

# THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

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## Pastor and People.

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA, 1894.

FOURTH DAY—SATURDAY.

#### COLLEGE REPORTS.

The General Assembly proceedings to-day extended over the forenoon seditur only. The afternoon was devoted to the excursion on the St. John river, and the evening to a reception at the Mechanics' Institute. College interests occupied the attention of the Assembly. In the Maritime Provinces the theological institution is at Pine Hill, Halifax. The place vacant by the death of the late principal has been filled by the appointment of Prof. Pollock as the new principal. Forty divinity students attended the sessions of 1893-94. The college was never in such an efficient state as at present, and the enthusiasm of its friends is increasing. In the Province of Quebec there are two institutions, Morrin College in Quebec city, and the Presbyterian College in Montreal. The former of these has had an addition during the past few days of \$180,000 to its revenue through a bequest from the estate of the late millionaire Koss. This amount invested will produce the required financial aid for a new principal and additional professors, all of which are now very much required. The college at Montreal is doing an important work, and its Board of Management is able to speak of continued prosperity. Nearly one hundred students attended the theological classes last year.

Outside of Ontario, on the west, is Manitoba College, in Winnipeg, with an arts as well as a theological department. In the former there were 144 students and in the latter 30. The Board of Management report their total receipts to the ordinary fund of Manitoba College to be nearly \$19,000, with an expenditure of \$17,000 and a little over. The payment for salaries of professors and tutors, not including the salary of the principal, and for travelling expenses connected with the summer session, amounted to \$8,500.

The three colleges of Ontario heard from to-day were the Ladies' College, Brantford, Queen's College at Kingston, and Knox College, Toronto. Queen's reports the total number of students registered as 474, viz., in arts 347, in law 8, in medicine 107, in theology 27.

The financial statement shows that the deficit for the year was only \$635. The receipts from the Assembly's College Fund show a substantial and gratifying increase.

The Assembly in receiving that report, recorded "its grateful appreciation of the conduct of the Board of Trustees." The trustees report to the following effect: The theological professors shall be appointed by the trustees, subject to the veto of the General Assembly, and no such professor shall enter upon his duties until after the meeting of the Assembly next succeeding the date of his appointment. The trustees would submit that this proposal gives a better guarantee for control by the church than the alternative method of appointment by the Assembly on nomination by a board.

Our theological faculty, continues the report, is small in number, too small to do the work that is now required, and another professor should be appointed without delay.

#### KNOX COLLEGE.

The Board of Management have great pleasure in presenting the report of the work of the college for the fiftieth year of its existence. In doing so they desire to express their gratitude to Almighty God for the success which has attended the institution since its small beginning, half a century ago, and their thankfulness that it has been the means of affording a theological education to so many students, and that upwards of 400 ministers have left its halls to serve the church as professors, pastors and missionaries at home and abroad. During the past year 119 students have been in attendance, and the board observes with pleasure that this is a larger number than that recorded in any previous year. In addition to those actually enrolled as students in theology, a large number of young men are attending the University of Toronto having in view the ministry of our church. The accommodation of the residence for students is taxed to its utmost capacity, and the board are most anxious to make arrangements for improving the residence as a home for the students by securing the services of a gentleman who would reside in the college and, while superintending the preparatory department, would exercise a supervision over the young men in residence. The matter of lighting the college has occupied the serious attention of the board. A committee of the board have at present under consideration the respective advantages and expense of lighting by gas or electricity. In this matter, however, as in every other department, the lack of funds prevents much progress being made. The board acknowledges with many thanks the large and instructive collection of objects illustrating the religion of China donated to the museum by Dr. Mackay, of Formosa. It now possesses a very extensive, and, in some respects, unique

collection of objects of deep interest to all friends of our mission. Thanks to the considerate bequest of the late Mr. James MacLaren, very considerable additions have been made to the library, and under the care of Rev. W. A. J. Martin it bids fair, at no distant date, to become worthy of the institution. An admirable portrait of Mr. MacLaren has, in accordance with the Assembly's instructions, been procured, and will shortly be placed in Convocation hall, as a fitting memorial to the beneficent interest manifested by him during his lifetime, and also in his will, on behalf of the college.

While the educational work of the college continues to increase and the necessity of maintaining a fully equipped theological seminary of our church in connection with the University of Toronto is every year becoming more apparent, it is to be regretted that the church does not put the board in funds to support the college even in its running expenses, far less to increase its efficiency. From the treasurer's statement herewith submitted it will be seen that the total expenditure amounts to \$19,521.01, while the receipts from all sources are \$17,218.40, leaving a deficiency of \$2,303.61. There has been a falling off in the congregational contributions of \$627.47, and a considerable decrease in the returns from investments. This is not, however, so much, as a comparison with the receipts from this source in 1893 may seem to indicate, for a considerable amount of arrears for 1892 was paid in 1893, and this somewhat unduly swelled the returns of the latter year. There has been, however, a very serious deficit arising from the decline in the rate of interest, and this decrease must be looked for in a greater degree, as securities bearing the old rates fall in and have to be reinvested at the reduced rates of interest now prevailing. The board again remind the church that a mortgage of \$26,000 yet remains on the college, entailing an annual expenditure of \$1,590 for interest. It is the intention of the board to take some steps to celebrate the semi-centenary of the college in October next, and they are desirous that the interest of the many friends of the college should on that occasion find a tangible and appropriate expression in the removal of this incumbrance.

The board having had under their consideration the report of the committee of the Assembly on the relation of the colleges to the church, approve of the recommendation of the committee that nominations for appointments of professors be made by the respective boards, and that the appointments be made by the Assembly. They are of opinion that the Assembly should preserve full control over the appointment of all theological professors.

Representatives of each of these institutions were heard this forenoon. Fitting resolutions were proposed covering the cases respectively, and adopted by the General Assembly.

#### EXCURSION TO DELEGATES.

The delegates, with their friends, to the number of five hundred, on the invitation of the Board of Trade, took an excursion in the afternoon up the St. John river for about twenty-five miles, as far as Oak Point, on the steamer *Aberdeen*. The afternoon being fine and cool, all enjoyed to the fullest the beautiful scenery of what is termed the "Rhine of America."

In the evening, a reception was given to the members of the Assembly in the rooms of the Mechanics' Institute, under the auspices of the Women's Home Missionary Society of St. John, and they were crowded with the Assembly commissioners, their wives and daughters, representatives from all the churches. Anglicans, Methodists, Roman Catholics, Baptists, Congregationalists, as well as Presbyterians, graced the occasion with their presence. The decorations were superb, and the tables heavily laden.

Mayor Robertson addressing the General Assembly, as he said, for the first time, grew eloquent. He claimed for St. John that it was the most beautiful city in Canada. He spoke of its prosperity until the fire of 1877 and of its greater advancement since that scourge. Being a Presbyterian and an elder in one of the churches he referred to the growth and standing of the denomination whose supreme court was now in session in this city, and testified that the aim of the church was to maintain

#### THE SPIRITUAL INTERESTS

of this important centre. Then in the name of the ladies he extended a hearty welcome. The Moderator of the General Assembly responded.

#### SABBATH.

The pulpits of the city churches were occupied to-day by members of the Assembly. Rev. R. Johnston, of Lindsay, preached in St. David's from "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ," in the morning; and Rev. J. Fraser Campbell, returned missionary from India, preached a missionary sermon in the same place in the evening.

A mass meeting of children from the Presbyterian Sunday schools of the city was held in St. Andrew's Church in the afternoon at three o'clock and a communion service was held at four o'clock in St. David's Church. The different members of the Assembly distributed themselves over the city, its suburbs and other places that could be reached by rail and steamer, at the invitation of all denominations, and preached from their pulpits in the morning and evening.

Rev. Dr. Cochrane preached in Brussels Street Baptist Church, which was crowded to hear him. The reverend gentleman's subject was "The well watered plain of Jordan." He took his text from Genesis xiii. 5, 10, 11.

A very large congregation assembled in St. Andrew's Church to hear the Rev. Mr. Herridge, from Ottawa. His sermon, which was an exceptionally forcible one, was from Romans xii., 17th verse, "Provide things honest in the sight of all men."

In the Centenary Church Rev. Principal Grant delivered an able sermon to a large congregation, taking for his text, Luke ix, 59 60, "And he said unto another, Follow Me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father."

Rev. Father Chiquoy preached an eloquent sermon in Calvin Church on "The gift of God." He preached again in the evening in the Carleton Presbyterian Church.

According to general testimony, Sabbath was a day to be remembered in St. John by reason of the messages that fell from the lips of so many good men.

#### FIFTH DAY—MONDAY.

After the respite from business, so much appreciated, afforded by the Sabbath, the General Assembly took up its work afresh this morning. After devotional exercises consideration was given to a matter handed down from a former session, which was a part of the Home Mission report presented last Thursday evening. Some years ago the Assembly resolved that every minister from another denomination received into the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and every theological student graduating from her divinity halls, should give a certain time in a mission field of this church before being eligible for a call to the pastorate of a charge. This is the matter that came up again to-day. After spending some time upon it the Assembly relegated it to Presbyteries and official boards of colleges for examination during the year, with the understanding that at next Assembly it may be ripe for final treatment.

Two other subjects, one bearing upon the critical condition of the Augmentation scheme, the other upon overtures for an alteration in methods of appointments to the Home Mission Committee, were after considerable discussion handed over to two specially appointed committees to deal with and report upon at an after session of the present Assembly.

Twenty-five minutes was given to the agent of the Home Mission Committee in Britain, Rev. C. W. Gordon, formerly of Banff, to give some facts and figures regarding his work. He addressed the Assembly, and told in an interesting way of his advocacy of the Home Mission work in Britain, and of the great encouragement he had received. Support had been secured in Scotland for 30 to 55 mission stations for terms of from three to five years. Three of the college missions have sent this year six students to the North-west. The church in Ireland will support five or six stations for five years.

Mr. Gordon was thanked by the Assembly for his work, and a resolution proposed by Dr. Cochrane, covering the Home Mission report as a whole was passed by the Assembly.

In the afternoon the Rev. W. M. Wilson, of Aberdeen, appeared before the Assembly as a deputy from the Church of Scotland. He had been present at the union of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. It was gratifying to him to see the imposing appearance of the Assembly at the opening seditur. It was not one whit behind the Assembly of the old kirk in Scotland. He was commissioned to convey an expression of the continued esteem of the mother church. She rejoiced in the success of the Canadian Church and regrets that she was not able to give increased aid. Continuing, he gave a lengthy account of the movement in the Scottish churches, and sat down amid great applause.

The Moderator, in the name of the Assembly, thanked the deputy for the brotherly greetings from the old church of Scotland.

The Rev. Mr. Glassford, in the absence of Dr. Torrance, presented

#### THE REPORT UPON STATISTICS.

He said it was a matter of great interest and gratitude, that there was an encouraging increase almost all along the line. About one church a week had been erected throughout the year. There was an increase of 108 preaching stations, an increase of 2,151 in the number of families, an increase of 1,875 communicants, an increase of 1,252 Sabbath school scholars, an increase of twenty three mansees. The total contributions for all purposes was \$2,056,300. The report covers 129 pages.

Winnipeg and London each gave a cordial invitation to the Assembly to hold its next meetings there. On the vote being taken it was found to be in favor of London, Ont. The Assembly will, therefore, meet in St. Andrew's Church, London, on the second Wednesday in June, 1895.

#### FRATERNAL GREETINGS.

A deputation from the deanery of St. John, consisting of the Rev. G. Scofield, the Rev. Mr. Raymond, the Rev. Mr. Desoyers, the Rev. J. Dewolfe Spurr, Mr. W. Jarvis, Mr. C. W. Weldon and Sir Leonard Tilley, appeared with the greetings of the

Anglican Church. They spoke in high admiration of the Presbyterian Church, and the great success of its operations.

A resolution thanking the deputation was moved by the Rev. Mr. Herridge and was supported by Mr. Robert Murray and Principal Caven. The Assembly passed it with a standing vote.

A deputation also appeared from the Baptists with Dr. Carey at its head. Felicitations were exchanged, after which the Assembly adjourned for tea.

In the evening, Dr. Armstrong presented the report upon

#### SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

Among many other features of Sabbath desecration, he condemned the practice of gathering crowds for excitement and money making, under the name of religion. If it be bad for railway companies to make money on the Lord's Day, it is worse to put up the gospel for that purpose. Sunday travelling is an evil which he sternly condemned. He expressed satisfaction at the growing interest in this question manifested by the churches. The pulpit had spoken strongly in defence of the day, and conferences had been held in many Presbyteries with a view to promote its better observance. Moreover, the workingman was now taking up the question as of momentous interest to himself. Finally, he moved the following resolutions:

That every Presbytery hold a conference on the subject of Sabbath observance during the year, and arrange to have the Sabbath brought prominently before the congregation.

That the ministers and members of our church exercise scrupulous care with regard to the observance of the Lord's Day;

That the Assembly record its gratification at the cordial co-operation of all the Protestant denominations in the Lord's Day Alliance of Canada;

That the Assembly, believing that the observance of the Sabbath as a day of rest is of divine appointment, and highly beneficial to man's moral, mental, physical and social welfare, expresses its sympathy with the efforts of workingmen who are seeking to secure that all unnecessary work shall cease on that day.

In the discussion which followed, the Rev. J. Nichols moved

That Presbyterians be recommended to appoint deputations to wait upon members of Parliament, and Parliamentary candidates within their bounds, with a view to secure their support for legislation for the better observance of the Lord's Day.—Carried

The action of the Senate in throwing out Mr. Charlton's bill was strongly condemned and the Assembly entered a strong protest against that action.

#### FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

The following is a general summary of the report of the Board of French Evangelization:—

There were employed for all or part of the year twenty five pastors, ordained missionaries, and licentiates; twelve student missionaries; eleven colporteurs; twenty-two mission day school teachers. Twenty-six fields, with ninety stations, were occupied, connected with which are seven hundred and five Protestant families. One hundred and sixty were added to the church, making a membership of nine hundred and fifty-eight. Three new fields were occupied. There were eight hundred and eighty-four scholars in the Sabbath schools. Seventeen hundred and ten copies or portions of Scripture, and about twenty-three thousand five hundred tracts and religious publications, were distributed. Eight hundred and thirty pupils, of whom four hundred and nineteen were from Roman Catholic homes, attended the twenty-four mission day schools, and four night schools, the average attendance being five hundred and fifteen. One hundred and eighty-four pupils were in the Pointe-aux-Trembles schools, of whom one hundred and four were the children of Roman Catholic parents, and fourteen French students (four of whom graduate) in the Montreal Presbyterian College, in which there is one French professor. Contributions from fields and people were upwards of six thousand dollars. Total number of labourers during the year, seventy-three. Total receipts were thirty eight thousand three hundred dollars.

The board believes that the outlook and opportunity for French evangelization are most favourable, at the same time it does not ignore the many difficulties and dangers in the way. To some of these it would call attention. There is a radical element in the Church of Rome in the Province of Quebec determined in its efforts for reform, but with little, if any, sympathy with evangelical truth, it is anti-clerical and destructive, and may become anti-religious. Another element whose sympathy is on the whole with the cause of truth and liberty cherishes the hope that in some way all needed reforms may yet be effected from within their church, it sympathizes with the radical element in its struggle for the emancipation of the people from ecclesiastical despotism. Many are losing faith in the dogmas of their church who have been educated in the belief that the Church of Rome is the true representative of the religion of Jesus Christ, and consequently prejudiced against every other form, yet with little or no knowledge of Scripture and no religious connection born of individual responsibility. Unless in some way the principles of the Gospel are

(Continued on page 410.)