

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Devotional exercises, which according to the good old custom were extended before settling down to the regular work of the Assembly were the principal features of the Friday morning sederunt. In the afternoon the first question of interest and importance was the consideration of the question of Union, occasioned by the action of the Provincial Synod of the Church of England in Canada. The debate was well sustained and conducted throughout in a spirit worthy of the subject. Principal Caven introduced the discussion in a calm, condensed and compact speech. He was followed by Dr. Smith, of Galt, whose remarks were fervent, though brief. Principals MacVicar, Grant, Drs. Gregg and Thompson, in the order named, spoke briefly on the subject. Principal Caven's motion was unanimously adopted, and is as follows: The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, deeply sensible of the evils of disunion in the Church of Christ and of their contrariety to the true ideal of the Church as presented in Scripture, and especially in our Lord's intercessory prayer, has heard with lively gratification of the action respecting Christian Union adopted by the Provincial Synod of the Church of England in Canada, at its meeting at Montreal in September last; and the General Assembly hereby appoints a committee to confer with any similar committees, which have been appointed or may be appointed by other branches of the Church of Christ in Canada, and to report to the next meeting of the General Assembly. The General Assembly accompanies this action with the prayer that the Spirit of Wisdom shall so direct any endeavours to secure the greater manifested unity of the Church of Christ, that truth and charity shall be equally promoted thereby, and the glory of the Church's Head advanced.

It is passing strange that almost anything pertaining to Psalms, hymns, or Church music should at once evoke discordant notes from such an æolian harp as the General Assembly. So it is, however. Professor Gregg, Convener of the Hymnal Committee, presented the report for the year. It was in few words, but sufficient to enable the Assembly to see that matters were increasingly satisfactory. There had been large sales of all the various editions, with the exception of the Tonic Sol-fa. It was expected, however, that for this issue there would be a much larger demand in future. Of the Church Hymnals, 17,000, and of the Sabbath School Hymnals, 20,000 had been sold. During the year the committee had been able to pay off considerable of the indebtedness, and finances were in a very satisfactory condition. The question of revision was raised by several members, principally by Dr. Armstrong, of Ottawa, who advocated an increase in the number of hymns, so that there might be a more comprehensive expression of Christian experience, a selection of paraphrases, and all bound up in one volume. The right of revision was freely conceded, but the wisdom of re-opening the question so soon after the adoption of the Hymnal was not visible to all. Those taking part in the debate were: Messrs. Carmichael, Coulthard, R. Murray, Daniel Gordon, McLaren, George Leys, P. McF. McLeod, W. B. McMurrich, Principal Grant, Lee, Gourlay, Henderson, Dr. Wardrope, J. Somerville, Principal Caven, Robert Wallace and H. McKellar, who suggested the adoption of some method for musical training in congregations. Dr. Armstrong's motion was defeated on a vote of 71 for and 89 against.

At the evening meeting, the Moderator announced that the following Committee on Union with other Churches had been appointed: Revs. The Moderator, Dr. Pollok, T. Sedgewick, Drs. Cook, MacVicar, Moore, Reid, Caven, Proudfoot, Laing, Cochrane and King, D. M. Gordon, and Messrs. L. W. Johnston, J. R. Blair, Hon. D. Fraser, Stirling, Croil, Hay, Hon. A. Morris, W. B. McMurrich, W. M. Clark, James McLennan, J. C. Rutherford, Dr. Fraser London, and the Hon. Justice Taylor.

FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

The good custom, long observed, of submitting the reports of the principal standing committees at the evening meetings was followed as usual. This enables the people of the city where the Assembly sits an opportunity of hearing matters of general and sometimes of absorbing interest discussed. This Friday evening was devoted to the consideration of the report of the French Evangelization Board. It was submitted by Principal MacVicar in a speech of exemplary brevity and other good qualities. He stated that four years ago there were reported thirteen schools, with 533 pupils. The number has since doubled, there being now twenty-nine schools with thirty-four teachers and 905 pupils. There has been an increase in the past year of four schools and 101 pupils. Two hundred and ninety of the pupils are the children of Roman Catholic parents, the great majority of the others being from the homes of recent converts. Four of the schools are wholly supported by the people of the district. The Board

has recently been compelled for the present to decline applications from four other districts desiring teachers, because of its inability to meet the necessary expenditure connected therewith. Last year the sum of \$3,262 was expended in the maintenance of the mission schools, exclusive of those at Pointe-aux-Trembles. Of that institution he said the buildings have been filled to their utmost capacity, the pupils numbering 120, as compared with ninety four the preceding Session. The policy of the Board has been to induce the most promising of the pupils to continue their attendance for a number of sessions in succession, with a view to their being qualified to fill higher positions, and thus to further the work of French Evangelization. This policy is now bearing fruit. In no previous years were so many former pupils in attendance, and the schools were never, perhaps, in a more efficient and satisfactory condition than they are now. Fifty five of last session's pupils are members of the Church, twenty-eight of these having this year professed their faith in Christ for the first time. Of these twenty-eight twelve were Roman Catholics when they entered the schools. Fourteen of the senior pupils are this summer employed as colporteurs and mission teachers, and four, if not five, of them propose entering the Presbyterian College, Montreal, next fall, with a view to study for the ministry. Four of the students (one of whom took the gold medal) who graduated at the college this spring, and were licensed to preach the Gospel last month, were French-Canadians, who received their preparatory training at Pointe-aux-Trembles. A former pupil, now a missionary in Africa, recently wrote, asking admission to the schools for two of his converts, who desire to prepare themselves for Christian work. It is contemplated to enlarge the building at Pointe-aux-Trembles, as the accommodation has for years been entirely inadequate. An appeal is made for funds to provide for the erection of suitable additions, and also to provide for the establishment of a mission boarding school in the bounds of the Presbytery of Quebec. The finances are in a better condition than was recently the case. For the great increase and successful prosecution of work carried on by this well-equipped and admirably-managed agency, liberal contributions are urgently required.

Principal MacVicar proposed and Dr. Smith, in a few burning words, supported, that the report be received and adopted, and that the gratitude of the General Assembly to the Head of the Church be recorded for the continued success of the work under the care of the Board as to the enlargement of the schools at Pointe-aux-Trembles, and the establishment of a similar institution in the vicinity of Quebec, as soon as practicable, and cordially commend the mission, together with this special undertaking, to the liberal support of the Church. Rev. C. Doudiet, of Montreal, in a speech characterized by great force and clearness showed that the work had been steadily extending until its influence was felt in almost every part of the Province of Quebec. In the city of Montreal there were now eight French Protestant places of worship. He referred to the laxity and injustice of the marriage law where mixed marriages had come under recent judicial action. He combated the notion that the Church of Rome could rightly be regarded as a Church of Christ, and concluded by giving a number of encouraging instances as the result of French Evangelization. The next speaker in support of the motion was the Rev. J. Carmichael, who made an eloquent appeal on behalf of the emancipation of the people from the intellectual and spiritual thralldom in which Rome holds her followers. The veteran pastor from St. Annes, Kankakee, the widely-known Father Chiniquy, with characteristic fire and energy recounted the story of his conversion from Popery. In a recent series of visits he had made between the shores of Lake Huron and the Atlantic he found that there was a spirit of growing inquiry, and that French converts from the Church of Rome were to be found. The same could be said of the region lying between New York and San Francisco. Quoting from St. Thomas Aquinas and adducing several examples he maintained that, according to Calvin, Luther and Knox, the Church of Rome was an idolatrous Church, and concluded by volunteering to subscribe \$50 to the funds of the Board and hoped that 200 others would do likewise.

Mr. L. W. Johnson moved, seconded by Dr. MacVicar, That the General Assembly recommend to the Board of French Evangelization that they arrange to send the Rev. C. A. Doudiet to visit as many of the congregations of the Church as possible in the interests of their work. Carried unanimously.

The Rev. R. H. Warden moved a special vote of thanks to Father Chiniquy for his able and instructive address.

COLLEGE REPORTS.

The cause of higher education had its field day on Saturday morning. The college belt extends from Halifax to Winnipeg. The interests of Pine Hill were presented by Professor Pollok, and an account of the growing prosperity and good work accomplished by that historic institution, which has trained a large

number of good men who can give a good account of themselves wherever found. Plucky little Morrin came next, and Rev. A. T. Love, of Quebec, gracefully set forth the claims of the Presbyterian Pharos in the Ancient Capital. The great and growing college in Montreal, whose tide of prosperity is steadily rising, had a most fitting exponent in Professor Scrimger. Queen's College and University and Principal Grant are indissolubly linked in history. The versatile and indefatigable Principal was able to speak of past successes, present progress and future hopes. Grand old Knox came next, and Principal Caven, in presenting the report, was able to speak of continued advancement and encouraging prospects, and that subscriptions to the Endowment Fund were now nearly approaching \$20,000. Like the Province in which it is situated, Manitoba College is young, vigorous and progressive. It must have been pleasing to Principal King, as it certainly was to the Assembly, to hear that the youngest of the colleges had been enabled to do so much excellent work, and that its prospects were brightening. The Province has a great future before it, and the college will grow up with the country. There was a fine exhibition of educational reciprocity in moving and seconding the adoption of the reports of the respective institutions. Principal Grant and Dr. J. K. Smith's motion disposed of Halifax College; Rev. M. W. McLean and Peter Wright attended to Morrin; Rev. J. B. Muir, Huntingdon, seconded Mr. Love's motion; while Principal Caven and Dr. Thompson, Sarnia, did the honours for Queen's. Principal MacVicar paid his respects to his alma mater by seconding the adoption of Knox College report. Revs. R. H. Warden and T. Sedgewick concluded this part of the programme by speaking kindly and cheering words of Manitoba College. Mr. Justice Taylor called attention to an incompleteness in the arrangements for carrying out the provisions of the statute in reference to the establishment of a department of theology, and the conferring of degrees therein, also to the want of regulations respecting the teaching of theology. He then moved, seconded by Principal Caven, to the following effect: That Mr. Justice Taylor, Revs. Principal King, D. M. Gordon and C. B. Pitblado, and Mr. W. B. McMurrich, be a committee to prepare a resolution or by-law making provision for the education of students in theology in connection with the College of Manitoba, in accordance with the requirement of section 12 of the Act incorporating the college, and submit the same to the Assembly.

VISIT TO KILDONAN.

Among the many entertainments arranged by the good people of Winnipeg and neighbourhood for the members of the General Assembly, not the least pleasant, and certainly one of the most interesting, was the sail down the Red River to Kildonan, the pioneer Presbyterian settlement in the Canadian North-West. The afternoon was delightful, and in due time the historic spot was reached, where abundant preparations had been made to extend a cordial welcome to the large numbers who joined the excursion. In the old-time church, crowded to its utmost capacity, the services were commenced by the Moderator of the Session, who conducted in a strikingly appropriate manner the opening devotional exercises. The Rev. Dr. Cochrane led in prayer, after which the Moderator of the Assembly delivered an address unique in its felicity, uniting pathos, power and a sunny but subdued humour. He recounted some of the salient points in the history of the settlement, illustrating the tenacity of the Selkirk settlers to the simplicity of worship practised by their forefathers, and paid a glowing and sympathetic tribute to the memory of their first minister, Rev. John Black, D.D. Professor McLaren, an intimate friend and fellow-student of John Black, delineated the many admirable qualities, intellectual and spiritual, with which he was gifted, and the widespread influence he was enabled to exert by his ministry throughout the North-West. Professor Bryce, owing to the lateness of the hour, was unable to give in detail the interesting historical sketch he had prepared. The benediction was pronounced by Principal King. In a pleasantly-situated grove overlooking the river long tables groaned with the delicacies the ladies had prepared for the refreshment of the pilgrims. The city was safely reached, and every one was delighted with the entire proceedings of the afternoon, which will afford pleasant memories to all who were privileged to participate in the interesting and varied services of the day.

MANITOBA COLLEGE CONVERSAZIONE.

A great many members and their friends found their way on Saturday evening to the conspicuous building in which an ever increasing number of ingenious Manitoba youths seek the instruction that fits them for their life work. The common hall was filled to its utmost, large groups roamed leisurely over the grounds, and many coteries were congregated in most available places. Justice Taylor presided. The faculty were there to welcome their far-travelled guests. Musical talent of a high order was enlisted to contribute to the enjoyment of the visitors, and there was likewise a profusion of good things provided for their entertain-