwill toward them in being present that morning. As the mover of the resolution in the synod which brought them here together this morning, he felt more than compensated at the happy result and for the satisfactory manner in which they had been enabled to appear before them. He was sorry the deputation lacked in numbers, although it did not lack in goodwill. He had received letters from Hon. Edward Blake, Rev. Canon Dumoulin and Rev. Canon O'Meara, expressing in the strongest manner the regret they felt at not being able to be with them, and he had to convey to the conference through the president the expressions of their kindly feeling and goodwill. There was one circumstance connected with this expression of fraternal goodwill which greatly delighted him. It was that it evinced great harmony and goodwill amongst themselves. He was not one of those who felt that the discussions they had had in the past were an unmixed evil. The cause of the great Master Himself had been promoted, for both sections of the church had the same object in view. It seemed, too, that He had guided the efforts being put forth for the advancement of His kingdom and had overruled all that was objectionable. After all, he thought that they would agree with him that those among us who had passed the three score years did not attach so much importance to these matters as to the great and important one of meeting the Master himself—to do their duty here and receive the reward hereafter. They began to see the land that was very far off, and hoped soon to see the King in His beauty. (Applause.) That gathering was a sort of foretaste of it, as there they could exchange personally their love and affection one to another as followers of the same Master. He would not detain them longer, but simply express his most heartfelt thanks for that auspicious gathering this morning. (Loud cheers.)

## THE CONFERENCE'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

Rev. Dr. Sutherland called upon Rev. Hugh Johnston to move a resolution,

Rev. Hugh Johnston, having pointed by the conveyance of the genuine appreciation of his Lordship with the active country, to a closer union to assure him blessing to re and upon the The confer of the synod instruction in the appointment committees ather so impor a copy of this and Synod of honorary cler

Mr. Johnston words uttered stirred their h of Christian fe who love the truth. (Applably chosen w "a most hope harbinge of Christ's flock long and so received a dep Assembly of th tion then pres province in co able old nation with all that w history and t When a day o much that they fitting to bear in the Church-common inher lish religious li able Roman a hand upon all mation. As f back to that C mon home, for said, their fou Church of En names of Hoo and their souls sang the words joined in the a her sublime litu authorized ver Saxon Bible, a

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through their penetrated thei them, from the The Church t stood like a sta towers, and do veneration that warks, and stro when the oldest faith and charit tion and sayin thing it is for th to dwell togeth ministers and o Church answe Peace be with thry palaces! brethren and prosperity. (Lc ed on the platt very great and v felt the importan for the educati of religious trutl fore they would Churches, and l the minds, the h eration, that so Jesus Christ. ( moving the resc

MR.

Hon. Justice