

termination of the ensuing Assembly. The Commission also instruct the College Committee to make provision for the teaching of those classes during the ensuing session."

After this had been duly seconded, Mr. Ross Taylor, of Glasgow, moved as follows:—

"The Commission having heard the report of the committee appointed by the previous meeting of the Commission to examine the articles by Professor Robertson Smith which had appeared in the recently published volume of the 'Encyclopaedia Britannica,' finds that the report advances charges against those writings which *prima facie* are of a serious nature and demand careful and detailed consideration, finds that Professor Smith is blameworthy for putting forth unguarded statements fitted to alarm and disturb the peace of the Church, and especially for having written them at the time when he was under libel for similar statements advanced in his article 'Bible,' and inasmuch as the Commission is not in position to form and pronounce a deliberate judgment upon the various questions of a critical nature raised in the report, resolves to express no opinion upon them, but to transmit the report with the accompanying reasons of dissent, to the Presbytery of Aberdeen and to call their attention, as it hereby does to the articles with which the report deals, with the view to their using all diligence in carefully examining them. Further, the Commission being zealous as to the character of the theological teaching imparted in the colleges of the Church, deems it advisable to express to Professor Smith its expectation that in his teaching during the ensuing session, he will faithfully attend to the admonition addressed to him by last General Assembly, and accepted by him to the effect that Professors 'are not set for the propagation of their own opinions, but for the maintenance of the doctrines and truth committed to the Church.'"

A third motion failed to secure a seconder, and consequently fell to the ground.

On a vote being taken, 270 voted for Dr. Wilson's motion, and 202 for that of Mr. Taylor, and the Commission decided accordingly.

Professor Lindsay then read the following dissent:—

"We hereby dissent from the finding of the Commission, for these and other reasons:—1st, Because a report of this kind, got up at the instance of the Commission, is a matter not remitted to it, consisting of a preamble which is virtually a major premise with four minors, their cited proofs, and a conclusion applicable to writings as distinct from the author, is a new thing in our Free Church, a new mode of procedure, a departure from our ancient and constitutional practice, and may lead to other and more serious innovations, an interference with our Presbyterian Church Courts, an infringement of the rights and privileges of our office-bearers, and prejudicial to the interests of truth and righteousness. 2nd, Because it is incompetent for the Commission to revise the decision of last General Assembly authorizing Professor Smith to resume the duties of his chair."

The committee then rose, after a sitting of seven hours. Apart altogether from the merits of the case, it seems a rather short and summary, not to say arbitrary, course which has been adopted and one more likely to complicate than to settle the difficulty.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

CHRIST'S SECOND COMING NOT PREMILLENNIAL. By Wm Warwick. (Toronto: Jas. Bain & Son.)—As will be seen from the advertisement in another column, this pamphlet is intended to shew that the second coming of Christ will neither be at, nor during, the millenium, but, according to prophecy, at the last judgment of the great day. Mr. Warwick shews throughout a very extensive and thorough acquaintance with the subject he discusses. He is moderate in his language, fair in his arguments, and very earnest, yet very courteous, in upholding the ordinary views on the subject, against the various phases of Premillenarianism. We commend his pamphlet to the perusal of those who have difficulties, or wish to gain information on the subject.

CAMPAIGN NOTES.

HAVE you commenced to canvass for your club yet? If not, do so without any further delay. Two days' work now is worth more than two weeks after the first of January.

We do not know of an easier method to secure a combination dinner and breakfast set than by getting up a club of forty-five names, at \$1.50 each, for THE PRESBYTERIAN. This set consists of eighty pieces; each piece is neatly painted. This club can readily be got up in almost any country congregation.

The reduction of the price of THE PRESBYTERIAN to \$1.50 for clubs of twenty, will help our agents very much. Already we hear of larger clubs from congregations from which we had goodly list last year; and of active efforts to form clubs in localities where nothing was ever done before. Press the canvass without delay. Balance of year free to new subscribers.

MANITOBA AND THE NORTH-WEST.

MR. PITREAU'S VISIT.

MR. EDITOR,—I forward for publication, Mr. Pitre's account of his recent visit to Manitoba and Prince Albert. An additional communication for the Committee has also been received, which will be laid before them in due time. WM. COCHRANE.

Braintree, Nov. 11th, 1880.

MY LEAR DR. COCHRANE,—I have arrived home safely and find your note, with report of late meeting of Home Mission Committee awaiting me. I am sorry that I was not able to be at the meeting of the Committee, and talk over matters in a familiar way with the fathers and brethren. I could say a good deal which it would be tedious to you to read. I will, therefore, try to summarize the verbal report which I made to the Home Mission Committee of the Presbytery of Manitoba, and which you can use as you see fit.

After I received and considered the request of the Home Mission Committee I started for the North-West and placed myself at the disposal of the Presbytery of Manitoba. Rev. R. H. Warden joined me at Winnipeg, where we spent several days looking at the city and surrounding missions from a purely ecclesiastical standpoint. As he has already reported the results of our combined mission I need say little about them. I may, however, say that great and rapid progress in Little Britain, Headingly, and missions immediately adjacent to Winnipeg need not be expected. The class of people there is not so pushing, and enterprising as the pioneers who are going farther west. The city of Winnipeg itself is largely Presbyterian, and must in the future wield a powerful ecclesiastical influence on the North-West, and that must largely be done through the College. After having made all the inquiry into the matter that I could, and also seeing the College classes, I feel that the importance of sustaining that institution in a state of thorough efficiency can not be emphasized too strongly.

I may state that the plan which I adopted under the direction of the Home Mission Committee of the Presbytery was, (1) to see as much as I could of the new pioneer settlement; (2) to see the unsettled country and Prince Albert mission. (3) to see the old settlements where the difficulties and hardships of pioneer life had been largely overcome. On the route which I took these three objects have been attained as well as it was possible with the time at my disposal. In indicating the way I travelled I feel that it is quite unnecessary for me to describe the localities, as their position and characteristics are well known to you. The track I followed was this: from Winnipeg to Emerson, past Pembina, through the Mennonite village, skirting the districts of Nelsonville, Archibald and Rock Lake, west to Turtle Mountain. On this part of the journey I was accompanied by Prof. Bryce. Prof. Hart came with us about half the distance. The tide of immigration has moved forward on this course at the rate of about one hundred miles last year. Turtle Mountain is at present the western edge of colonization, but the district around is likely to be quickly taken up, and the people are clamouring for a missionary. One should be sent to them, if possible, next summer. At this point I preached twice, and visited a number of the families. I then went across the valley of the Souris River to Milford, where it empties into the Assiniboine. Here I met Rev. Mr. Roddick, with whom I proceeded through Brandon, up the Grand Valley, and across the country to Rapid City, on the Little Saskatchewan River, where Mr. Roddick left me. From this place I went up the river to Minnedosa, then west by Mosquito Hill, Shual Lake, and Birtle, to Fort Ellice. Here we left colonization behind us. On this route I had made a circuit of more than four hundred miles among new settlers. A great many of them had been only a few months in the country, and the majority of them were not more than fifteen months in it. We saw the people, and conversed with them on their immigrant waggons, in their tents, their mud huts, and log cabins. They were hopeful, glad to welcome missionaries, but in their struggles for physical existence they had little time or money to spare for religious purposes. Such congregations must, for two or three years at least, be purely mission fields. After, say three years, it might be well to deal with them as supplemented charges, always taking care that the sums expected from the people were represented by real guarantees of some kind, and not by mere guesses, or the assessments of outsiders.

From Fort Ellice I went by way of Cut Arm Creek, Touchwood Hills, Duck Lake, etc., through a prairie country of nearly four hundred miles, to Prince Albert mission.

Here I found considerable irritation among the people, caused by the disappointments in connection with the appointment of Rev. Mr. Ross to the field. The people with whom I conversed all bore testimony to the faithfulness and ability with which Rev. Mr. Duncan had discharged his duties, but they seemed to think that the work was too much for him. Indeed, while I was there he was suffering from indisposition, largely caused by over-work. Both he and the people will no doubt be glad to receive the missionary which the Committee has appointed, and, in my humble judgment, the appointment of Rev. Mr. Duncan, to Edmonton, is a most appropriate one. The school at the mission, under the charge of Miss Baker, is doing very efficient work. Through it a large number of children who speak the Cree language are receiving a good education.

Prince Albert, as you are aware, is the seat of an Episcopal bishopric. The bishop is a most active, zealous man, who seems to have the faculty of collecting money, and who is spending it quite freely in putting up a fine building, which is to answer the double purpose of a residence for himself and College for students that are to come from some place. He will make Episcopalianism a rival of Presbyterianism, but I have no doubt that by honest, earnest, missionary work we will more than hold our own under the very shadow of the bishop's palace. The growth of the settlement will not likely realize the expectation of some sanguine prophets, but it will no doubt always be a place of some importance.

In reference to the property belonging to the Foreign Mission Board I think that the sooner some arrangement is made by which the congregation can get land for a glebe and building lot the better for our cause. All the property that is there owned by the Board will not be too much to be usefully employed in the aid of Home Missions. And here I may say that though delegated by the Committee of Presbytery of Manitoba to arrange about the property, the matter was all settled without any reference to me, and, if I am rightly informed, not exactly in the way I would have advised. However, what I am anxious about is that in any arrangements which are made the interests of the congregation will be fully conserved.

On my way back I came from Minnedosa by way of Beautiful Plains, Palestine, Gladstone, Westbourne, Portage la Prairie, Poplar Point, Meadow Lea, and Headingly, to Winnipeg. These are somewhat old settlements, and some of them should be self-sustaining congregations at once. All of them should be dealt with as supplemented charges. But I feel that I am writing too much, and must be brief.

The points at which I preached and visited were, Kildonan, Winnipeg, Turtle Mountain, Mosquito Hill, Cameron's, Prince Albert mission, Portage la Prairie and Burnside.

Things that impressed me were these: For the most part our missionaries are hard-working and conscientious labourers. The great bulk of the immigrants coming into the country are Presbyterians. As soon as possible the Presbytery should deal with congregations on the principle of supplementing them. It is to be regretted that some misunderstandings about salary should have arisen with missionaries. The sooner the matter is fairly adjusted the better for our work. In my humble opinion the new settlements might be treated as mission stations; the older ones should be supplemented charges.

On the whole I am glad to see our Church is doing its work so well in the great North-West. There we are first in the pioneer work, and I trust we will not resile, but go forward. To neglect this growing country is to miss our great opportunity.

C. B. PITREAU.

Halifax, Nov. 2nd, 1880.

A CLUB of forty names, at \$1.50 each, entitles the agent to a lined and well-trimmed buffalo robe, worth \$12. If you don't want such an article yourself, make a present of it to your minister.

THE Presbyterians of Riversdale are rejoicing in their occupancy of a new church. Rev. J. L. Murray, Kincardine, officiated at its dedication, on the 24th ult. The congregations were large, the services interesting, and the financial results satisfactory.