

## THE TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

## FIRST DAY.

Wednesday, June 4th.—After the sermon by the ex-Moderator, Rev. Dr. Cochran, the Assembly was constituted with prayer, the roll was called and a large proportion of the Commissioners answered to their names. Dr. Cochran then read the following letter addressed to the Assembly by the retiring Moderator the Rev. Principal King, D. D.:

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, to meet in St. James' Square Church, Toronto:

FATHERS AND BRETHREN.—The Presbytery of Manitoba and the Board of Management of Manitoba College have expressed the wish that I should visit Great Britain and Ireland during the present season in the interests of the institution, to a professorship in which I was appointed by the last General Assembly. While disliking the task thus placed before me, I cannot but recognize the importance of an effort being made to secure, if not increased support for the college from the transatlantic churches, at least the continuance of the support which several of them have kindly given during the present year.

I greatly regret that in order to accomplish this work with any hope of success, it is necessary for me to be on the other side of the Atlantic while the Supreme Courts of the several Presbyterian churches are in session, and thus to be absent from your meeting in St. James' Square Church, Toronto. The General Assembly will, I trust, readily extend its indulgence to the liberty which I take in leaving Canada before its meeting, and in requesting the previous retiring Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Cochran, to take my place in preaching the opening sermon and in constituting the Court, in view of the fact that my departure is occasioned simply by the desire to secure relief and aid for one of its own weak and burdened institutions.

I gladly avail myself of this opportunity to tender my heartiest thanks to the General Assembly for its great kindness in calling me to fill the Moderator's chair, and in according to me such generous support in the discharge of the duties of the office.

Desiring for you the presence of the Great Head of the Church during your meeting and the guidance in all matters of His Spirit, I remain,

Fathers and brethren,

Yours very respectfully,

Toronto, April 19, 1884.

JOHN M. KING.

Dr. Cochran in a few remarks made feeling reference to the loss sustained by the Church in the death of a number of faithful and distinguished men, both in the ministry and eldership, during the year. He also referred to eminent men in the Scottish churches who had passed away. He concluded by adverting to the general advance in liberality displayed by the Church in supporting the various schemes, and the success that had attended the effort to increase the stipends of many hard worked and faithful ministers, by thanking the Assembly for their kindness, and trusting that its meeting would be characterized by brotherly kindness and mutual forbearance.

## ELECTION OF MODERATOR.

A letter was read from Rev. C. B. Pitblado, desiring that his name be withdrawn from the list of those nominated for the Moderatorship. The Rev. J. K. Smith, Galt, and the Rev. Kenneth McLennan, Charlottetown, also requested the withdrawal of their names, which was granted. Dr. McKnight presented a similar request, but it was not complied with.

The Hon. Alexander Morris, in a few remarks, proposed the Rev. Professor McLaren, as Moderator, seconded by the Rev. S. Lyle, Hamilton. Rev. Principal McKnight, Halifax, was proposed by Rev. Dr. Macrae, St. John, and seconded by Rev. D. J. Macdonnell. The vote stood, for Dr. McKnight, eighty-one; for Professor McLaren, ninety-two, the latter on being declared duly elected was conducted to the chair by his proposer and seconder.

The Moderator said, I desire to thank you very cordially for the high honour in being called to preside over the deliberations of this Court. I would be insensible to what is really valuable if I did not appreciate the expression of esteem and confidence, which the honour implies. It brings with it also great responsibilities. Although he had taken an active share in the work formerly, he considered that his experience did not qualify him for the position in which he had been placed. If the helmsman was inexperienced, the sea was not tempestuous; no storm signals were visible. With their co-operation, and experienced officers placed on the deck, he might be able to guide the ship in her course during her ten days' voyage on the ecclesiastical ocean. Though there were no burning questions, they must not be too sure that there might not be disagreeable and painful discussions. Observation taught them that in dealing with great questions members realized their responsibility and were considerate of each other's feelings, while in dealing with lighter matters they were liable to be off their guard, and neglect to look up for the wisdom that cometh from above. The business of the General Assembly was not unimportant. Great consequences depended on the way in which it was transacted. He acknowledged and rejoiced in the good work done by other branches of the Evangelical Church. God had given to the Presbyterian Church a heritage of truth. In this land an important work was committed to it. Serious consequences depended on the manner in which the work was done. He then referred briefly

to the various schemes of the Church, to the Home and Foreign missions, French Evangelization, etc., and concluded by expressing his confidence that members would show due consideration for one another, shunning the warmth that came from heated debate, and be guided by the Spirit from on high.

The Rev. Kenneth McLennan moved, and Rev. J. K. Smith seconded, a motion expressing the Assembly's thanks to Dr. King for the able and impartial manner in which he had discharged the duties of the Chair, and Dr. Cochran for his able and appropriate sermon.

Rev. Robt. Torrance, Guelph, read a list of committees and the order of business for next day. The Assembly then adjourned.

## SECOND DAY.

Thursday, June 5.—The Assembly met at eleven o'clock, and the first hour was spent in devotional service, the Revs. E. D. Mullen, J. K. Smith, Dr. Jardine, E. A. McCurdy, and H. M. Parson, took part.

The Assembly being constituted Rev. R. Torrance presented the report of the Committee on Bills and Overtures.

Rev. Dr. Reid submitted the report of the Committee on the Pan-Presbyterian Council, 1884. The delegates appointed at last Assembly were prepared to attend with the exception of Professor McLaren and Dr. Reid. In their places Dr. G. D. Mathews and Rev. A. B. Mackay were appointed. Messrs. Fleck and Jordan were also appointed. The elders appointed are Messrs. James Croll, Hon. D. Laird, T. Kirkland, Dr. W. B. Geikie, R. Kilgour and W. Korr.

After the Assembly was constituted in the afternoon with devotional exercises, Dr. Jenkins presented the report of the Hymnal Committee. He stated that during the year ending 30th April, 31,700 copies of the Hymnal had been sold, making the number disposed of since its first publication, 142,240. Last year the royalty amounted to \$806. It was proposed that it should be expended in the preparation of an edition with the Tonic-sol-fa notation. This sum, however, would not be sufficient to meet the expense incurred, and it was desirable to obtain a guarantee that at least 2,000 copies should at once be disposed of to justify the undertaking. It was designed that it be sold at 80 cents a copy. The Sabbath School Hymnal, which would cost five cents each, had been completed and it would be issued on the 1st of August. He spoke very highly of its merits. It was also contemplated to publish an edition with harmonized music in four parts, for the use of schools and families. It was also contemplated to issue an edition of the Psalter and Hymnal, the music edited by Dr. Hopkins. The Free Church of Scotland had generously granted permission without the royalty to republish their edition of the Psalter.

Dr. Gregg moved that the report be received, its recommendations adopted; the Committee thanked for their diligence; express satisfaction with the Sabbath School Hymnal; approve of the publication of a Tonic-sol-fa edition; and accord its appreciation of the generosity of the Free Church of Scotland in offering such advantageous terms for the publication of the Psalter, and that the Committee be re-appointed.

Mr. W. B. McMurrich in seconding the motion stated that the expenses of the Committee had been very light during the year, \$192 only had been incurred by the travelling expenses of the members, and for alteration in the plates. After a number of suggestions had been made, by Revs. J. A. Murray, W. D. Armstrong, H. Gracey, and Mr. Stewart, elder, Chatham, who stated that he could guarantee 1,000 copies. The motion was carried.

## APPLICATION TO BE RECEIVED AS MINISTERS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Application was made by the following Presbyteries for the reception of the applicants named: Montreal, Mr. John Fraser, from the Congregational Church; Lanark and Renfrew, Mr. Alexander McTavish, Presbyterian Church, United States; Toronto, Mr. Walter Reid, Primitive Methodist Church; Mr. Alexander Caswell, Presbyterian Church, United States; and Mr. Hugh Rose, English Presbyterian Church. All these applications were on motion referred to the Assembly's Committee on reception of ministers.

## ASK LEAVE TO RETIRE.

Those asking leave to retire from the active duties of the ministry are: Mr. Louis Jack, Presbytery of St. John; Messrs. W. A. Long, Glengarry; W. Whyte, Peterborough; Bert Jamieson (of New Westminster, B. C.), Toronto; Duncan Morrison, Owen Sound; John Irvine, Saugeen; W. Clelland, Hamilton; Thos. Alexander, Paris; W. E. Mackay, Toronto; Charles Campbell (late of Niagara), Toronto.

Principal Grant moved that these applications be remitted to a committee to be named by the Moderator. It was also moved that several other committees be struck by the Moderator. The Assembly then adjourned.

The business, in accordance with previous appointment, for the evening was

## HOME MISSIONS.

The Rev. Dr. Cochran, Convener, presented the report of the Home Mission Committee. He gave interesting details of the work accomplished during the year. In the Province of Quebec, despite great obstacles, much had been done and the outlook was exceedingly hopeful. Great progress had also been made in the Presbyteries of Lanark and Renfrew. In the Presbytery of Barrie, which includes the Muskoka District, ordained missionaries had been appointed and more were expected to engage in the work there. He made a feeling reference to the death of Rev. Mr. Thirido, recently from Scotland who had just been settled in Hunterville. An appeal for aid to his widow and children had been nobly responded to. Dr. Cochran then detailed the progress of mission work at Sault Ste. Marie, Port Arthur, where they were preparing to build a handsome and commodious church, Prince Albert, and the North West. For British Columbia the services of Mr. John S. Mackay recently licensed had been secured. The established Church of Scotland are sending out two labourers to that field, one to Nanaimo and the other to Comox. A union could likely soon be effected there and a Presbytery formed. The financial showing of the Home Mission Fund was better than ever before. He concluded by moving that the report be adopted.

Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, in seconding the motion, spoke briefly but earnestly referring to the great and gratifying success that had attended the inauguration of the Augmentation Scheme. He vindicated the action of the committee in carrying out the scheme and concluded by urging that if it was to be a permanent success there must continue to be earnest, sustained and liberal effort. There will be new claims. Churches will be springing up, particularly in the North West. He hoped that soon there would be but one Scheme for East and West, and an equal dividend for ministers from Newfoundland to British Columbia.

Professor Forrest, Halifax, presented the report for the Eastern section. Though they had a smaller and more difficult field, very satisfactory work had been done. He did not wish to occupy time by giving details, but would state a few facts. God had blessed them equally with their neighbours in the West, and they were able to rejoice mutually. St. John Presbytery had twenty-nine congregations of which twelve were supplemented, and they had sixty mission stations needing supply. Our people were scattered along the coast line of Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and New Brunswick, and other denominations as well as Presbyterians were to be found everywhere. There was no jealousy of these. They were all engaged in the same good work and they had one aim. Still our people desired services and they ought to be supplied. God blessed those who did the work. Financially they could compare favourably with their brethren in the west. They had raised an equal sum proportionate to their numbers. Spiritually there had also been a gratifying progress. On cheering fact is that there had also been an increase of twenty-five per cent. in the number of communicants in the mission stations. The number of children in the Sabbath schools had doubled. We were but beginning the work of Home missions as yet. If we succeed in filling the churches at home there will be no difficulty in getting the people to respond to the appeals made on behalf of Foreign missions. He concluded by moving the following motion: That the General Assembly receive and adopts the report of the Committee in Maritime Provinces on Home Mission and supplements, and tenders thanks to the Committee, especially conveners. The General Assembly notices with satisfaction the increased number of agents employed in mission stations, and the progress of the people in waiting on ministrations, and in their use of the means of grace, and in Christian liberality. The General Assembly is also gratified to hear that the supplement fund is in a better position than at any former time, and would encourage the committees and the Presbyteries to prosecute diligently the Augmentation movement during the current year, so that the minimum required by the General Assembly may be realized. The General Assembly would record again its obligations to the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, for the aid given during the year to Home missions in the Maritime Provinces.

Mr. J. K. Blair seconded the motion, and in doing so referred to the progress made in the Maritime Provinces, instancing the case of the congregation provided over by Dr. McCulloch out of which five had grown.

Dr. Cochran then moved in accordance with a recommendation of the Home Mission Committee, that the salary of Rev. James Robertson, Superintendent of Missions in the North West, be \$2,000 and travelling expenses.

Rev. W. S. Ball moved in amendment, that the proposal be sent down for the consideration of Presbyteries. This occasioned an animated debate in which a number of members took part. The original motion was carried almost unanimously.

The following recommendations of the Home Mission Committee were then adopted.

In the case of the following congregations not com-