

## Correspondence.

## That Western Overture on an Advisory Committee.

Editor Presbyterian Review.

Sir,—The church is under an obligation to Mr. McBeth for his letter in your issue of August 27th, in which he explains the meaning of the overture from the Western Synods, with the view of opening discussion on the question in the church papers, and of enlightening the church on this very important matter.

It appears that during the debate in the Assembly on this subject, certain speakers were the cause of "misunderstanding" and "misconception," and gave the debate a turn the movers of the overture did not contemplate, and for which neither they nor the overture should be held responsible.

Now, Mr. Editor, I submit that if the movers of this overture "did not contemplate" the very "turn" given to the debate by "one of the brethren," the said movers must have been very fully possessed of the "demon of indefiniteness," and had no grounds upon which they could build their elaborate overture.

Mr. McBeth in his discussion of the overture tells us that it "contemplates a committee whose functions shall be advisory," and that the erection of this committee "is to secure" that "compactness could be introduced into our church organization." Now, sir, as I take it, every committee has two functions, administrative towards the church's work and advisory towards the Assembly. When a committee reports to the Assembly, it comes as a servant that its reports may be reviewed, and its work commended or amended criticised or praised. It comes as a counsellor, whose special knowledge of the subject in hand gives its recommendations weight and authority.

In no case can a committee's report be final, and in many cases are its recommendations not accepted by the Assembly. An Assembly is always wiser than its committees, although very often for many reasons, an Assembly votes "aye" to the recommendations of a committee and time shows it should have voted "nay."

Taking objection to a committee's report or advice is ungracious to the person objecting. It renders him subject to the dislike of the movers of the subject to which he objects, and to oppose honored and trusted brethren who are giving their best in the service of the church, requires courage possessed by very few.

If, then, Mr. McBeth's new committee is only "advisory" it follows that there must be something to advise upon. We have seen that the present form of our organization makes our committees "advisory."

We have seen also that a member of Assembly who objects to the report or advice of a committee is tendering his advice to the Assembly. What more do the Western brethren want? It is quite evident the Western brethren are dissatisfied with our present system, and wish what they conceive to be better in the line of compactness.

After Mr. McBeth has placed responsibility upon "one of the brethren" for exercising "excessive cost of administration under present methods," he proceeds to argue that his overture would obtain "greater unity and consistency in church policy, and lessening the danger of friction." Then he illustrates by "an organized army," within which there must be system, and whose operations are not to be conducted by "one" "doing what seems right in their own eyes." Verily, Brother McBeth and "one of the brethren" are getting very close in their arguments.

Without further ado, Mr. Editor, let me state very frankly that "one of the brethren," who is charged with giving the debate a "turn" which was not desired, got right to the heart of the subject in a few terse sentences, and all the circumlocution in the world cannot get over the fact that we need a change of methods to prevent what Mr. McBeth describes in

his illustration as "each doing what seems right in his own eyes."

We require a committee composed of men who represent all sections of the church's work, that they may review and pass upon methods of work, estimates presented by the various committees, recommendations made for the guidance of said committees, and with time such as an Assembly cannot give, deliberate upon every branch of the work upon every detail of these branches, upon every recommendation made, and be in a position to offer unbiased advice to the Assembly such as will not only expedite business, but also give confidence in Assembly decisions and thereby unify the work of the church.

It is to be hoped that those who are serving the church so faithfully, and with such conspicuous success, as "heads of departments," will see, that those of us who are advocating what we conceive to a great improvement upon present methods, calculated to do the work better, and specially to save money, and by increasing confidence, increase liberality, are not finding fault with honored brethren, nor are we unthankful for their great services rendered so ungrudgingly to the church.

Into the "clause at the end," "such as lawyers use," I do not propose to enter. "The Assembly in its wisdom can clothe any committee it appoints with powers to act on its behalf, and if Presbyteries approve of the overture there is no reason why the proposed committee should not be delegated with executive powers in emergent cases. But the chief point to be considered is, that this committee listens to and considers every financial proposal and advises the General Assembly as to their wisdom or foolishness. It remains thereafter with the Assembly to accept or reject this advice, and by this no member of Assembly is debared from his rights of approving or disapproving the advice offered.

I am yours truly,

James Buchanan.

Sept. 1st. '96. 13 Montague Place, Toronto.

Editor of the Presbyterian Review.

Sir—I was much pleased in reading in your two last numbers, your strictures on the Toronto street car proposed desecration of the Sabbath. The object of the car company in this wanting to run their cars on the Sabbath day, is not for the benefit of the public, but to put money into their own pockets. They have no love for God, or fear of His judgment, as expressed in His charge in regard to keeping the Sabbath day holy from all manner of work. "Six days shall you labor and do all thy work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God in it thou shalt do no manner of work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor the stranger within thy gates; for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested on the seventh day, wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it."

I lived in Toronto in 1838, when it was known as Muddy York, and I often saw the Governor, Sir Francis Bond Head, and his Aide-camp, Colonel Holkets walking to church through the then muddy streets, having respect for

the sacredness of the Sabbath and the liberty of their servants, as well as the rest of their beasts, thus reverencing the Covenant of God. It is to be hoped that the mayor, corporation and citizens of Toronto, will steadfastly set their faces against the iniquity of the city car company, and refuse to allow them to violate the strict commandment of God, in regard to the sacredness of the Lord's day. The whole of the Dominion of Canada are anxiously watching to see what steps the corporation of Toronto will take in regard to the application of the car company to be allowed to run cars on the Sabbath day. Should the corporation yield, and sanction this iniquitous application of the car company, other car companies in the various cities and towns of the Dominion will assuredly follow suit, and hundreds of employees will be deprived of the Lord's day of rest, and both them and their families from going to church to worship the God who created them, and who said, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy."

Yours,

D. KERR.

Lachute, August, 1896.

## COLIGNY COLLEGE, OTTAWA.

This well known Young Ladies' College takes front rank among the educational institutions of the country. The teaching staff embraces specialists in their several departments, who have had successful experience in their profession, and who are ladies of culture and refinement. The building occupies a most eligible site in the capital of the Dominion, and is admirably adapted for educational purposes. It is spacious, with large, airy class rooms and bed rooms; all beautifully furnished, lighted by gas, heated by the most approved system of hot water apparatus, and supplied with every modern appliance fitted to secure the health and comfort of the students, including hot and cold water baths. There is accommodation for about sixty resident pupils, but the number is strictly limited in order that special individual attention may be given to each. Not more than two students occupy the same bed room, and several of the rooms are single.

The dining hall is a large, sunny room, and the table is of superior quality. The assembly hall seats comfortably about four hundred persons. It is used for concerts and other social entertainments of the pupils. The library for the use of the students contains many valuable works of reference, and the reading room is supplied with the leading periodicals and papers. The grounds, extending to several acres, are beautifully laid out, and are utilized for lawn tennis and other outdoor healthful games. The home life of the college is a very happy one. Parents desiring for their daughters a thorough education in a refined Christian home, can with confidence send them to Coligny College, Ottawa. As will be seen by advertisement, applications for admission should be addressed to Rev. W. R. Cruikshank, B. A., Room 6, Y. M. C. A. Bldg., Montreal, from whom circulars may be obtained. The number of boarders is rapidly filling up for next season, so that early application should be made by those desiring admission.

## PICTURES FOR SUNLIGHT SOAP WRAPPERS

A pretty colored picture for every 12 "Sunlight" or every 6 "Lifebuoy" Soap wrappers.

These pictures are well worth getting. Address:

LEVER BROS., Ltd. 23 Scott Street. TORONTO