

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

## CANADA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

## THIRD DAY.

The Moderator took the chair at ten o'clock. After devotional exercises, the minutes of the previous day's proceedings were read and confirmed, having been slightly amended.

## SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

The report of the Committee on Sabbath observance was presented and read by the Rev. Mr. McMillen. The Committee reported that they met in October last, and addressed a memorial to the managers of the different railway companies in the Dominion, with the view of procuring the stoppage of traffic on the Lord's Day. Replies were received in all cases expressing sympathy with the Committee, and promising that the Sunday work should be diminished as much as possible, but great doubt was expressed as to the probability of stopping it altogether. The Committee further reported that in consequence of an order addressed to the station agents on the Grand Trunk line of railway by the Managing Director, a great reduction has been effected of late in the Sunday traffic. It was regretted that no same could not be said with regard to the Great Western Railway, the Sunday traffic on which was enormous. A motion had recently been introduced into the Dominion Parliament by Mr. Smith, member for the County of Peel, asking for the appointment of a committee of seven members for the purpose of enquiring into the matter of Sunday traffic, with the view of putting a stop to it if possible. The motion was adopted with a slight amendment, and the question referred to the Committee on Railways. The Committee finally recommended that, in view of the relations between the railways of Canada and the United States, the co-operation of the American Churches be requested in the work of grappling with the great evil of Sabbath desecration. Also, that a special fund be provided for the purpose of procuring a better enforcement of the existing law in regard to Sabbath profanation.

Rev. Mr. McMillen, the Convener, said that with regard to the recommendation as to the establishment of a special fund, it was his opinion that much could not be done towards enforcing the existing law relative to Sabbath profanation without it. A series of appeals might readily be undertaken by a powerful railway corporation; but private persons, although they might ultimately succeed, would suffer severely in fighting their way through.

Dr. Waters moved that the report of the Committee be received, and further, that it be remitted to a special committee to consider and report thereon.

Mr. Court, Elder, thought it would strengthen the hands of those working in this movement if all ministers of the Gospel abstained from travelling on Sundays, and such a practice would be consistent with the views they expressed.

A discussion ensued, when Rev. Mr. Bennett rose to a point of order. The question was not before the Assembly, he said, and members had simply a right to move an amendment and to speak to it.

Rev. Mr. Cuthbertson thought that Sabbath railway traffic, both freight and passenger, should be entirely prohibited.

An amendment was moved by Mr. Bennett that the report be received, and the recommendation be discussed at once in the Assembly.

The amendment was lost, and the report referred to a Committee composed of Messrs. A. B. Simpson, J. Macpherson, G. Mickle, J. M. Boyce, Walter Ingles, Robert Hall, and Elders Michael Ballantyne, James Court, James Brown, and W. Simpson, Convener.

## KNOX COLLEGE.

Rev. Alex. Topp, D.D., presented and read the annual report of the Board of Management of Knox College. The Board had in the first place to notice the change which had taken place in the staff of Professors since last Assembly. Rev. Dr. Inglis, Professor of Systematic Theology, having resolved to accept a call given to him by the Reformed Church on the Heights, Brooklyn, New York, had sent in his resignation of the chair he occupied. The Board accepted the resignation, and made temporary provision for the teaching of Systematic Theology by appointing Professor Gregg and Dr. Topp to conduct the classes on that subject—the former for the first three months, and the latter for the remainder of the session. The number of students, as stated in the report of the Senate, had been fifty-six—forty-two in the theological department, and fifteen in the literary department. A considerable number of young men looking forward to the ministry are passing through the University course. With regard to financial matters, the income of the past year from all sources had been \$9,226.90, and the expenditure (as detailed account of which was given in the College Financial Report) was \$9,807.94, leaving a balance against the fund of \$580.91 instead of \$365 as last year. The Endowment fund was now \$5,192.10. The Library fund received \$569.04, being the balance from last year—\$1,199.70 in donations and interest, and investments repaid \$1,300. The expenditure was \$1,750 in books, printing and stationery, \$42.89, with a balance of \$90.45. It was agreed that while the thousand dollars received from the Alexander bequest be in the meantime used for current expenses of the College, that sum should be a first charge upon the income for the present year, and that the action of the Board in this matter be reported to the General Assembly. Had it not been for this sum of \$1,000 having been added to the income, there would have been a considerable deficit in the fund for the current expenses. In relation to the fact of three students having left Knox College during the currency of last session, to attend another College without being certified by the Senate, the Board of Management endorsed the action of the Senate. The Board recommended the Assembly to appoint an additional Professor with a lec-

turer. Also, that the Assembly should appoint a day of special prayer for the blessing of God upon the theological institution of the Church. The Board having frequently had its attention directed to the subject of a new building for college purposes, and being convinced that it would be desirable to have a building more commodious and adequate for the requirements of the college, appointed a committee, with power to add to their number, to consider the whole subject, and to report. The committee sent in a report to the effect—1. That it was necessary to have a new building. 2. They were favourably impressed as to the prospect of success of such an undertaking. The Board accordingly appointed a large committee of gentlemen to collect subscriptions, and it was a matter of consultation to be able to announce that through the exertions of Professors Cavan and Gregg, the total amount subscribed up to date was \$40,400, \$20,000 of which was promised in Toronto alone. Many members of the Committee were of opinion that a more suitable site for the new College than the present might be had. The Board, however, had no authority to sell the present building or site, and therefore await the decision of the Assembly. In the meantime, arrangements have been made by which a larger and more advantageous site in several respects can be had for a reasonable price in the event of the Assembly deciding to make a change, and to sell the present premises and site.

## MONTREAL COLLEGE.

Rev. J. M. Gibson presented and read the annual report of the Board of Management of the Presbyterian College of Montreal, of which we give a summary.

The assets of the College at the date of the report were distributed as follows:—

Endowment Fund	\$23,888 86
Scholarship Endowment Fund	921 00
Library and Fixtures	9,000 00
Balance on hand from ordinary Annual Revenue	1,012 69
Balance on hand from Library Fund	96 91
Special Subscriptions for ordinary Revenue extending over a period of four years	8,000 00
Subscriptions for College Building Fund	35,500 00
	\$79,097 84

The number of students was reported to be 17. The Board observed with pleasure the large number of students in the graduating class of the session, and the cheering prospects of the French department. The state of the several funds charged with current expenses was very satisfactory. At the instance of several of the largest contributors towards the supplementary subscriptions for ordinary revenue, the sum of \$500 was devoted to the purpose of making an increase in Dr. McVicar's salary.

In last year's report it was stated that an eligible site for College buildings adjoining McGill University had been purchased, and subscriptions procured for this purpose to the amount of eighteen thousand dollars. The Board now begged to report that the buildings were in course of erection, and would be completed before the spring of next session, and while the canvas is not yet finished, the amount subscribed is thirty-five thousand five hundred dollars. The Board made the following recommendations for the approval of the Assembly:—1. That the Rev. J. Gibson, M.A., be appointed Lecturer in Exegesis for the next session. 2. That the collection for the training of French students and for French Evangelization, be taken up as last year, in all the congregations of the Church. 3. That the Assembly appoint a Professor of Church History and Apologetics, and the Board express an earnest desire that the overture of the Presbytery of Montreal for the appointment of the Rev. John Campbell, M.A., be granted. 4. That the Rev. Dr. McVicar be appointed Principal of the College. 5. That the temporary addition made to his salary be confirmed. 6. That the recommendation of the French Evangelization Committee for the increase of Professor Coussirat's salary to sixteen hundred dollars per annum. 7. That in case lecturers be required for next session, the Board be empowered to appoint such.

The correspondence between the Senates of Montreal and Toronto colleges relative to the retirement of Messrs. Johnston, Currie, and Stuart, three students from Knox College, without leave from the Senate, and their subsequent admission into the Montreal College, was also submitted, and read by Rev. Mr. Gibson.

It being one o'clock, the meeting adjourned.

## AFTERNOON SIDERUNT.

The Moderator resumed the chair at three o'clock. After devotional exercises, the minutes of the morning's proceedings were read and confirmed.

## REFUSAL OF MISSIONARIES.

Rev. Dr. Waters submitted the report of the Committee on Bills and Overtures relative to a paper referred to them at the last sitting of the Assembly. The Committee, after taking the matter into consideration, decided not to transmit to the General Assembly this paper, which referred to the refusal of the Home Mission to accept Messrs. Johnson and Currie as missionaries.

The report was received and adopted.

## MONTREAL COLLEGE.

The annual report of the Board of Examiners of Montreal College was presented, and read by Rev. Mr. Gibson.

An overture was read from the Montreal Presbytery, praying that Dr. McVicar be appointed Principal of Montreal College, also, an overture praying for the appointment of a Professor on Church History and Apologetics.

On motion of Rev. Mr. King, the papers read in the forenoon relative to Knox and Montreal Colleges were received.

THE CASE OF MESSRS. JOHNSON, CURRIE, AND STEWART.

Prof. Cavan said he wished to give the Assembly some information relative to the case of the three students of Knox College,

Messrs. Johnson, Currie, and Stewart. These three young men left Knox College during the first term of last session, and then went to the College at Montreal without previous consultation, either with the Senate or any of the authorities connected with Knox College. As there seemed to be some misunderstanding as to the mutual relations of the students and the College, he might inform them that the Act for the government and administration of Knox College provided that no person should be entitled to receive his standing who had not signed the album of the College. Now, these three students had signed the album, but by doing so had virtually agreed to submit to the discipline of the Institution. Then with regard to the examining Board the Act provided that it shall be the duty of the Board to examine the students at the close of each session, and in case of the examination proving satisfactory to certify them to their respective Presbyteries. The Boards therefore could not be compelled to certify students at any other time than at the close of the session. Having made this explanation, he gave in detail the correspondence that had ensued in regard to the matter. The first communication was from Dr. McVicar, stating that the students had arrived at Montreal and wished to join the College classes, and asking for their standing. To this the Senate of Knox College replied that inasmuch as they had left without authority and had not passed the examination, it was impossible for the Examining Board to certify them or give their status. The Senate of Knox College were therefore not in a position to transfer them. He (the speaker) thought the Senate had no option but to refuse the certification. Soon after this, the students themselves wrote to the Senate, suggesting that the difficulty might be obviated by sending the examining papers to Montreal College, and allowing them to be examined there. To this the Senate, after due deliberation, answered that it was only on the condition of their returning to Knox College, and explaining satisfactorily their conduct, that they could hope to be certified at the close of the session. The Senate of Montreal College then communicated with the Toronto Senate, saying that they would be willing to receive the three students, if certificates of good character were sent down, and they passed the sessional examination. The students wrote at the same time, explaining that they were ignorant of the rules, and intended no disrespect to the authorities of Knox College by their manner of leaving. The Senate of Knox College regretted that their brethren in Montreal seemed to have taken these students into their confidence, and to have suggested to them solutions of their difficulties. There would be no preservation of wholesome discipline if one College did not thoroughly respect and sustain the other. (Applause.) The Senate was fully justified in refusing to certify the students under the circumstances.

Rev. Dr. Topp perfectly agreed with the previous speaker, and thought the action of the Senate the only just and proper one under the circumstances.

Rev. Mr. Gibson (Montreal) said that the difficulty was not between the two colleges, but between the Toronto College and its own students. The Senate of Montreal had neither enrolled nor received these students. They were allowed to enter the College room and sit while the classes were being taught, because it was the custom of his College to hold open classes. Persons often attended the lectures at Montreal College who had no connection with the Church. The Senate of Montreal, however, thought that the matter would be settled without coming up before the Assembly. They did not wish to interfere in the slightest degree with the discipline at Knox College, but believed that by correspondence they might induce their Toronto brethren to relax their discipline, or at any rate to pass some censure on the students short of cutting off a whole year. The decision of the Montreal Senate to admit them to examination was only arrived at at the close of the negotiations, at a stage when it was apparent that the matter must come before the Assembly, and simply in order to reduce the controversy to one of discipline, and not whether the students had been examined or non-examined.

Dr. McGuire thought the case very plain. The students had violated the regulations of the College, and some punishment should be passed upon them. He thought the Montreal College had been guilty of a violation of faith; they ought not to have allowed the students to attend their classes under any pretence. He would move that the Senate of Knox College be sustained in the matter.

Hugh Young, elder, said it was an alarming tendency in the young of this country to set at naught parental authority. If they did not take care to enforce discipline, the same would be the case with the Churches. He believed that Montreal had erred, and had done gross injustice to Toronto.

Rev. Mr. Goldsmith seconded the resolution of Dr. McGuire.

Rev. Mr. Gibson and Dr. McVicar offered some further explanations on behalf of Montreal. The Senate of Montreal College had counselled the students to return in the first instance, and had warned them that they had committed a breach of discipline. The speakers added that they were not appointed by their Senate to speak on the matter, they gave their views simply as members of the Assembly.

After some discussion, the resolution was withdrawn, and

Rev. Dr. Waters moved, That in so far as the papers from the Montreal and Knox Colleges refer to the case of Messrs. Stewart, Currie, and Johnson, the Assembly sustain the action of the Senate of Knox College and further remits the case of these students to the Senate of Knox College to be dealt with as in their judgment may seem best, and should the Senate thereafter see fit to grant certificates to these students and their standing, they shall accordingly be so admitted, and in the case of any of these students who may have finished their studies, any Presbytery to which they shall present the certificate of the chairman of Knox College, shall take such students on trial for license.

Rev. Mr. Proudfoot seconded the motion, which was carried.

The Assembly adjourned at six o'clock.

## EVENING SIDERUNT.

The Moderator took the chair at 7.30. There was a large attendance of visitors on this occasion, a number of the fair sex gracing the proceedings with their presence. After devotional exercises,

The minutes of the afternoon's proceedings were read and confirmed.

## THE QUESTION OF UNION.

Rev. Alex. Topp presented and read the report of the Union Committee. It stated that a conference had been held between Committees from the churches of Quebec and Ontario on the 26th of December last. Three subjects were considered, the Headship of Christ over His Church, the question of State grants to denominational Colleges, and the deliverance of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, on the mode of appointment of Theological Professors. A similar Conference was held in April last at St. John, N.B., and the following four articles were unanimously adopted to form the basis of Union for the United Church, viz:—

1. That the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, being the Word of God, are the only infallible rule of faith and manners.

2. That the Westminster Confession of Faith shall form the subordinate standard of this Church; that the Larger and Shorter Catechisms shall be adopted by the Church, and appointed to be used for instruction of the people—it being distinctly understood that nothing contained in the aforesaid Confession or Catechisms, regarding the power and duty of the Civil Magistrate, shall be held to sanction any principles or views inconsistent with full liberty of conscience in matters of religion.

3. That the government and worship of this Church shall be in accordance with the recognized principles and practice of Presbyterian Churches, as laid down generally in the "Form of Presbyterian Church Government," and in "The Directory for the Public Worship of God."

4. That this Church, while cherishing Christian affection towards the whole Church of God, and desiring to hold fraternal intercourse with it in its several branches, as opportunity offers, shall, at the same time, regard itself as being in such Ecclesiastical relations to Churches holding the same doctrine, government, and discipline as itself, as that Ministers and Probationers from these Churches shall be received into this Church, subject to such regulations as shall, from time to time, be adopted.

The following nine deliverances were also adopted at the St. John conference:—

1. The Committee unanimously expressed its approval of the said resolution, and adopted it as its own, viz:—The Committee claims for the respective Churches represented by it the fullest forbearance as to any difference of opinion which may exist respecting the question of State grants to educational establishments of a denominational character, and does not see, in such diversity of sentiment upon a subject on which uniformity of opinion is not enforced within any of the negotiating bodies, anything which need prove a barrier to Union, or disturb the peace of a United Church.

2. The Committee took up consideration of the subject of the appointment of Theological Professors, as brought before them in the deliverance of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church in Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland. After lengthened deliberation, and a free expression of opinion, it was moved by Principal Snodgrass, seconded by Professor Cavan, and unanimously agreed to, that it is inexpedient for this Committee to pass at present any resolution on the subject.

3. The Committee now resumed consideration of that part of the Minutes of Conference at Montreal which referred to the Headship of Christ, and which has engaged attention at a former Session. After further deliberation, it was moved by Professor Cavan, seconded by Dr. Topp, and carried unanimously, That the Committee, having heard the Minutes of Conference regarding this subject, which have been read, does now express its satisfaction with the unanimity of sentiment which is exhibited in the documents therein referred to.

4. The Committee took up the consideration of the subject of public worship, when it was unanimously resolved, That with regard to modes of worship, the practice presently followed by congregations, in the matter of worship shall be allowed, and that further action in connection therewith be left to the legislation of the United Church.

5. The subject of Collegiate Education was next brought under the notice of this Committee, when, after discussion, Principal Snodgrass moved, and the Hon. John McMurich seconded the motion, That the negotiating Churches shall enter into union with the Theological and Literary Institutions which they now have, and that application be made to Parliament for such legislation as will bring Queen's University and College, Knox College, The Presbyterian College, Montreal, Morrin College, and the Theological Hall at Halifax, into relations to the United Church similar to those which they now hold to their respective Churches, and to preserve their corporate existence, government, and functions, on terms and conditions like to those under which they now exist; but the United Church shall not be required to elect Trustees for an Arts Department in any of the Colleges above named. This motion was unanimously carried.

6. Principal Snodgrass moved, seconded by the Hon. John McMurich, and the motion was unanimously agreed to, That the Committee recommend that steps be taken at the first meeting of the General Assembly of the United Church, for the equitable establishment and admission of an efficient fund for the benefit of the widows and orphans of ministers.

7. It was unanimously resolved, on the motion of Principal Snodgrass, That such legislation shall be sought as shall preserve undisturbed all rights of property now belonging to congregations and to oratories, and, at the same time, not interfere with freedom of action on the part of congrega-

tions in the same locality desirous of uniting, or on the part of corporate bodies which may find it to be expedient to discontinue, wholly or partially, their separate existence.

8. Principal Snodgrass reported action on the part of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, as follows:—That the Temporalities Fund shall remain, as at present, in the hands of a Board, the membership of which shall be continued, after the consummation of the Union, by the remaining members having power to fill vacancies caused by death, resignation, or otherwise; and the administration of the Fund shall continue on the same principles and for the same purposes as at present, until all vested rights shall have lapsed; and these rights shall be held to be the following:—(1) The annual receipt by ministers now receiving four hundred and fifty dollars (\$450) four hundred dollars (\$400), or two hundred dollars (\$200), of the same amount during their lifetime, and good standing in the Church. (2) The annual receipt of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) by the Treasurer of Queen's College, and (3) the annual receipt of two hundred dollars (\$200) by all the ministers who shall be on the Synod Roll at the time of the Union, and by all recognized Probationers and Licentiates during their lifetime, and good standing in the Church; that as soon as the Fund, or any part of it, shall no longer be required for these purposes, it shall be appropriated (1) to the formation of a fund for the benefit of Aged and Infirm Ministers of the United Church, retired from the active duties of the ministry with the sanction of the said Church, in the proportion of six-ninths; (2) for the maintenance and extension of the Theological Faculty of Queen's College, in the proportion of two-ninths; (3) to the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund of the said United Church, in the proportion of one-ninth—these calculations to be based on a capital fund of four hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$450,000), and the residue, over and above this amount, up to forty thousand dollars (\$40,000), to be devoted to the maintenance of the Theological Faculty of Morrin College. And whereas, the Committee on Union desire instructions as to the mode of making provision for the payment of two hundred dollars (\$200) per annum to all ministers on the roll at the time of union until such time as they become beneficiaries of the Temporalities Fund, the Synod refer the matter to the wisdom of the Committee to arrange such method of provision as they may deem best, drawing, if necessary (but only as an extreme measure, when no other method of meeting the difficulty can be devised), upon the capital of the Fund—the same to be repaid to capital before any distribution of the principal Fund takes place.

Prof. Cavan moved, seconded by the Hon. John McMurich, and the motion was unanimously adopted, That this Committee record its satisfaction with the proposed arrangement of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland.

Moved by Prof. Cavan, seconded by Professor MacKnight, and unanimously agreed to, That the Committee does now express its confident expectation that the United Church will heartily take up and prosecute the Home and Foreign Missionary and Benevolent operations of the several Churches, according to their respective claims; and that with regard to the practical work of the Church, and the promotion of its schemes, whilst the General Assembly shall have the supervision and control of all the work of the Church, yet the Committee recommend that the United Church shall have due regard to such arrangements, through Synods and Local Committees, as shall tend most effectually to unite in Christian love and sympathy the various sections of the Church, and at the same time to draw forth the resources and energies of the people in behalf of the work of Christ in the Dominion, and throughout the world.

The Committee further agreed that the name of the United Church should be "The Presbyterian Church of British North America."

This concluded the business transacted at the St. John's conference.

Rev. Dr. Topp moved that the report be received by the Assembly, and that the deliverances be considered *seriatim*.

The motion was agreed to.

The four articles of union as given above were first submitted for the consideration of the Assembly.

Rev. Mr. Cochrane moved that they be considered conjointly. Carried.

Rev. Mr. Cochrane then moved that the articles be accepted.

Rev. John Ross delivered a long address, illustrated by numerous quotations from the Old and New Testaments in which he opposed very strongly the adoption of the articles as they then stood.

Rev. Dr. Proudfoot considered that the proposed articles fully recognized the principles of the Headship of Christ. He thought that Mr. Ross, in addressing them as he had done, cast a personal reflection upon him and other members. He deprecated any further delay in sending the articles to the Presbyteries.

The discussion was proceeding, when the hour for adjournment having arrived, the Assembly adjourned.

## FOURTH DAY.

The Moderator took the chair at ten o'clock. After devotional exercises,

The minutes of the previous day's proceedings were read and confirmed.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures submitted their report recommending the order of business, which was agreed to, it being decided that when the Assembly adjourned they should adjourn till ten o'clock on Monday morning.

## LONDON MEMORIAL.

A memorial was submitted from the Presbytery of London, asking assistance from the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund for Mr. Malcolm, lately retired.

Rev. Mr. Proudfoot, in supporting the petition, said that Mr. Malcolm had for a