

SYNOD OF MANITOBA AND THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

The Synod of Manitoba and the North-west Territories, met at Portage la Prairie, on Thursday evening, 16th Nov., within Knox church. The opening session was attended by a goodly number of the members and this, with several of the people, made up the congregation which joined in the services and listened to a sermon on John xiv, 6.; this was preached by the moderator, the Rev. Alex. Campbell, of Wolseley.

Rev. Peter Wright, of Portage la Prairie, was unanimously appointed Moderator for the ensuing year and acknowledged the honor in felicitous terms.

A resolution moved by Mr. McKinlay, seconded by Mr. Joseph Hogg, was carried thanking the retiring Moderator for the courtesy and diligence shown by him in conducting the business of the court and for the opening sermon at this sederunt.

FRIDAY MORNING.

On Friday morning devotional exercises were conducted by the Moderator.

After the reporting of certain committees and the appointment of others the Rev. Dr. DuVal presented the report of the Committee on Systematic Beneficence, which was most encouraging, showing a substantial increase in contributions to the Schemes of the Church in all the five Presbyteries, but that of Regina.

The adoption of this report closed the sederunt.

On the Synod resuming business the Presbytery of Brandon was given leave to license and ordain Mr. Bryce Innes, special permission being given that Presbytery to meet during the meeting of Synod for that purpose. The action of the same Presbytery in licensing and ordaining Mr. R. Patterson was sustained.

Intimation was given by Mr. Sutherland in regard to the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund and the desirability of the ministers of the Synod connecting themselves therewith was further emphasized by the Revs. Dr. Bryce and Dr. Robertson.

The Presbytery of Regina was granted leave, provided that everything was satisfactory, to license and ordain Mr. D. McLeod, appointed missionary to the Carlyle field.

Mr. Rumball gave notice that at a future sederunt, he would move that the time of the meetings of Synod be changed from the present time in November to May, and that a change take place in appointing it in future for a day in the beginning of the week.

At the evening sederunt there was a good attendance, and the Home Mission report was submitted by Dr. Robertson, superintendent of missions and convener of the Synod's Committee on Home Missions.

The mission operations of the different Presbyteries during 1893 kept pace with the extension of settlement. The partial failure of crops at certain points and the low prices prevailing proved a check, but on the whole substantial progress was made. There were 106 missions occupied, an increase of four on the preceding year, and four of the missions became augmented congregations. The increase in fields was consequently eight. Two of the augmented congregations became self-sustaining and but for reverses others would have been removed from the list this autumn.

Connected with these 106 missions are 397 stations, 3,979 families, 1,396 single persons and 4,302 communicants. For the year ending March 31 they received from the Home Mission Committee of the General Assembly, \$16,388; and for the half-year ending Sept. 30, \$9,534; exclusive of all travelling or other expenses. The amount contributed last year for Home Missions by the Synod was \$3,045, or, in other words, we took out of the treasury nearly \$5.50 for every \$1 put in.

The matter of supply for these missions has been a source of considerable anxiety. The presence of twenty-seven summer-session students in the field during the winter of 1892-3 gave substantial relief and hence our missions were better manned than during any winter in our history. The total supply, however, fell short of the demand, and but for large help given by the arts students in Manitoba college many fields would have been closed. The extension of work and the reluctance of our under graduates to occupy missions during the winter has embarrassed the Committee and Presbyteries this winter. Several important missions are at this date without supply. Until a larger proportion of our missionaries are ordained and with some permanency in appointment winter supply

will be found difficult. Of the total staff, 23 are ordained, 12 catechists and 70 students. Ordained men in the west and east seem to shun augmented congregations and missions, largely, it is thought, because of the inadequate support Home Missions and Augmentation funds receive and the persistent pressure to reduce grants, or wipe them out. The matter of supply is aggravated to some extent by the removal of many of our own graduates to the United States.

Prof. Hart submitted a verbal report of the Foreign Mission Committee since last June, when report was made to the General Assembly, there had been a few changes. Miss Baker, who has since 1879 been engaged in mission work at Prince Albert, is entering upon a period of well-deserved rest, and the work of the school is being carried on efficiently by Miss Annie Cameron.

At Birtle a comfortable building, costing about \$6,000, had been erected by the gracious gifts of our ladies. It was now being occupied. All who knew of the school would be saddened by the report of the accident a few days ago. At Regina the school was progressing, with 109 pupils on the roll and an average of 100 in attendance. Testimony to the work in this school had recently been given by the Rev. Dr. Stewart, of the noted Lovedale mission, Africa, who had recently visited it. Reference was then made to the work at Round Lake and at Portage la Prairie and the pupils of the latter school with their instructors sang a hymn to the interest of the Synod.

Prof. Baird referred to the work of Mr. Lewis, at Mistawasis, and to the hearty reception given their missionary by the Indians and by their chief, Mistawasis.

Mr. McKay dwelt at length with his usual Celtic fire on the discouragements and encouragements of the work among the Indians. His twelve years' work had convinced him that the heart of the Indian must be reached by the grace of God, that he may be lifted up. The meeting was then brought to a close.

SATURDAY MORNING.

The first item of interest on the docket was the report of the committee on the theological department of Manitoba college. This was submitted by the convener, Dr. Bryce. The report referred to the hope expressed in the report of 1892 that the two Synods would be able to raise towards this fund \$3,500, \$3,058.71 contributed by the two Synods, leaving a balance due the treasurer of \$455.13. The need for proper information being given by ministers to their congregations was pointed out and the graduates of the college were charged with devoted loyalty to the institution.

Dr. Robertson referred to the large number of stations reporting nothing whatever for the fund. Should each send \$5 there would be no deficit.

Mr. Sutherland (elder, Kildonan), referred to his early connection with Manitoba college, and rejoiced in the fact that it had succeeded beyond his most sanguine expectations. He felt that the college was of so much consequence that the mission work depended largely on its success. He had come to realize this more than ever, and when money was to be voted on for missionary objects if he voted \$20 for Home Missions he would vote \$40 to Manitoba college. He believed a very great deal could be done by ministers and missionaries getting the sessions interested in these matters and creating in congregations an enthusiasm in thus supporting the work.

Several members spoke on the same subject and the discussion was brought to a close by the adoption of the report.

A good deal of attention has been paid to the organization of Sabbath schools and their efficient management and the growth of this department of Christian work is keeping pace with the growth of our missions.

A number of Hungarians of the Reformed faith have settled in the Riding Mountain and Whitewood districts. It is expected that the 200 families now resident will be increased shortly by an addition of 700 families who are now in Pennsylvania and who wish to get land. A minister of the Reformed church, a Mr. Kovacs, has tendered his services, and a grant of \$600 for the first year has been secured to assist the work should he enter it. It is hoped that the church will do its share to overtake the spiritual wants of all settling in the country of whatever nationality.

A suitable missionary enters shortly upon work among the Mormons.

The number of congregations on the augmented list is 22 with 1,585 communicants.

Four of these congregations are vacant while three were settled last summer.

A change has been made in the regulations governing the administration of the fund. "On and after the 1st of October, 1893, the salary of ministers not requiring a house is reduced in ordinary charges (including the Northwest) by \$50 per annum, and in cities and towns by \$100." "The same principle is applied in fixing the salaries of married and unmarried unordained missionaries." The maximum amount that will be paid out of the fund as supplement is \$250. This fund has

not received as it should the support of the church, and hence chronic deficits have compelled the committee to modify the regulations. The fund has been an undoubted boon to the west, and it merits more generous treatment. We as a Synod paid into the fund about one-third of what we took out. Looking over the returns of last Assembly it would appear that the total amount contributed to the fund last year by the congregations now on the list was \$190, and that nine congregations gave nothing. If the congregations benefited by the fund are so careless about its success it is not to be wondered at that the fund is inadequately supported by others. Every augmented congregation should be expected to give at least a collection to this fund.

Dr. Robertson further gave some information in regard to British Columbia which formed part of the Synod until recently. He said that after very earnest efforts in seeking men for the work of the west it was discouraging to find so few ready to enter upon it and were it not for the relief obtained from Manitoba college our missions would suffer very much. More could be done for the mission funds by ministers giving more information to their people, and it would be well for ministers to "eat" the Blue Book, digest it and inform their people fully with regard to the work. No one need stand sentinel over a Presbyterian's pocket; he would do that himself. There were reasons for encouragement. Many of the missions were faithful. The growth had been wonderful. In 1881 116 points were occupied, whereas there were now 730 points at which services were held. Then there were 1,153 members; now there are 15,000. Then for all purposes \$15,100 were contributed per annum; now \$239,273.

Dr. King made a statement to the Synod in regard to the college. He was sorry in the interests of the college, the Synod and the church that there was not a larger attendance on the Synod. He felt that more should be expected of those who had taken vows upon themselves to attend the courts of the church, although he was ready to sympathize with the brethren in the distances some had to travel to get to meetings and with those who, from financial considerations, were unable to be present. It was discouraging that so many of the younger members were absent from a meeting where a viva voce opinion would have more weight than a circular. He believed the Synod owed much to Dr. Bryce for his work in connection with the committee for the maintenance of the theological department. Dr. Robertson was their sole peripatetic agent. He commended the college, and asked for a subscription for the Home Mission Fund. He believed the Synod had great reason for congratulating itself on the position and progress of Manitoba college. As a staff of instructors they worked most amicably together, each being ready to assist the other. The attendance on the arts classes during the present year was about equal to that of last year, when the number was about 140, equal to the sum of arts and theological students together of any former year. There being twenty-six graduates in arts last year the present attendance was subject for congratulation. Among those now in attendance were several matured young men who had the ministry in view. The summer session, which had been inaugurated with the advice of the Synod had been successful, twenty-seven students being in attendance. The work went on smoothly. The students did not find the heat burdensome and were never in a better position to do excellent work. They had had a great advantage in the assistance rendered by the professors who came from the eastern colleges and by the Moderator, Mr. Wright. There had been manifested an earnest desire to serve us and free us from all unnecessary expense. He trusted that he would not have to report a deficit as he had not to do this for the past ten years. The new building had cost some \$43,300. There were \$38,000 subscribed, \$21,000 of which had been paid, and he hoped that the remainder would be forthcoming at least by the time of next Assembly. He looked for the college occupying a warm place in the affections of the people and he expected the graduates to be at his back. He was thankful to be spared to do this work. He hoped Prof. Baird and he would not be required to teach eleven months in the year or he would not be spared long, but he trusted to the interest of the Synod in the institution and asked that he be remembered in prayer, for the tone of religious life on the part of the professors had everything to do with the true success of the college.

Dr. Robertson and Mr. James Farquharson were appointed a committee to draw up a resolution bearing upon the work of the college and report at a future sederunt.

The Synod then adjourned to meet in the same place on Monday morning at 10 o'clock. On Sabbath communion services were held in the afternoon, conducted by the Moderator and John Hogg, addresses at the beginning and close being made by Rev. Joseph White and Rev. J. A. F. Sutherland respectively.

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Christian Endeavor.

THE WONDERFUL LOVE OF CHRIST.

BY REV. W. S. M'TAVISH, B.D., ST. GEORGE.

Dec. 17.—Rev. 1: 5; John 15: 9-13.

The love of Christ is certainly wonderful. Shakespeare represents Antony as saying to Cleopatra, "There's beggary in the love that can be reckoned." But there is no scantiness or beggary in the love of Christ, because it cannot possibly be measured. It passeth knowledge (Eph. 3: 19). But even if we cannot measure it we can at least consider how it manifests itself. If we do this properly, we shall realize in some degree how great is the love of Christ for the sinful sons of men.

I. The greatness of His love is seen in the fact that He laid down His life for us. A Russian nobleman was once out driving with his family, when he heard the cry of hungry wolves approaching. It soon became evident that there was no possibility of escape. Then the servant, calling to his master to drive on, threw himself upon the ground. While the hungry monsters paused in their mad pursuit to attack him, the nobleman and his family escaped. The grateful master afterward went back to where his self-sacrificing servant had fallen, gathered up his bones, decently buried them, erected over the grave a beautiful monument and had this inscription carved upon it, "Greater love hath no man than this, than that a man lay down his life for his friends." Now while it is true that there is no stronger evidence of human love, there is a love that transcends even that. It is this, that a man lay down his life for his enemies. Such was the love with which Jesus, the God-man, regarded us (Rom. 5: 7-8).

II. The wonderful love of Christ is seen in the fact, that though He loves so many He does not love each individual the less. Each believer can feel that he is loved as if he were the only one in the world to be loved. John was the disciple whom Jesus loved, and yet, when he wrote to the Christians who belonged to the Churches in Asia he said, "He loveth us" (Rev. 1: 5, Revised version). John thus includes those Christians with himself, and his words imply that Christ loved them as He loved him. Practically he says, "I have nothing which you do not possess, for as Christ loves me, so He loves you." As a stream widens out it generally becomes shallow, but the love of Christ is so wonderful that though His people may be located in every quarter of the globe, He loves each one with as much intensity as if they were only a little company gathered in a single room. There is room in the heart of Christ for all His people; be they as numerous as the sands upon the sea shore.

III. The love of Christ is wonderful inasmuch as it is not affected by time. Like Himself, His love is unchangeable. "Having loved His own which were in the world He loved them unto the end." "He loved us from the first of time; He loves us to the last." Though His love is always exercised, it is not in the least exhausted, and it will continue to bless and gladden His people from age to age.

IV. And then His love is so wonderful that it remains the same even though He is now exalted. At the time when John was writing to the Christians in Asia, Christ had been exalted about fifty years, and yet John said, "He loveth us." Sometimes when men are suddenly enriched or exalted, they forget or neglect those who are their companions in poverty. We are told that when Henry V. came to the throne of England, one of his first acts was to discard those who had formerly been his associates. But Christ is not ashamed to call us brethren (Heb. 2: 11). We may be very unworthy, but His love overleaps all obstacles, and knits His heart to ours. Whether we look back, and think of Christ on earth as the friend of sinners, or look up, and think of Him now upon His throne, we are comforted by the thought that He is the same Jesus. His exaltation did not chill His love.

The Presbyterian Ladies' College, on Bloor Street, announces its Christmas Concert for Thursday evening, the 21st inst. An excellent programme is being prepared under the direction of Mr. Edward Fisher, director. This part of the Session drawing to a close has been marked by the usual prosperity that has characterized this institution from its inception. The classes are now the largest in the history of the College, and enthusiastic work is being done in all its departments. The classes will resume after the holidays, on Monday the 8th of January, 1894, when new pupils will be admitted.