

Church and Manse Fund had lent \$30,000. Wherever churches were erected, congregations increased and contributions have increased. We are exceedingly obliged to people in the East and the people of Ontario for their aid. Services are frequently conducted in a dug-out. Considerable work has been done in the erection of manses. The mission work has been very little interfered with by the rebellion. Settlers will now probably locate near each other. Several ministers have rendered excellent service to the Volunteers. Five ministers were with the troops. Our own Church has done more in this respect than all the others put together. The work in the West is growing upon us and we feel its importance. I wish some of the brethren could go with me and see the effects of mission work and the fruit of it.

Rev. Allan Bell, of Portage la Prairie, said that we in the North-West ought to be thankful for the able men who have been sent out to do the work there. He then referred to the burning of his church, when he first went there he had an audience of twelve, now the attendance was about 500. The church costing \$12,000 had been destroyed by fire last January. He described the present condition of the district in which he laboured and spoke hopefully of its future prospects.

Dr. R. F. Burns said that he thought of thirty-four years ago, when John Black and Mr. Nesbitt went forth. They come up before us to-night. We ought to place on record some recognition of our brethren who had gone to the front. In the East we felt glad that we had a Gordon and Pitblado out in the West. He moved a resolution expressive of gratitude to God for the good work done, and in the recognition of the services of the ministers and missionaries in the North-West.

Rev. Principal King seconded the motion of Dr. Burns. He said it was extremely seasonable. It is not possible for any one to estimate properly the magnitude and importance of the work in the North-West. He was exceedingly glad to be able to testify to the self-denial amid difficulties and privations endured by men who would never think of complaining. Our Church in the North-West is on its trial. There are very few places in which the work is more difficult than in these districts. The work of our members, there amid privations and hardships is fitted to try Christian men. If the piety of the Church can rise to the proper self-sacrifice, then it would receive blessing.

The Assembly soon after adjourned.

#### FRIDAY MORNING.

The Assembly having been constituted with devotional exercises by the Moderator, the unfinished business relating to Home Missions was first disposed of. It was moved by the Rev. R. Laing, of Halifax, seconded by Mr. J. G. Forbes, of St. John, N.B.: That a committee, consisting of the members of the Augmentation Committee, West and East, be a committee to draft a scheme for the unification of the funds to be submitted to the Assembly.

It was also moved by the Rev. R. H. Warden, seconded by Dr. Forbes: That the General Assembly desires to place on record its gratification at the satisfactory progress made during the past year in connection with the Home Mission and Augmentation work; commends these schemes anew to the sympathy and liberality of the congregations of the Church, directing special attention to the resolution of Assembly separating the two funds in the Western Section. Also that the thanks of the Assembly are due to the Scottish and Irish churches for their generous aid.

Another motion was handed in by the Rev. Dr. R. F. Burns, as follows: That the General Assembly rejoices in the good news of the progress of our Church in the North-West, especially in the success of the church building enterprises. The Assembly would gratefully recognize the signal services rendered by our beloved brethren in connection with the rebellion as well as the self-denying labours of all our ministers and the missionaries who, amid many difficulties, have made full proof of their ministry and secured for our church so firm a foothold in that great and growing field.

Dr. Reid was satisfied that in his opinion the separation of the Home Mission and Augmentation Funds was undesirable. Many country congregations express a decided preference for their separation. Had they been united last year the state of the Funds would now have been more satisfactory. They were too nearly related to be separated. It was in the interest of both Funds that they should be united. He did not wish to press the matter and would be willing to accept the decision of the Assembly.

Rev. R. H. Warden stated that the members of the Committee entertained no decided feeling either way. Dr. Cochrane held the same opinion as expressed by Dr. Reid. He thought that they could more easily raise \$70,000 than \$50,000 if the two Funds were united.

Dr. MacVicar thought the opinion expressed by Dr. Reid so wise that it should be proposed as a motion.

Principal King could readily understand Dr. Reid's position. It was a period of transition, and there would be difficulties, but if the Principal was right difficulties would disappear. This Assembly can hardly

retrace its steps without very full discussion. Dr. Cochrane's opinion is entitled to much consideration, but he could not understand how it could be substantiated that \$70,000 could be more easily raised if the Funds were united rather than \$50,000 if separated. There would be difficulty of obtaining individual subscriptions if the Funds were united. He would ask the Assembly to hasten slowly.

Rev. Robert Laing, Halifax, thought that the separation was not complete enough. Where it was complete it had wrought well. It would strangle unification at its inception.

Rev. Messrs. Wilson, Beckett, J. Robertson, Warden, D. Stiles Fraser took part in the discussion.

The motion proposed by Dr. Burns was then agreed to.

#### COLLEGE REPORTS.

Mr. W. Mortimer Clark moved that the recommendations contained in Knox College report to the effect that the Common Fund be discontinued and that congregations contribute directly to the colleges they preferred and that the question of college federation be remitted for consideration to the Committee on Colleges.

Dr. Laing submitted the report of Knox College Board of Examiners. After a few remarks he said that it was desirable to keep before the Church the importance of scholarships. They ought to be vigorously sustained. He had just received two promises of aid in this direction.

Dr. Caven called attention to the recommendation that a proportionate increase be made in the salary of the lecturer on Homiletics. He thought they should ask that the College Committee be authorized to report on this matter.

Rev. S. Atchison thought that not only the salary but the time set for the lectures should be increased. The time at present is utterly inadequate. The lectures should extend over the whole session. This was the general feeling of the students. He therefore moved that this matter be referred to the Committee.

Dr. Bryce seconded Mr. Atchison's motion. He thought that such a step ought to be taken.

Rev. F. McCuaig admitted the great importance of a more extended course of Homiletics, but it was a question of money. They ought to have the means before they proceeded to establish such a chair.

Dr. Caven intimated that his desire was in the direction of extending the course in Homiletics, but he doubted whether we were in a position to take such a step just now. The College Board ought first to consider the matter.

Mr. Atchison then withdrew his motion, and Principal Caven's motion was agreed to.

Rev. G. Matthews D.D., reported on behalf of Morrill College, Quebec. There were twenty-three students in attendance, the largest number yet reported. In Arts they had twenty-one. Six were in the graduating class, all of whom had taken the degree of B.A. Ten had expressed their intention of studying for the ministry; five were employed in mission work. Like all the other colleges they had a slight deficit. Sometimes it was asked, what is the use of Morrill College? He thought the Church could not do without it. Many of its graduates entered the teaching profession, thus raising the character of the higher education. Quebec is different from Ontario. For the former Province it was very difficult to get supply. To obtain this supply the college is a necessity. It deserves the sympathy and support of the Church. The report was adopted.

Rev. Principal King then presented the report of Manitoba College, from which it appears that about sixty students had been in attendance. Eight were in the theological department. There were thirty in training for the Manitoba University examinations. Several years the institution was doing the work of high schools and collegiate institutes. Now they had a larger number of students proper than ever before, and better work had been done than in any former year. Considering the present condition of affairs in the Province these are matters for thankfulness. Among the twenty-five successful competitors for scholarships in Manitoba University, eleven had received their whole training in Manitoba College. The financial situation is vastly more hopeful than it was two years ago. Its finances are \$19,000 better than at that period. Revenue and expenditure had been equalized. The collections for Manitoba College do not go to the support of the Principal and Professors of theology, but for the Professors who conduct the Arts classes. One-third of the congregations have made no contribution last year. In the College they had students from the Maritime Provinces, and we have to minister to settlers from the East. The religious bond is the strongest in keeping the people together. He had a considerable disappointment because a number of congregations in the West had made no contributions. Had it not been for the generosity of many he would have felt it his duty to tender his resignation. Three cents per member in the churches east of Lakes Superior and Huron is all that is needed. He felt deeply grateful for the encouragements he had received. The College of Manitoba is all but essential to the prosperity of the Presbyterian Church in Manitoba and the North-West. They had two students, Messrs.

Fraser and Winchester, who had not graduated in arts. One of them took Mr. Pitblado's pulpit during his absence with the troops, the other was doing excellent missionary work. He thought their case should be referred to the Committee on Students. The Board should be enlarged. They seek to be empowered to have twenty-five instead of fifteen members and the power of conferring degrees.

Dr. Caven, in moving the reception of the report, said that he thought that the educational and financial results were all that the Assembly could expect. Manitoba College will be a growing and prosperous institution. It was a necessity to the Church, and he trusted that it would receive the support it required.

Rev. D. J. Macdonnell seconded the motion. He thought that thanks should be tendered to the Irish and Scottish Churches, for their generous aid. In support of the motion he said that had it not been for Manitoba College the condition of the Church would not have been in the prosperous condition it is at present. He thought the Assembly had done a wise thing in appointing Dr. King to the office he now holds. A startling thing was that one Presbyterian contributed last year only five dollars. The Church is of opinion that this is a very important institution. Our College has every year taken the foremost place in University examinations. People talk about the enormous expense of our College. There is nothing of the sort.

Dr. Burns said we had virtually pledged ourselves to support Dr. King pecuniarily as well as morally. Don't lighten the word "regret." I hope that when Manitoba College collection comes round we must remember it.

Hon. Alex. Morris felt the responsibility which had been incurred in the appointment of Dr. King. He was a volunteer in the highest sense when called to go to take hold of that important work. One of the greatest bonds for the cohesion of our confederation is strengthened by the work of the various churches. He was glad that in the Indian uprising those who had come under the influence of Christian training have cast their influence on the side of order and good government.

The Assembly then adjourned.

#### FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

It was agreed to appoint a small committee to draw up a deliverance ament public events, specially with reference to the troubles in the North-West.

Papers were received respecting the creation of new Presbyteries, one to comprise parts of the Toronto Presbytery, that of Saugeen and others, the centre of the new Presbytery to be in Orangeville; also an application to form the Presbytery of Regina out of that of Brandon; also for one in British Columbia. It was agreed to refer these applications to a committee for consideration. The Moderator announced the appointment of several committees.

The Committee on Retired Ministers reported in favour of giving leave to retire as follows: W. T. Canning, of Oxford; J. W. Smith, of Grafton; Mr. Fenton, of the Hamilton Presbytery; W. R. Sutherland, of the London Presbytery; W. Blain, of the Presbytery of Bruce; Charles Campbell, of Toronto Presbytery; Mr. Peattie, of same Presbytery; and Mr. A. Munro, of Valleyfield. It was recommended not to grant the application of Mr. Matheson, of the Presbytery of Quebec. After consideration of Mr. Park's case, of Saugeen, it was agreed to grant the application. In the case of the Rev. E. E. Ross, of Truro, there being some difficulties, it was agreed to refer the matter to the Synod of the Maritime Provinces with power to dispose of the matter.

The complaint of Dr. Fleming, of Brandon, against a decision of the Synod of Manitoba was then taken up. Papers were read. Dr. Fleming not being present, the matter was passed by in the meantime.

Overtures respecting a summer session were then taken up. The papers were then read. 1. One for the Presbytery of Barrie, 2. One for the Presbytery of Guelph, 3. One from the Presbyteries of Brockville and Ottawa, transmitted by the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa; 4. One from the Synod of Hamilton and London, sent by the Presbytery of Paris; 5. Also one from the Presbytery of Brandon, asking that the Synod of Manitoba may have power to prescribe a certain course of study to missionaries for that destitute field; 6. Also one from the Presbytery of Owen Sound, respecting supply of outlying fields. This asked that two sessions in the year, instead of one, be held, and that the same work be done in each session. The Synod of Toronto and Kingston transmitted the overture.

Dr. Cochrane was first heard on behalf of the overtures. He began by referring to the loss sustained by stations being left without any supply during the whole winter. What is to be done does not apply to University students; it is theological students alone that are taken into account. On the other hand, professors need the summer for rest and study. If we would demand of every student who finishes his course that he spend at least one year in the mission field before settlement, the whole thing would be gained. As it is, most of our graduates are as soon as they leave college, and even before, engaged by a congregation, and engaged otherwise.