

The Presbyterian

A MISSIONARY AND RELIGIOUS RECORD

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

CONDUCTED BY A COMMITTEE OF THE LAY ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL.

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The Presbyterian.

THE CHURCH IN CANADA.

THE LAY ASSOCIATION.

The Quarterly Meeting of "The Lay Association, in support of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland" was held in the Lecture Room of St. Paul's Church in this city, on Tuesday evening, the 9th instant, when there were present, the Hon. Mr. McGill in the Chair and a number of the members of the Association. The following Quarterly Report of the proceedings of the Association since the annual meeting in October, was handed in, and read by the Corresponding Secretary

"The Office-bearers beg leave to submit to the members of the Association, the following Report for quarter now ended.

"Since the last General Meeting of the Association, on October 3rd, its operations have been very limited, and the attention of the Office-bearers has been directed to the three Schemes, viz. the Relief, the Publication, and the Bursary Funds.

"Under the first Scheme, the Relief, the Board have to report that a sum of £25 has been paid to the Congregation at Pakenham, which proved a very seasonable aid towards finishing the Church there; and that a sum of £10 has been paid to Mr. Macrae, Catechist at Melbourne, which was partially tendered to keep the adherents of the Church in that quarter together, until a Minister is obtained, which it is hoped may ere long be the case.

"Under the second Scheme, the Publication, the exertions of the Office-bearers have been confined to the *Presbyterian*, which has now attained a circulation of 1800, and is, it is trusted, effecting much good in different parts of the country. The expence of supporting this publication during the last year has been £27 15s 6d, the subscriptions having fallen short by that amount of the cost of printing and paper. To this must be added a grant of £15, which has this evening been voted to Mr. T. A. Gibson, as a slight acknowledgment for his services in assisting to conduct and superintend the publication of that

journal. Good grounds, however, exist for believing, that during the present year the *Presbyterian* will support itself, which assuredly will be the case, if Ministers and Laymen unite in procuring subscribers, and see that the subscriptions are promptly remitted.

"Under the third or *Bursary Scheme*, the Office-bearers have prepared rules for their regulation, and are now in correspondence with the Professors of Queen's College, in order fully to carry out the views of the Association.

"The state of the Finances stands thus: "There has been collected since the General Meeting, the sum of £78, and there is now at the credit of the Publication Fund, the sum of £59 10s 8, and at the credit of the Relief Fund, the sum of £3 9s 11s. This, it may be observed, is irrespective of the investments of the Funds of the Association, which were stated at length in the Treasurer's Annual Report. In conclusion, the Office-bearers would earnestly recommend to the Association, the adoption of measures to secure, if possible, the co-operation of the members of our Church throughout the Province in promoting the objects of the Association, by means of the formation of Corresponding Boards in the different parts of the country. The whole respectfully submitted."

JOHN GREENSHIELDS, Cor. Sec.

Mr. ADAM BROWN then moved, seconded by Mr. WILLIAM SPIER, and it was resolved unanimously,

That the Report which has been read, be received, adopted and printed in the *Presbyterian*.

The Rev. R. M'GILL then called the attention of the meeting, to the disinterested and spirited manner, in which the publishers of the *Presbyterian* had conducted themselves towards the Association. Several other members having expressed similar sentiments,

It was moved by Mr. H. E. MONTGOMERIE seconded by Mr. JOHN MURRAY.

That the cordial thanks of the Association be tendered to Messrs. Armour & Ramsay, for their gratuitous and valuable services, in attending to the circulation of the *Presbyterian*, and in conducting the correspondence connected therewith.

This motion having passed with the cordial approbation of all present,

Mr. ALEXANDER MORRIS submitted to the meeting the following Resolution, which was seconded by Mr. JOHN GREENSHIELDS, and adopted unanimously.

That, in the opinion of this meeting, as the operations of this Association have been hitherto much curtailed, owing to its funds being derived almost wholly from Montreal and its immediate vicinity while it comprehends in its Schemes the whole extent of the Province, the co-operation of the members of our Church in the various parts of the Province would be extremely beneficial to the Association, and would very materially increase its means of usefulness, by bringing to bear upon the furtherance of its Schemes, a concentration of the energies of the members of that portion of the Church with which we are connected.

Mr. A. DAVIDSON PARKER then introduced, by a few appropriate and pertinent observations, the following Resolution, which was seconded by Mr. DUGALD STEWART, and carried unanimously.

That the Corresponding Secretary be instructed to send a circular to the Kirk Sessions of each Congregation on the Rolls of our Church Synod, requesting their assistance and co-operation, in carrying out the objects of the Lay Association.

Thereafter Mr. JOHN FISHER enlarged at some length on the importance of the objects desired to be attained, and concluded by moving, seconded by Mr. H. E. MONTGOMERIE,

That in the opinion of the members of the Lay Association, the co-operation desired would be best attained by the establishment of Local Boards in the various Congregations of our Church, to be composed of three or five members according to circumstances, and to be styled "The Corresponding Board at _____ of the Lay Association in support of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland."

This motion was unanimously carried, after an expression, by several of the members present, of their anxious desire to see the plan now proposed, adopted by the members of our Church throughout the Province.