

McLennan, Sedgwick, R. Campbell, Montreal, and J. S. Black, ministers; and Messrs. H. B. Webster, J. Orell and George Hay, Elders—with the following to act as alternates in the order in which they are named should the Council agree to receive them in the event of any of the aforementioned delegates not being able to attend, namely: 1—J. Kerr, Elder, Toronto; 2—Rev. D. McRae, St. John; 3—Rev. R. Hamilton, Motherwell; 4—D. McKay, Elder, Toronto; 5—Rev. J. B. Scott, Safford. The Committee also reported a communication from the Rev. Dr. Van Gresson, who had been appointed a delegate from the Reformed Dutch Church of the United States, requesting his non-attendance at the meeting of the Assembly, conveying fraternal greetings, and transmitting documents containing information respecting the history, condition, and characteristics of the Church represented.

Rev. Dr. Burns, of Halifax, in moving the adoption of the report, said he was favorable to keeping up their intercourse with other Churches as much as possible, though the sending of delegates might be carried to an extreme. He did not approve of sending delegations every year to all the Churches, but the Pan-Presbyterian Council was of course an exception. He believed the selection made was an excellent one.

Rev. J. B. Muir, of Huntington, Que., seconded the motion, which was carried. The next item of business was one arising out of disputes between certain parties belonging to Calvin Church, St. John, N.B., and the Rev. S. Houston, late pastor of that church. The matter came before the Assembly in the form of a reference from the Presbytery, and two appeals by members of the Presbytery against certain findings of that body in connection with the case. On motion, the documents were referred to a Special Committee, which was instructed to report at a future seditur.

The following communications were read:—From the Secretary of the Y. M. C. A. of Halifax, offering the use of the rooms of the Association to members of the Assembly.

From the Superintendent of the Halifax Institution for the Blind, inviting delegates to visit that institution.

From the Superintendent of the Intercolonial Railway, announcing that members of the Assembly who had come by the Grand Trunk and Intercolonial Road would be permitted to return on the same ticket as St. John, New Brunswick, and Portland, and reminding those who preferred the latter route that they would have to pay the steamboat or railway fare from St. John to Portland.

The Assembly then adjourned till 7:30.

#### EVENING SEDERUNT.

The Assembly resumed at 7:30, and was opened with singing and prayer.

The minutes of the last seditur were read and approved. The report of the Committee on Bills and Ordinances, containing the order of business for to-morrow, was read, the first item being the reference from the Presbytery of Toronto in regard to Rev. D. J. Macdonnell.

The report was adopted.

Rev. Dr. Cochrane, of Brantford, presented the report of the Home Mission Committee of the Western section for 1876.

Rev. Dr. A. McGregor, of Halifax, read the report of the Maritime section of the Committee of Home Missions for 1877.

Rev. G. M. Grant read the report of the Committee on Supplements for the Synod of the Maritime Provinces. After reading the report, Mr. Grant drew attention to the large amount contributed by the Old Country Churches, and said he thought the time had come when their own Churches should contribute much more than they do, and thus be less dependant on the British Churches. He next referred to the small amount raised by the eastern section of the Church for the work in Manitoba, and said they should contribute a much larger amount to that work than they now did. He believed the great reason why more was not done was the lack of organization on the part of most of their sessions and congregations.

Rev. Mr. McTavish, of Woodstock, Ont., in moving the reception of the reports urged the importance of making each of the Presbyteries responsible for a fair share of the work. Ministers should rouse their people to a sense of the importance of the work. Some congregations excused their small contributions on the plea of want of thought, but that was no fair excuse for neglecting so important a part of God's work. He considered that it would be a great benefit to the work if in some cases several stations were grouped together, and one minister placed over them. Even if they could only be visited once in a while it would be a great advantage, especially in the French Canadian Missions. The salaries of these missionaries would be considerable, as they would be put to a good deal of expense. As to the money, there was plenty in the Church if they could only get rid of it. He strongly approved of exacting from everyone who entered the Church a minister, except such as came by call, from another, one year's service as a missionary. He appealed to his hearers to do what they could for the mission work of the Church. If godliness did not touch the heart it would not amount to much. He concluded by moving the reception of the reports, their reference to the Committee, and that the thanks of the Assembly be conveyed to the Scotch and Irish Churches for their liberality, and to the Committees and their conveners for their diligence.

Rev. Wm. Mitchell, of St. John, N.B., in moving the money, remarked that one reason why more money was not contributed towards the work was that its importance was not sufficiently appreciated. The fact that many of the missionaries were by reason of their talent and education fitted for higher positions than they now occupied should stimulate the church to support them. From patriotic motives and for the sake of righteousness which exalted a nation, they should aid a cause which had so much to do with the future of the Dominion.

Rev. Mr. Wishart, of Madoc, Ont., spoke of the importance of the North Hastings mission field, and gave some details of what had been done there.

Rev. Prof. Bryce, of Winnipeg, Manitoba, said that some idea of the importance of the work in the North-west might be formed from the fact that 8,000 had entered that Province last May. The authorities at Ottawa estimated that the immigration this season would be about 8,000, and very nearly three-fourths of these were Presbyterians. The magnitude of the work could scarcely be realized unless the circumstances of the country were thoroughly known. The Governors of both Manitoba and Keewatin were Presbyterians, as were the majority of the men of influence and of the people at large, and it was the duty of the Church to occupy the field as far as possible. The insinuation that the Presbyterians of Manitoba did not help themselves as much as they could, was not justified by the facts.

Rev. J. M. King, of Toronto, referring to some statements made by a previous speaker, denied that the better state of the Home Mission Fund was due to the reduction in the grant. He vindicated the strongly missionary spirit of the young ministers of the Church. "To the earnest, untiring work of the students in this respect was due a very large proportion of the success which had attended the missionary work of the Church in the past. The motion was unanimously adopted, and the reports referred to a special committee. The Assembly adjourned at ten o'clock.

#### THIRD DAY—MORNING SEDERUNT.

HALIFAX, N.S., June 15.

The Assembly met at ten o'clock. After devotional exercises the Assembly proceeded to the consideration of Mr. Macdonnell's case.

The Clerk read the following minutes of the Presbytery of Toronto:—

"At Toronto, and within the lecture room of Knox Church there, the first of May, 1877, the Presbytery of Toronto met and was constituted, &c. *Inter alia*, a letter was read from Mr. D. Macdonnell, stating that, in accordance with the instruction of the General Assembly of 1876 he now enclosed for transmission to the next Assembly, indited to meet at Halifax on the 18th prox., a report as to his acceptance of the teaching of the Church in regard to the eternity of the future punishment of the wicked. The said enclosed report was read, and the Clerk was instructed to remit the same to the General Assembly.

"R. MONTGOMERY, Presbytery Clerk."

The following statement was also read:—"To the Honourable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, indited to meet at Halifax, on the 18th June, 1877.

"Fathers and Brethren,

"The General Assembly of 1876 having required me to report through the Presbytery of Toronto to this Assembly whether I accept the teaching of the Church on the eternity of the future punishment of the wicked, I beg respectfully to state that I hold no opinion at variance with that teaching.

"I am, Fathers and brethren, Your obedient servant, D. J. MACDONNELL.

"Toronto, May 1, 1877."

It was moved by Rev. Dr. McGregor, of Halifax, and seconded by Rev. Mr. Duff: "That the Assembly do receive the report, and inasmuch as Mr. Macdonnell has expressed his regret for having preached the sermon which gave occasion for the reference to the Assembly, and has now, as required by the last Assembly, presented through his Presbytery a statement in which he declares that he holds no opinion at variance with the teachings of the Church on the eternity of the future punishment of the wicked, resolve that the proceedings in regard to this matter do now terminate."

It was moved in amendment by Rev. Dr. Topp, of Toronto, and seconded by Rev. James Thomson, of Pictou: "That the General Assembly having heard the statement of Mr. D. J. Macdonnell, given in his reply to the injunction of the last Assembly, whereby he was required to report through his Presbytery whether he accepts the teaching of the Church on the subject of the eternity or endless duration of the future punishment of the wicked, as taught in the Confession of Faith and as a doctrine of Scripture, finds that whilst repeating that he holds no opinion at variance with that teaching, he has failed to state that he accepts it. Accordingly, the Synod requires him to give in writing, addressed to the Moderator, before 10 o'clock on Saturday forenoon, a categorical answer to the said question in the terms of the deliverance of the last Assembly."

A long discussion followed, and the Assembly adjourned at three o'clock.

#### AFTERNOON SEDERUNT.

After singing and prayers, and the reading and adoption of the minutes of the morning seditur,

Rev. Prof. McLaren moved, "That the order of business as previously determined upon be departed from in so far as that the debate on the report of Mr. Macdonnell be continued until a conclusion is reached."

After discussion this motion was carried. Rev. J. B. Muir, of Huntington, Que., suggested that the motions made in the morning seditur be now read and a vote taken to-day.

The motions having been read, the debate continued all through the seditur, Rev. Mr. McLennan concluding his speech as the hour for adjournment arrived. It also occupied the whole of the evening seditur, at the close of which, on motion of Prof. McKerras, the debate was adjourned, and Dr. Topp was granted leave to change the time in his motion from Saturday to Monday.

#### FOURTH DAY—MORNING SEDERUNT.

The Assembly met at 10 o'clock. After devotional exercises and routine business,

Rev. Mr. Duncan Forest suggested that there should be some limitation of the time of the various speakers who addressed the Assembly on the case before them.

Rev. Prof. McKnight said that as he had

the floor last night at the adjournment, he thought the motion should not apply before he had spoken.

After Prof. McKnight and several other gentlemen had spoken,

Rev. John Scott, of Bruce, moved that the vote be now taken.

Rev. Mr. Tolmie seconded the motion.

Rev. Dr. Jenkins protested against any such method of shutting off discussion. It had been said that public opinion would be formed by what they did and said here, therefore the utmost freedom of discussion should be allowed. He was desirous of speaking, and there were others in the House who also wished to address the Assembly.

Rev. Principal Snodgrass considered that it would be unfair to force a vote when there were others who wished to give expression to their views.

Rev. Dr. Waters moved, "That the Assembly do now adjourn until three o'clock, and that the debate be then resumed."

Rev. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion.

Rev. Prof. McKerras said it would be most inconvenient to depart from their usual practice of not having an afternoon seditur on Saturday, as many members had to leave for the country to conduct services to-morrow, and besides, the Assembly room would have to be made ready for the usual service on the Sabbath. Several members opposed the holding of an afternoon seditur.

Rev. Mr. Scott offered to withdraw his motion, but his seconder would not consent.

After an irregular and rather noisy discussion the motion to adjourn until three o'clock was put to the Assembly and lost.

The motion that the vote be now taken was carried.

Rev. Dr. Jenkins claimed the right of dissenting from the vote just taken.

The Assembly then proceeded to take the vote on Dr. McGregor's motion and Dr. Topp's amendment, with the following result:—For the amendment, 178; for the motion, 81.

Rev. Mr. Macdonnell was present, but did not vote.

The vote having been announced,

Rev. Principal Snodgrass rose and said: "In my name, and in the name of all who adhere to my dissent, I dissent from the judgment of the Court for two reasons. First, that Mr. Macdonnell has already reported an answer in a form as categorical as can constitutionally and fairly be given by one who adheres to the Confession of Faith. Secondly, that the Assembly has no constitutional right at this stage of the proceedings in the matter before it to require Mr. Macdonnell to give his answer in any particular form."

The names of Rev. Dr. Cook and thirty-seven others were recorded as adhering to the dissent.

Rev. Dr. Topp moved, "That a committee be appointed to answer those reasons that the answer may be placed on record along with them."

The motion was carried, and Rev. Principal McVicar, Rev. J. M. King, and Rev. Dr. Topp were appointed a committee.

Rev. Mr. Macdonnell rose and said: "Mr. Moderator,—If you and the Assembly will allow me I will give my answer now instead of at ten o'clock on Monday morning. I have answered as categorically as a minister within the Church who has given his adherence to the Confession of Faith, and still adheres to it, can fairly and constitutionally be required to do on a point on which he is confessedly in difficulty. If my answer is not satisfactory, I request, as I have a constitutional right to do, that the Presbytery of Toronto be instructed to frame a libel according to the laws of the Church. I will put this answer in writing. (Applause.)"

A committee to strike the Standing Committee having been appointed and several announcements made, the Assembly at two o'clock adjourned until ten o'clock on Monday.

#### FIFTH DAY—MONDAY 18th.

##### MORNING SEDERUNT.

The Assembly met at ten o'clock. After devotional exercises and routine business, Rev. Mr. McTavish, Woodstock, moved, "That hereafter, during the sitting of the Assembly, every speaker introducing a motion shall be limited to a quarter of an hour, and every after speaker to ten minutes."

Rev. Mr. Monroe, Embro', seconded the motion.

Rev. Mr. Middlemiss thought that notice should be given of such a motion.

After some discussion the motion was allowed to stand as a notice until the next seditur.

The Clerk then read a written statement, handed in by Rev. Mr. Macdonnell, substantially identical with the verbal answer which he had given on Saturday.

It was moved by Rev. Mr. Middlemiss, seconded by Rev. Dr. Topp, "That the consideration of Mr. Macdonnell's statement be taken up to-morrow morning at ten o'clock, and that meantime the statement be printed and put in the hands of members in the course of the afternoon."

After a few remarks by Principal Caven the motion was unanimously adopted.

Rev. Dr. Topp read answers to the reasons of dissent as prepared by the Committee appointed for that purpose.

On motion of Rev. Mr. Laing, Dundas, it was resolved that the answers be received, adopted, and entered on the minutes.

Rev. Dr. Proudfoot presented the report of the Board of Management of Knox College, Toronto.

In reply to a question it was stated that there was a reasonable expectation of realizing the whole amount of \$40,000 bequeathed to the College Fund by the late Wm. Hall, of Peterboro'.

In reply to other questions, the details of the Building Fund Account were read by Dr. Reid.

Rev. Principal Caven read the report of the Senate of Knox College.

Rev. Principal Snodgrass read the report of the managers of Queen's College, Kingston, the Chairman, Hon. John Hamilton, being absent.

Rev. J. Seringer read the report of the Board of Management of the Presbyterian College, Montreal.

Rev. Dr. Cook gave a verbal report respecting Morris College, Quebec. The Assembly then adjourned until three o'clock.

#### AFTERNOON SEDERUNT.

After the reading and ratification of the minutes,

Rev. Mr. McTavish moved the resolution of which he had previously given notice respecting the shortening of time allowed to each speaker during the rest of the business and other discussions of the Assembly.

After a brief discussion the resolution was adopted, on the understanding that conveners of committees should be allowed a longer time than fifteen minutes in speaking to their reports.

Rev. Dr. Burns read the report of the Board of Superintendents of the theological Hall, Halifax.

Rev. Mr. Gifflespie, delegate from the United Presbyterian Church of North America, was then introduced and briefly addressed the Assembly.

The Moderator, on behalf of the Assembly, briefly acknowledged the greetings of the sister Church, and expressed the kindly feelings entertained towards it by the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

An overture from the Presbytery of Paris, transmitted through the Synod of London and Hamilton was read. The overture recommended:—First—That immediate steps be taken to materially reduce the expenditure of Manitoba College. 2nd—That Queen's University be brought into closer relations with the Church. 3rd—That the Theological Hall of the Church be affiliated with Queen's University. 4th—That the territorial system for the support of the Colleges be discontinued. 6th—That no church lectureship be instituted without the consent of Presbyteries. 7th—That no appointment be made to any such without a reference to Presbyteries.

The following recommendation also appeared in the original overture, but was withdrawn by the Presbytery with the consent of the Synod:—That the members of the Theological faculty of Queen's College be transferred to Knox and Montreal Colleges, as the Assembly may direct.

Rev. Mr. McTavish stated that he had been appointed in the first instance to support the overture as sent in to the Senate by the Presbytery of Paris. The intention of the Presbytery was to express a desire for the removal of the Theological faculty from Queen's College, using that institution simply as the University of the Church to which the other Theological Halls might be affiliated. As the overture had been changed he refused to support it.

Rev. Mr. McLeod, Paris, and Rev. Mr. McEwan, Ingersoll, also declined to say anything in favour of the overture in its present form.

On motion of Mr. McCrea, Elora, it was received and laid on the table.

An overture was received from the Presbytery of Manitoba asking that two young men, viz., Messrs. Omand and J. W. Cunningham, be permitted to study for the ministry at Manitoba College, under the care of the Presbytery.

The overture was referred to the Committee to be appointed on college work.

On motion of R. H. Warden, a committee was appointed to take into consideration the reports of the several colleges and the overture from the Presbytery of Manitoba—Mr. Warden himself to be convener.

Rev. Dr. Cochrane read the report of the directors of the Brantford Young Ladies College for 1876-77.

Rev. Dr. Topp spoke in high terms of the efficiency of the institution and of the excellence of its appointments for giving a first-class education to young ladies.

Rev. Principal Snodgrass said that he had visited the College, and was convinced that it was succeeding admirably. Its arrangements throughout were as nearly perfect as possible, and the training it conferred was of a very high order.

Rev. Dr. Waters endorsed the remarks of the previous speakers as to the high character of the institution, and moved the appointment of a committee to nominate directors for the ensuing year.

Rev. Dr. Burns seconded the motion which was carried.

Rev. Dr. Reid read the report of the Committee on the distribution of probationers in the western section.

An overture on Home Mission work from the Presbytery of Barrie, transmitted by the Synod of Toronto and Kingston without approval, was read, and Messrs. Gray and Rodgers were heard in support of it. The overture proposed that the whole mission field should be divided into two districts, to be known as the Near and Remote; that the stations in the former should be attached in winter to the adjacent congregations; that those further off should be supplied by lay missionaries; and that to allow students to spend part of their time in winter in remote districts summer sessions of the College should be held for their benefit.

Rev. J. Gray, Orillia, addressed the Assembly in support of the overture, saying that the principal want of the Church in regard to the matter of the overture was its inability to supply the Home Mission field during the winter months. One advantage of the plan suggested was that it would utilize the best of the lay element of the Church during the winter. These men would not only supply the existing destitution, but their experience would afford a test of their practical ability for the work of the ministry. The scheme was also worthy of consideration on account of the small expense it would involve.

Rev. Mr. Rodgers, Collingwood, endorsed Mr. Gray's remarks, and said that men of the kind contemplated in the overture could be found in almost every congregation. There were many laymen who were able to speak intelligently on ordinary secular subjects, and who could be an immense power for good if they turned their talents in the direction of missionary work. Every student, after being licensed should spend some time in the mission field.

The overture was referred to the Committee on Home Missions.

The Assembly adjourned until 7:30 p.m.

#### EVENING SEDERUNT.

Upon resuming, the minutes of the last seditur were read and sustained.

An application from the Presbytery of Owen Sound was read, asking permission to take Messrs. Mitchell and Kippen on trial for license. The application was referred to the Committee on such applications.

Rev. Principal McVicar read the second annual report of the Board of French Evangelization.

The reception of this report was moved by Rev. D. H. Fletcher, Hamilton, and seconded by Rev. Dr. Burns, Halifax; and after favorable remarks by Rev. Mr. Rogers, Ashburn, Rev. Mr. Gordon, Ottawa, Mr. Thomas Melrose, Guelph, Mr. James Court, Montreal, Rev. Dr. Reid, Rev. Mr. Porter, and Rev. Mr. Wishart, the motion was unanimously adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned.

#### SIXTH DAY—TUESDAY, 19th.

##### MORNING SEDERUNT.

Rev. Mr. Middlemiss, of Elora, seconded by Rev. Dr. Proudfoot, moved that the case of Rev. D. J. Macdonnell be referred to the Toronto Presbytery as desired by him.

It was moved by Rev. Dr. Cochrane, of Brantford, and seconded by Rev. Dr. Jenkins, of Montreal, that before the motion be proceeded with, a Committee be appointed to confer with Mr. Macdonnell and see if some arrangement could not yet be made that will be satisfactory.

This latter motion was carried, almost unanimously, no one responding to the call for the yeas.

The Committee was then appointed, and at once retired.

##### AFTERNOON SEDERUNT.

The Committee appointed to confer with Mr. Macdonnell brought in the following report, which was read by Rev. Dr. Jenkins:—

"The Committee appointed by the General Assembly to meet and deliberate with a view of presenting a basis for a satisfactory settlement of the matter relating to Mr. Macdonnell beg leave respectfully to report that they have ascertained from Mr. Macdonnell, through a sub-Committee, that in intimating in his last statement to the General Assembly his adherence to the Confession of Faith he intended to be understood as saying:—

"I consider myself as under subscription to the Confession of Faith in accordance with my ordination vows, and I therefore adhere to the teaching of the Church as contained therein on the doctrine of the eternity or the endless duration of the future punishment of the wicked, notwithstanding the doubts and difficulties which perplex my mind."

The Committee therefore unanimously recommend that this statement be accepted as satisfactory, and that further proceedings be dropped. (Applause.)

It was moved by Rev. Dr. Topp, seconded by Rev. Dr. McGregor, of Halifax, that the report be adopted.

The motion was carried unanimously, the whole Assembly expressing their assent by standing up.

The last three stanzas of the 122nd Psalm were sung, and Rev. Robert Sedgwick, of Musquodoboit, led in prayer.

The Assembly then adjourned.

#### The Late Mr. James McAdam.

St. Thomas.

At a meeting of the managers of the affairs of the Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, held on Wednesday the 6th of June it was moved by James McCrone, seconded by Henry Kirkland, and unanimously carried:—

That whereas in the Providence of God, by the decease of the late Mr. James McAdam, this board has sustained a great loss, in being at this juncture deprived of the valuable counsel of an active, zealous member: Resolved that we record our sorrow for the loss of him, who was wont to exhibit so many virtues of head and heart; that we tender to Mrs. McAdam and her bereaved family our heartfelt sympathy, and that the mover and seconder present an address embodying the above sentiments. Signed

L. CAMPBELL.

Mrs. James McAdam, MADAM,—In accordance with the enclosed extract from the minutes of a meeting of the managers of the Presbyterian Church held on the 6th June.

We are desirous to convey to you and your family the unanimous expression of sympathy actuating this Board, of which your "late" husband was an honored member.

Regretting the bereavement for our own sakes, as by his executive abilities and matured business habits, he was well qualified to tide the Board of Management through the many pecuniary difficulties that lie before it.

We earnestly pray, that the gracious ends for which this great trial has been sent, may be accomplished in the lives of those near and dear to your late partner, and that this season of sorrow may render the Gospel increasingly precious to you and yours.

Madam, we trust Christ who is ever near (especially to the broken hearted) may fulfil his promise in your case, by sending the Comforter.

Remembering that he whose loss we mutually deplore, ere he passed away, gave good evidence that he has been made meet for the inheritance of the saints in light, that he was cleansed from all guilt and clothed with the Saviour's righteousness, we hope that in all your grief you may find this assurance to be a source of purest joy.

Commending you and your sorrowing family to the care of him who afflicts not willingly, we are, Madam, yours faithfully, JAS. McCORNE, HENRY KIRKLAND.

St. Thomas, June 8th 1877.

The heart which glows with the love of God will ever be quick to see work for the hand to do for the glory of God.

Seek not so much to know thy enemies and friends; for where one man has fallen by foes, a hundred have been ruined by acquaintances.