

a speech of commendable brevity, in which appreciative reference was made to the name of the Rev. Dr. Robertson as a household word in our Church, to his great services to the Church in the capacity of Superintendent of Missions, and in connection with the Church and Manse Building Fund, and eminent qualifications for the position, he proposed him as moderator of the Assembly. The Rev. Professor Forest seconded the nomination, and as no other name was proposed, Dr. Robertson was unanimously and cordially elected. Upon his appearance on the platform attired in the official robe he was welcomed by the Rev. Dr. MacKay. He thanked the members of the Assembly for the honor conferred upon him, which he took to be not so much personal to himself, as a recognition of the great Home Mission work of the Church with which he had been so closely identified. In the name of the Home Missionaries of the Church toiling down by the sea in the East, in Quebec, in the Ottawa Valley and in other parts of Ontario, in the Prairies of the West, and in the rugged mountains of British Columbia, on to the Pacific coast in the West, he thanked the Assembly. He could wish, he said, that the moderator should be one of the ablest Ministers of the Church, that he should during his term of office visit its great mission fields, the Synod meetings of the Church, should be a first-rate chairman, and, presiding at the great gatherings of the Church, should show that from the most distant East to the most distant West it was one Church. Having begun to choose its moderator from West of Lake Superior he hoped the Church would go on to show its interest in the West by holding the Assembly of 1896 in some part of that great region.

Proceeding he made touching reference to the late pastor of the church in which the Assembly was met, who last year gave them such a cordial invitation to London, but who had since been called to his rest. With him he joined the name of the late Professor Thompson who had so early in life been called by the Church to the high post which he filled so well, but who had also early been called to rest from his labors. The death of these men and others had left the Church poorer, and it was a call to all to be ready, for in such an hour as we think not the Son of Man might come.

He appealed to the members of the Assembly for their sympathy and indulgence in discharging the duties of the chair. The business promised to be of a quiet kind, but it was in these times of quiet that the Church made progress, as Israel of old did, when, as we read, the "land had rest."

The ex-moderator, Dr. MacKay, read the replies which had been addressed to him to the loyal addresses presented by the last Assembly to Her Majesty the Queen and to his Excellency the Governor-General. The Rev. Dr. Cochrane read the names of the Committee of Bills and Overtures, announced their time of meeting and the hours of the Assembly's sittings. Rev. Dr. McMullen moved a cordial vote of thanks, which was carried, to the retiring moderator for his conduct in the chair, and for the sermon he had that evening preached, which being carried, and presented formally by Dr. Robertson to Dr. MacKay, the benediction was pronounced and the Assembly stood adjourned to meet the next morning at 10 a.m. for devotional exercises to be continued one hour.

SECOND DAY.

FIRST SEDERUNT.

Before business began an hour was spent in devotional exercises, led by the Moderator in the chair. This hour has sometimes, not to the credit of the Assembly, been not so well attended might be expected from such a body. This instance was an exception. The attendance was good at the beginning, and before it closed the body of the Church was well-filled. In addition to the Moderator, the Rev. Dr. McMullen, Rev. Styles Fraser, Messrs. Paul, of Montreal, and Patterson, of Winnipeg, elders; the Rev. Principal King, Rev. Mr. Mowat, of Montreal, and Rev. Principal McVicar led in prayer. Devoutness, reverence, humility, a sense of dependence upon God and the Holy Spirit's guidance breathed in the manner and spirit of the prayers and fell upon the Assembly. It was interesting to notice the fulness and variety of the petitions presented with confidence to Him who gives all. Interest in and love of the Church were conspicuous in the prayers, as well as loyalty to and honor of the sovereign, and love for the Dominion in which we have our home.

When the Assembly was constituted for business, Dr. Cochrane for the Committee on Bills and Overtures reported the following order of business which was agreed to: (1) Reception of ministers. (2) Reception of students. (3) Retirement of

ministers. (4) The appointment of two judicial committees to deal with cases which might be referred to it. Upon motion made it was afterward agreed to that there should be only one judicial committee, of which the Rev. Principal McVicar was appointed convener, but for whom was subsequently substituted Rev. Dr. McMullen. Of the others the Rev. Dr. Warden was convener of the first, the Rev. Mr. Gracie of the second, and Rev. Dr. Sedgwick of the third. The reading of the papers of applicants to be received was proceeding when the hour of adjournment arrived.

SECOND SEDERUNT.

This was wholly given up to reports on colleges, which had a great field day on this afternoon. Before, however, this was taken up the Rev. Dr. Reid rose to make a personal statement, which was received by the court with attentive and sympathetic interest. It was to the effect—(1) That he felt he was no longer able and it would not be right for him to attempt to do all the work connected with his office, and which he had long done. (2) That yet he still desired to be in connection with, and do a share of the work of the Church. (3) He referred to the immense increase of the business connected with the Church since he entered upon his present office, and especially the increase during the last year, in connection particularly with the home mission work of the Church, and, last, that he had intended before coming to the Assembly to confer with some of his friends respecting the position which had thus arisen, but had been unable to do so. He now wished to suggest that the Moderator should name a small committee which might confer with him confidentially to some extent in the situation, with a view to such action being taken as might appear best in the premises.

The Moderator in a tone of sympathy referred to Dr. Reid's long and faithful service of the Church, and asked the Assembly's assent to the proposal of Dr. Reid, which was at once granted.

College reports were next taken up. There was upon the whole a considerable similarity in the character of these reports and it will be necessary to note only the salient points of each. The reports being printed and in the hands of members were held as read.

I. Halifax. The chief features in this report were asking the ratification of the Assembly to the nomination by the Presbyteries of the Maritime Provinces of the Rev. D. M. Gordon, D.D., to the chair in the college of systematic theology and apologetics, and of the appointment of the Rev. R. A. Falconer, B.D., who for three years has been lecturer in New Testament exegesis, to be professor in the college of the same subject. Reference was also made in the report to arrangements for holding a summer school of theology, to give to brethren from various sections of the Church, opportunity of study, interchange of opinion and intercourse. It was also stated that three houses for rental to college professors have been erected in the college grounds, which it is believed will prove a good investment of the funds of the college and be an advantage to the students boarding within the College. Appended to this report, as to all the others, was a full statement of all the receipts and expenditures of the various colleges. The reception and adoption of this report was moved and seconded in appropriate and commendatory addresses and agreed to by the Assembly.

II. Morrin College. The main feature in this report was the mention made of the receipt for the College of \$120,000 from the estate of the late Senator Ross, of which \$20,000 have been securely invested. Provisional arrangements have been made for conducting art's classes on an enlarged basis and for doing work in the Faculty of Theology. Mention is made of the service rendered to the Church in the past by this college at almost no cost, and to be fact that the "existence of such a college worthily conducted in a Roman Catholic centre like Quebec is of much benefit to the Protestant cause generally, and that for this reason the college is worthy of the sympathy, the prayers and the material support of the Church at large." The continuance of an Advisory Committee of the Assembly appointed last year to act with the governors of the college in obtaining a suitable principal was recommended. The Rev. Dr. Thompson, of Sarnia moved, and Rev. Principal Grant seconded, the acceptance and adoption of the report, which was agreed to by the Assembly.

III. Presbyterian College, Montreal. In the absence of Mr. David Munroe, the report of this college was presented by Rev. Dr. Warden, of

Montreal. It referred to the number of students in attendance as being 82, of whom 11 graduated last April, and the fortunate situation of the college in being affiliated with McGill College. As bearing upon our college the securing of Dr. Peterson as successor to Sir Wm. Dawson was referred to, and the prospects before McGill of securing large endowments in the not distant future. Dr. Warden spoke of the different sources of revenue of the college, and as others had to do, of these declining especially owing to business depression and the lowered rate of interest from investments. Speaking generally he said that the financial management of the colleges of the country was exceedingly able and sound, surpassing according to high testimony that of the banks. The Scholarship and Library Funds Dr. Warden spoke of as being well sustained and in good condition. The failure of many congregations to do anything whatever for the college was noticed in the report and unhappily the same thing is true with respect to other colleges.

Mr. George Hay of Ottawa moved the reception and adoption of the report. He referred to the wisdom as an investment of providing houses for the college professors, and the great importance of securing a large number of supporters among the people for our colleges rather than depending upon a few for large gifts. He spoke in strong term of the failure of the Church at large to support the college as they ought to be supported, and considered that the blame for this lay largely upon the ministers. The Rev. Peter Wright, B.D., of Portage La Prairie, seconded the adoption of the report which was agreed to.

IV. Queen's University and College were reported upon by the Rev. Principal Grant. He said that the steady increase in the number of students which had marked the history of the college during the last twenty years still continued. The actual number of students this year was 533, as against 456 last year, of whom 390 were in the Faculty of Arts. Sixty-seven students were prosecuting their studies beyond the college walls, a fact of interest as indicating the spread of a taste for study. The number of students in Divinity is 33. Reference was made to the falling off in the receipts of the Assembly's College Fund on account of which the trustees of Queen's have not been able to add a professor or lecturer to the theological faculty although sanctioned by the Assembly. Efforts are made, Dr. Grant pointed out, to supply to some extent this lack by utilizing, as far as possible, in some subjects the services of the professors in arts, and further by means of an Alumni Conference which had now been successfully carried on for three years with much interest and benefit to all who attended it. It was mentioned by Dr. Grant, as showing the confidence of the students of the college and interest in it, that 25 had returned to it to take a post-graduate course.

The Rev. Dr. McTavish, of Toronto, who moved the reception and adoption of the report, contrasted the condition of the college now with what it was 15 years ago when there were but 80 in arts as compared with 390 now. Mr. John Cameron, of London, in seconding the motion, referred to the layman's, elder's or manager's view of the colleges as compared with the professors or ministers. He spoke with pleasure of the efficiency and variety of the work done in the colleges and of the good feeling existing and growing between them and their professors. The Rev. Dr. Milligan also spoke in connection with this report and bore testimony especially to the great value of the Alumni Conference. The motion carried.

V. Knox College came next in order, and, in the absence of Mr. Mortimer Clark, the Rev. Principal Caven reported for this college in his behalf. The largest graduating class in the history of the college had gone out from it this year—28. In theology there were 82 students, and, including those in the Preparatory Department, 119 in all. With regard to this department, while it could not yet be done without, all students were encouraged, as far as possible, to take a full university course. Dr. Caven asked that the recommendation of the Board to increase the salary of Mr. Logie, tutor in Latin, Greek and English, to \$1,000 be approved. The death of the late Prof. Thompson was referred to by Dr. Caven in tones of evidently deep feeling, and the highest testimony borne to his many admirable qualities, especially joined with high and varied scholarship, his humility, modesty, courageous pursuit and fearless laying hold of and defending truth. Reference was made at length by Dr. Caven to the nomination made in the report by the Board, of the Rev. Dr. MacIntosh, of Philadelphia, as successor to the late Professor Thompson. The long and valuable labours in connection with the college of the Rev. Dr. Gregg, and his many excellent qualities,

were appreciatively spoken of in connection with his resignation contained in the report.

The finances of the college were spoken to by Dr. Caven, and its needs in this respect. The fact that 600 ministers had gone out from it, of whom 300 were still serving the Church, and the many valuable services which this largest of our theological colleges had rendered to the Church, were referred to as making a strong claim upon the Church for adequate support. The college had not urged its claims very greatly, but it was needing much more support, and here the Doctor quite brought down the house by expressing the hope that some drops of the showers of financial blessing which some of the colleges were expecting might descend upon Knox. The failure of the Board to take earlier action in asking Presbyteries to nominate a successor to Professor Thompson was explained by Dr. Caven to be due to an error in the printed minutes of the Assembly.

The Rev. Dr. Milligan seconded the reception and adoption of the report, which had been moved by Dr. Caven, with the exception for the present, of that part which referred to the appointment of a successor to the late Professor Thompson,—and in doing so referred to the jubilee year of Knox College just passed, and to the important work it had done for the Church during these years. From the position of Toronto, and Knox College being in it, it must always occupy a chief place in the Church, and accordingly it was especially important that it should be well sustained. Its present position through the death of one professor and the resignation of another, was referred to as being in some respects critical, as so much of the future of the college depended upon the appointments to be made to the vacant places. This was the feeling generally of the graduates of the college who were most deeply interested in it, and it was felt, as referred to by Dr. Caven as well, that in view of the shortness of the time given to make choice of new professors, and of a probable re-arrangement of subjects in the college course, delay for a time would be the wisest course in the present juncture of the circumstances of the college.

Attention was at this point called to the fact that the resignation of Dr. Gregg was not excepted in the motion as made, and he wished this to be noted. Explanations were made which led to this being for the present excepted, and the motion in this shape was carried. The Rev. Dr. Gregg, who had been out of the meeting, at this point appeared, and explained the matter of his resignation through the Board, which he now definitely tendered to the Assembly and asked to be accepted. He spoke feeling of his long connection with the college, upwards of twenty-two years, and of his hope and desire still to be of service to it and to the Church.

The Rev. Dr. Grant in a few apt words referred to Dr. Gregg's services and suggested that the Moderator name a committee to deal with Professor Gregg's resignation, to report at a future sederunt. The Rev. Dr. MacVicar, Dr. Bryce and Dr. Sedgwick having all, in graceful, affectionate and appreciative terms, referred to Dr. Gregg's work and character, the course suggested by the Rev. Dr. Grant was agreed to.

VI. Manitoba College. In the necessary absence of Chief Justice Taylor, the Rev. Principal King presented the report of this college. He noticed the fact of the Church maintaining in Winnipeg an arts as well as a theological college. Their progress might be slow, but it was sure. In the former faculty there were 152 students and in the summer Session in theology 32. The excellent work done in the college was evidenced by the fact that the students in arts at the examinations in the University of Manitoba carried off the largest share of the scholarships and medals. The sources of revenue of the college were: (1) Collections made for it by order of the General Assembly; (2) grants made to it by transatlantic churches; (3) fees from students; and (4) proceeds of investments. Special reference was made by Dr. King to the first, and, indeed, but for the great falling off in this, he would probably not have felt it his duty to be at the Assembly while the summer Session was going on in Winnipeg. This source of revenue had been steadily declining until now this year it amounted to \$1,000. This state of things had compelled them to draw from year to year upon another source which would soon, if things went on, be exhausted. What made this matter worse was that the theological school in this province was one which the whole church was pledged to support, and that but a very little effort on the part of the Church to implement its obligations would adequately sustain. Should this state of things continue the position would soon become most serious. He himself