

SYNOD TORONTO AND KINGSTON.

This synod met in Knox Church, Toronto, on Tuesday evening, 8th inst., when the moderator, Rev. Mr. Childerhose, of Parry Sound, preached from the texts, "Every man shall bear his own burden," and "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." In an impressive discourse he pointed out the two principles of individual responsibility and the brotherhood of man, showing that the best way to bear one's own burdens is to bear those of others. He applied this to political and national life, showing that Britain became Great Britain by bearing the burdens of her colonies. The converse is also true, he said, and the best way to bear the burdens of others is for each to bear his own burden. This synod, he said, had heavy burdens to bear, but they were good for its own development. The preacher made a special application of the operation of these inter-related principles to the mission work of the Church, both foreign and home, in the latter of which lines of activity he has been prominent.

For the office of moderator Rev. J. R. Bell of Laurel, Orangeville Presbytery, and Rev. R. J. M. Glasford of Guelph were nominated. Mr. Glasford received a majority of the votes cast, and his election was then made unanimous. He warmly thanked the court for the honor done him. A vote of thanks to the retiring moderator was moved by Rev. Principal MacLaren, seconded by Dr. Dickson, Galt, for the able manner in which he had discharged the duties of his office and for the excellent missionary character of the sermon of the evening.

Applications from the Presbyteries of Kingston and Lindsay for permission to take students for license were read by the clerk, Rev. R. C. Tibb, and granted.

The report of the Finance Committee and the Synod Treasurer, presented by Mr. A. T. Crombie, treasurer, showed receipts totalling \$1,635.71 and expenditures of \$819.54, leaving a balance of \$186.17. A balance of \$875.99 was carried over from last year, but there are outstanding accounts amounting to \$635 or \$640. The treasurer and auditors were thanked and reappointed.

The report of the committee on augmentation was highly satisfactory. Owing to a general improvement in church contributions the desired minimum of \$800 for the annual stipend, and a manse, has been reached throughout the presbytery.

Appeal for Queen's.

Principal Gordon, of Queen's, and the Rev. I. M. Duncan and Principal MacLaren of Knox, addressed the synod on the "Colleges of the Church." Principal Gordon strongly urged the claims of Queen's on the support of the church, making at the same time suggestions that Queen's might be recommended to the government for financial consideration. He did not see why Trinity should be more privileged, because it happened to be in Toronto, and connected with the university, as its character was identical.

The needs of Knox were presented by Rev. J. M. Duncan; \$30,000 for repairs and a site for the Gaven library were urgently required. The college authorities, however favored a new site near Toronto University, which would cost \$200,000. A large part of this would, of course, be met by the sale of the present one.

Home mission matters were reported by Rev. J. A. Dow. Several new fields have been opened up, and special preparations have been made by the church to meet the influx of people in the Cobalt district.

Church Life and Work.

The report on Church life and work was presented by Rev. W. Farquharson, of Guelph. The report was very interesting, as disclosing various views from various churches on life and work. "Everyone boasts of honesty and truthfulness, but you dare not make a bargain with your eyes shut," was one expression of the difference between profession and practice. "We are 'meeting' to death," was how one unfortunate who has had an overdose of

young people's societies and mothers' meetings puts it. Among the suggestions as to how to enable the home to fulfil its proper mission for church and country "Early marriage" figured.

On the motion of Dr. MacTavish, the recommendations in the report were amended so as to read "That family religion be made the subject of discourse at public worship on the first Sunday in October." Dr. MacTavish made an impressive speech on the advisability of setting apart special days for special objects.

At the evening session, Mr. J. K. MacDonald, convener of the General Assembly's committee on the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, presented a report on the state of the fund. He stated that an active canvass was being conducted to increase the endowment for the fund from \$235,000 to \$250,000. A number of individual subscriptions of \$1,000 each had been received in Montreal, and Lord Strachan had promised a subscription of \$5,000. There were now, he said, 123 ministers receiving annuities from the fund.

Sabbath Schools.

The report on Sabbath schools was presented by Rev. Alex. Macgillivray. Twelve Presbyteries reported a total of 291 schools. The number of teachers and officers showed an increase of 73 over the preceding year, and the average attendance increased by 717. Collections for all purposes amounted to \$41,709, an increase of \$13,993. It was pointed out that during the past five years the total Sabbath school enrollment for Ontario had decreased by 4,000. The committee recommended that greater attention be given to memorizing the Scriptures and the shorter catechism.

Rev. Thos. H. Rogers, moving the adoption of the report, described the rather alarming stagnation in Sabbath school work in Toronto Presbytery, as ascertained by his investigations and comparisons with three other denominations.

Rev. J. C. Robertson, general secretary of Sabbath schools, in a short address, spoke of the enrollment and the efficiency of the schools. In the Dominion the enrollment in Presbyterian Sabbath schools was practically the same in 1905 as in 1901. It was stationary in the synod of the Maritime provinces, and in that of Montreal and Ottawa. Toronto and Kingston Synod had lost 2,000 in the five years, so had Hamilton and London. The Synods of Manitoba and Saskatchewan and of British Columbia and Alberta had each gained 2,000. The fact that in the whole Dominion the only place that had lost ground was the Province of Ontario, which had lost 4,000, was something he could not explain or understand.

Young People's Societies.

The committee's report on young people's societies showed marked success. There are 208 societies, with a membership of 7,783, as against 6,871, in 189 societies last year. The men numbered 3,318 and women 4,565. The contributions for all purposes totaled 14,549, nearly \$5,000 increase. The recommendations adopted in connection with the report were: "That the committee have authority in the very best way to interest the many hundreds of Presbyterian young men and women attending universities and other higher institutions of learning in Kingston and Toronto; that Presbyteries ask societies within their bounds to adopt some systematic method of raising money for missions, supplementing the arrangements of sessions in this matter." The total amount contributed last year to foreign missions was \$33,332.13, an increase of over \$6,000. Many presbyteries, however, had decreased greatly in their givings.

Standing Committees.

The committee on standing committees for the year, of which Rev. J. R. Bell of Laurel was convener, submitted the following names: Church life and work, Revs. Wm. Farquharson, J. A. Turnbull and Elders Dr. Robt. Wallace and A. Jackson; home missions, Revs. J. A. Dow, G. L. Johnson, J. L. Mann, H. S. Gra-

ham, W. A. Bremner and Elders Jas. Park and Wm. Ratcliffe; augmentation, Revs. J. H. Edmonson, R. U. Ross, Jas. Wallace, J. H. Conn, Dr. W. G. Wallace and Elders Geo. Keith and Alex. Steele; foreign missions, Revs. Dr. Fudge, A. Candler, A. B. Winchester, Peter McNabb, Dr. J. Abraham and Elders John Henderson and A. Martin, M.F.; evangelistic services, Revs. A. Ester, J. A. Murray, Dr. MacTavish, Dr. Neil John Lattie, W. Beattie and Elders to be added at the judgment of committee; Sabbath schools, Revs. Alexander Macgillivray, W. Cooper, J. A. Wilson, J. McD. Duncan and Elders Thos. Yellowies and W. McIlrae. Young people's societies, Revs. J. G. Potter, H. Macdonald, D. O. McArthur, G. M. Young and Elders Jas. Torrance and Thos. Ayrin; examination of records, Revs. H. Gray, A. Sheppard, M. McKinnon, A. Fowle, Lieut. Col. McKee, J. A. Patterson and H. Cassels; aged and infirm ministers fund, Revs. G. Munn, H. Crozier, A. H. Drumm, W. R. McIntosh and J. G. Potter together with the conveners of presbytery committee.

The Synod adjourned to meet in St. James Square Church on 14th May, 1907.

THE CHEERFUL SPIRIT.

"The presence of the cheerful spirit acts like a beam of sunshine to the social circle. It warms and brightens, it softens and subdues. The quality is a happy one in every condition of life. One sunny glance casts a gloom over the household, while a smile, like a gleam of sunshine, may light up the darkest and weariest hours."

Undoubtedly it is easy for some persons to be cheerful. They are born with a sunny spirit, with a happy faculty of tripping lightly over trouble, and always looking on the bright side. Such a person is a continual joy, the light of home, and the "bright particular star" of the social circle, loved and sought after by all.

Just as surely others come into the world prematurely saddened with a birthright of gloom and foreboding. Discontent and distrust handicap them in the race with the downcast and sullen soul, to know or care what cold blast has nipped the buds of joy. So the bright life becomes more and more withered, fading early into the ere and yellow leaf of an unhappy existence.

In Toronto, a couple of weeks ago, Rev. R. E. Knowles, of Galt, lectured on Presbyterianism in Canada. His treatment of it dealt with the problems presented to the Church—not alone the Presbyterian, but the Protestant Church in general—its difficulties and its needs. Among the great difficulties, not only the Presbyterian Church, but the whole Protestant Church, has to contend with, he mentioned the great extent of the field to be covered, the sparse settlement, the division into sects, the large number of languages and the materialism of the age. The speaker made a strong plea for union of the Presbyterians with the Methodists and Congregationalists, declaring that disunion produces many evils. Of materialism he said it is effete and an anachronism philosophically; since the days of Kant no man has an excuse for being a materialist. The social, political and moral condition of much of the incoming tide of new settlers was also mentioned as presenting a grave problem. Mormonism, with its protest against the sanctity of the home and its proselytizing spirit, the loose conception of social questions, such as the drink traffic, by foreigners, who might soon hold the balance of power by their votes, the religious externalism of the Greek and the Roman Churches, were serious dangers politically. The need was emphasized of having the power of the Holy Spirit, and of men with the resources of the Spirit at their back. Four great dynamics requisite, Mr. Knowles said, were God Himself in the preaching as a God of love for the out-cast, sinful world, a Christ, brought very near to us, the Holy Spirit in us, and intelligent men and women in the pew.

The heart that is lifted heavenward bears the life up with it.