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ECHOES FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

Only echoes. The report of guns great or small, echoes and re-echoes from hill and forest, growing fainter as it goes farther, and the report of guns greater and smaller at our Assembly found its first echo in the daily papers which in Toronto gave very full accounts of the proceedings, while many of those farther away gave full telegraphic despatches. Then the weeklies took up the report, and monthlies last of all, so that by the time these lines come from the press many of our readers will have seen something of the Assembly and its work, and our report will seem to some faint and far off. But another reading will help remembrance.

A year ago in Halifax the General Assembly adjourned "to meet at Toronto and within New St. Andrew's Church there, on Wednesday the twelfth day of June, 1889," and punctual to the moment the retiring moderator, Rev. W. F. McMullen, of Woodstock, Ontario, ascended the pulpit and preached the opening sermon from Acts xx:24. "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the Gospel of the grace of God." His theme was "the Christian ministry," and the teaching of the text as bearing upon that ministry was given

as follows: (1) The authority for the ministry. The true minister receives his ministry from the Lord Jesus. (2) The special work of the ministry, to testify the gospel of the grace of God. (3) The spirit of absolute devotion which should characterize the ministry, as illustrated by Paul in the text. The division of the subject is a sermon in itself, and looking at the high ideal there set forth one may well exclaim, "Who is sufficient for these things?"

Next came the calling of the roll, and though the calling of some four hundred names takes up considerable time and might be supposed to be monotonous yet it is really not tedious. The aged clerk, Dr. Fraser, who bears so lightly his burden of four score years, makes those rows of names as interesting as does Gladstone the columns of figures of a budget speech. Then the interest of listening to the responses is two fold. First, that of curiosity to see who is present as familiar names mingle with new and strange ones. Then there is the mirth provoking variety in the answers. From one corner of the Assembly comes a deep stentorian "here" as some good brother who has strong lungs and knows how to use them answers to his name. Next, from another comes a faint and far off "here", in a thin, shrill, piping tone of voice that seems to apologize for trying to make itself heard. Then follows a square, business-like "here" from one who knows he is here and means it, while at times there is a silence that may be felt as the name of some absentee is called and he is far away. Perhaps one half the responses on the night of opening were of this stamp, the representation of elders, especially from the more distant Presbyteries, being but small. On the whole, however, the attendance was good, perhaps above the average of previous years, as Toronto is about the most central place for the