

900 have been added to our roll from that island.

In reference to the different Conferences Funds it was found that there had been collected for Foreign Missions \$12,044 against \$12,568 for last year; Home Missions \$9,327, last year \$7,169; Contingent Fund \$1,428, last year \$1,308; Superannuation Fund, \$2,150, last year \$2,548; Educational Fund \$1,370, last year \$1,325; thus showing an increase in all the funds over last year except the Foreign Missions. This is to be accounted for probably by the fact that the Home Mission has increased more than \$2,000, the largest increase for any year since it was established. The fact was brought to the notice of the Conference that some circuits which had adopted the "surplus system" were in the habit of raising all their funds by this means—the different amounts being appropriated to the various objects accordingly to the judgment of the Quarterly Board. Considerable discussion on the matter ensued taken part in principally by the representatives of the St. John circuit on the one side—and brethren S. F. Huettis, J. Lathern and Co-Delegates on the other. A resolution in favor of the practice and an amendment thereto was moved and seconded, and at the close of the session laid on the table. We may say, however, that the matter was finally settled by Conference recommending that missionary monies should not be collected by the amount raised by collection and personal subscription as heretofore.

In the evening a special session was held to receive the report of the Book Room Committee. This was a most satisfactory session. A number of resolutions were passed expressing a sense of our indebtedness to the energy and ability of the Book Steward and his coadjutors; and making provision, so far as possible, to secure continued prosperity. The substance of the work done, has been referred to elsewhere, in the notice of Committee proceedings.

SIXTH DAY—WEDNESDAY.

After the devotional exercises and the reading of the minutes of the session was taken up in the discussion of a private matter. This being disposed of, the report of the Educational Committee was read by the Secretary, Rev. Joseph Hart. This report is always looked for with great interest by the Conference, although the action of the Board on the subject is indirectly under its supervision. The statements and suggestions made this year were not of less importance than those of former years. Principal Allison had received the degree of LL.D. from Victoria College, Ontario. Numerous changes had taken place in the staff of teachers. Rev. J. Burwash, A. M. was nominated to the professorship of Natural Science. Rev. David Kennedy, to be Vice-Principal in place of J. T. Mellich, A.M., resigned. Changes were contemplated in the staff of Ladies Academy. Dr. Allison and Principal Inch were appointed a committee to fill up vacancies in the two institutions respectively. Class fees, henceforth to go into the general fund, and professors to be paid their salaries in full. A Commercial Department to be organized in connection with the Halifax Commercial College to be placed in charge of it. Endowment to amount to receive \$10,000 per year and expenses, and Dr. Pickard to be re-appointed to that position. A communication had been received from Governor of Dalhousie College for a conference to consult upon some scheme by which all existing colleges in these Provinces might be submerged into one. A reply was read, declining a conference upon such a basis, but expressing a willingness to confer with all the friends of education in reference to any scheme that could really advance our educational interests as a Province. It was carefully worded, and an admirable exposition of our views in reference to Collegiate Education.

Dr. Allison then read his report. This spoke of great prosperity. There had been 89 students in attendance 83, of which had been resident boarders. He recommended a new building or enlarged accommodation for teaching in connection with the old. The financial statement was very satisfactory. Principal Inch reported a whole number in attendance at Female Academy 90—boarders 71. Average number 74—boarders 60. A pleasing feature was the support received from other denominations—only one half of the whole number were from Methodist families. His financial statement showed a considerable profit on the year's work.

Dr. Allison being called upon made a few remarks. He thought that the reading of the reports must have made the same impression upon the mind of the Conference, as the last two or three years. He spoke upon his own mind—that so far from there being no work for the ministry and the laity to do, there was abundant cause for enlightenment and continued effort. He referred to their educational work as being a gradual development. First there was the Male Academy—then the Ladies Academy—then the College, and finally the Theological Department. He hoped to go the day when they would have a theological hall with a full teaching staff, instead of one overworked Professor—and suggested the possibility of inducing some of the members of the Commercial Department. They had been teaching men to be wise, some would teach them how to be rich. He alluded in flattering terms to the Rev. Mr. Kennedy, who takes the Vice-Principalship as a gentleman every way qualified for the position, and concluding by referring to his own sense of indebtedness and his constant need of the divine blessing.

Principal Inch did not know why he should feel so much trepidation in addressing this assembly. He saw before him none but kind faces—the names of his wife and children in the household words, and at the feet of some he had sat with sweet delight. But he did feel like the young men in the presence of Job in his prosperity, that he should hold his peace, which he was not able to make, numerically, which was being referred to the general health of the students as proving the soundness of the theory advocated in some quarters, that it was not safe for young ladies to engage in hard study. About an equal number of students had been present at each of the two Conferences about to be formed, and hence he would claim for each an equal amount of sympathy and support.

Dr. Pickard felt physically unable, as doubtless they would be glad to hear, but kind lengths they would be glad to hear in reference to the great cause in which we were all interested, that where others had sown in tears, there were found those who could continue the work and gather the harvest. That there was work hard work still to be done, and that he had given a resume of his own work in connection with the Endowment Fund. He had not been able to spend all the time he could have wished in this work. A large portion of the best part of the season was necessarily spent in a delegation to which he had been in opposition to his views appointed. After his return a very serious accident, and the feeble health consequent upon it, had interfered largely with his work. He had visited, however, some parts of P. E. Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. He had increased the hope and prospect of eternal life.

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