

will hear, patiently, examine if those things are so, and turn to profit even that which may be most unpalatable to hear. On the other hand, the opportunity was given, and advantage was taken of it, to point out what we regard as vital defects in other systems, and to point out and assert the supreme claims of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the divine excellence of His religion as embodied in His teaching, character and life. If the coming together of Christians of different denominations begets greater mutual respect, if the meeting of Christians for any worthy object with those even who make no profession produces for the most part the same effect, why should not a gathering such as that in question be productive of the grandest results, and instead of weakening our confidence in our holy religion or in its living Head, should inspire us with fresh hope, courage and confidence to go forth more intelligently, more in the spirit of love, to conquer the whole world for Christ, and exalt in every heart His name above every name!

HOME MISSION EXECUTIVE.

This committee met on the 10th inst., in the lecture-room of St. Andrew's church, Rev. Dr. Cochrane, Convener, in the chair, and Rev. Dr. Warden, Secretary. Claims for services rendered in the Home Mission field for the last year were passed to the amount of \$28,212, and for augmentation of stipends, \$12,638.73. Rev. Dr. Cochrane reported the receipts from the Free Church of Colonial Committee of £250 sterling. A lengthy and interesting report respecting mission work at Wellington, B.C., from Mr. Young, was read, also one from Rev. A. Findlay, of work in the Algoma, Manitoulin and Muskoka districts, during summer, showing satisfactory progress in every field. Interesting reports sent by Revs. J. S. Herdman, and D. G. McQueen were read as to their visits to Presbyteries in British Columbia and the scattered families of Presbyterians in that wide field.

It is reported that there are about 200 Hungarian families in the Riding Mountain, Whitewood and Yorktown Districts, and that a Hungarian minister, now labouring in the States, has placed his services at the disposal of the Church. The committee expressed sympathy with these settlers and resolved to place at the disposal of the Regina Presbytery the sum of \$600 for this work for the next year, provided said Presbytery agrees to apply to the General Assembly for leave to receive this Hungarian pastor.

A proposal was considered to hold the fall meeting of the Executive at different points, such as Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, London, Hamilton, Brantford, and Kingston, with a view to deepening the interest in the work, public meetings to be held in the evenings. Definite action was deferred regarding this till March next.

Upwards of seventy missionaries were allocated among the different Presbyteries asking for them, of whom about forty are from the Manitoba district and the others are from the various colleges in the other provinces.

THE McALL AUXILIARY.

The monthly meeting of the Toronto Auxiliary Canadian McAll Association was held on Thursday, the 5th inst., in the library of the Y. M. C. A. The President, Mrs. Howitt, occupied the chair. The Treasurer's statement showed that of the \$325 sent by the Association to Paris, as a mid-summer instalment, \$150 were contributed by this Auxiliary, and we have \$48.35 in hand. Mons. Cousin spoke to us of his work among French Canadians in Toronto. Mrs. Henderson read from the McAll Quarterly Record three chief lessons arising from Dr. McAll's life, pointed out by Pastor Theodore Monod, in his address at the Dr.'s funeral: 1. If you desire to accomplish great things for God do not try to make a great beginning. Let your only concern be to do faithful-

ly whatever work the Master sets before you. 2. Serve God only. I trust that many of us give the best of our lives to God, but how few give to God the whole of their heart and life. What strikes me most in these Anglo-Saxon Christians, some of whom have been such a power for good, is the thoroughness of their consecration. 3. We must always be at God's disposal. When God said to Dr. McAll, as to Abraham of old, "Get thee out of thy country and from thy kindred and from thy father's house," he was over fifty years of age, he had an excellent position as a beloved and honoured pastor; but having recognized the voice of God, our beloved friend did not hesitate. Let each one ask himself, "Am I doing just what God would have me do?"

Writing about our financial position, Mons. Soltau said our late President had recognized the urgent necessity of having a sufficient floating balance to enable us to finance the mission during the months when very little is received. Dr. McAll had determined to commence the formation of this fund himself, and he handed to the mission a few months ago securities to the value of £1,500, on which we can borrow. To complete this fund we require about two thousand pounds (£2,000) more; therefore we asked for a sum of £5,000, as a memorial fund in memory of the honoured Founder of the Mission.

Mrs. Henderson suggested that the collectors ask those who have been contributing, to give an additional sum, anything from 25cts. to \$100, to form a memorial fund here, to be added to the fund spoken of by Mons. Soltau.

After prayer by Mrs. J. L. Brodie, the meeting was closed with the Doxology.

If you will kindly find space for this report in your next issue, you will oblige the Auxiliary.

M. E. McMASTER, Sec.

WHAT PAPER SHALL I TAKE?

As the year draws to a close, many, whether canvassed by agents or not, naturally begin to consider what papers they shall take for the coming year. Such being the case, a word on behalf of our own denominational papers—especially, The Canada Presbyterian—may not be out of place. Now, lest anyone should insinuate that this communication is inspired from headquarters, it is only fair to state that it is written at least ten leagues from Toronto; that the writer has been consulted by no one, either directly or indirectly, and that he has received a hint from no one in the office, from publisher to printer's devil, from editor to errand boy. The idea originated solely in the writer's own fertile (?) brain.

One reason why a Presbyterian should take his own denominational paper is, that by reading it he will become better acquainted with what the Church as a whole, is doing, and just because of that, he will take a greater interest in the work of his own congregation. The man who takes no interest in Provincial politics is not likely to be much concerned about affairs in his own municipality; whereas the man who studies the politics of the wider sphere is almost certain to be deeply interested in those of the narrower. So also in the Church. The man who reads from week to week what the Church is doing at home and abroad, is likely to be more deeply interested in the welfare of his own congregation. He learns new methods of work; his thought is stimulated; his enthusiasm is roused; his loyalty to his Church receives a new impetus; he is able to converse intelligently on ecclesiastical affairs, and, when an appeal is made on behalf of any of the schemes of the Church, he will probably give liberally, because he gives understandingly.

Another reason why a Presbyterian should take his denominational paper is, that by reading it, he will get a better grasp of the distinctive doctrines and polity of our Church. Perhaps some

think it matters little what doctrines or polity a man accepts. It is so easy to quote the flippant couplet:

"For modes of faith let graceless bigots fight;
He can't be wrong whose life is in the right."

But some of us think there is a very close connection between doctrine and duty; between belief and conduct; between the roots and fruits of character. What a man reads will influence his belief, and his belief will largely mould his character and conduct. Of course, even in our denominational papers there is much that has no special reference to any particular doctrine or polity, but there is also much that has; and the man who reads such a paper as The Canada Presbyterian must certainly have his mind imbued with Presbyterian principles. The careful reading of the reports of the meetings of the various Church courts will give him a knowledge of ecclesiastical terms and Presbyterian procedure. Then there are expositions regularly given, which are distinctly Calvinistic in tone. The notes on the Sabbath school lessons might be instanced. These are written, as a recent circular informs us, by an eminent professor in one of our colleges. During the past six months we have had under consideration the baptism of Lydia and her household and that of the jailer and his household. If one were to read the comments given in some of the undenominational publications, he might get the impression that the mode and subjects of baptism were matters of no importance. Here are the notes of one writer upon the baptism of Lydia: "Immediately upon her conversion, she was baptized, and with her, we are told 'her household.' It is not at all certain that this expression includes infants. It is more likely that it refers to her retainers and servants. Being a trading merchant, and travelling as well, it is hardly likely that she had infants with her. It is a point of no importance." The baptism of the jailer is passed by without note or comment. Perhaps the author of those notes should not be censured too severely because he was so chary in his remarks, for he knew that he was dealing with a controverted point, and he expected that his comment would be read by teachers of all denominations. But the scholarly professor who writes the notes for The Canada Presbyterian makes no such blunder.

Still another reason why Presbyterian heads of families should subscribe for their denominational paper is, that by giving it to their children they will be enabled the more easily to interest them in the work of the Church. At first the young people will read only "The Children's Corner." In the course of time, however, they will glance over the recorded doings of the Church; they will read the missionary letters, and possibly look at the notes on Sabbath school and Christian Endeavour lessons. When once they are interested in these things, they will look as eagerly for the coming of this weekly visitor as for that of any other paper. Then may we expect our sons to be as plants grown up in their youth, and our daughters as corner-stones polished after the similitude of a palace.

May The Canada Presbyterian find its way into many a new home, and may its pages, with their earnest, evangelical messages, be as leaves from the Tree of Life which are for the healing of the nations. ANN O. PINION.

REPORT OF THE SYNOD OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

Friday morning, the principal matters before the Synod were the appointing of the standing committees and an overture from certain members of Halifax Presbytery concerning the appointment of evangelists; a great deal of interest was shown in its discussion, in which a good many members of the Synod took part. It was at length decided unanimously that it should be sent down to presbyteries for discussion.

Mr. Rogers submitted the report of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. Attention was specially called to the very considerable number of younger members who have not yet connected themselves with the fund. The Synod received the report and earnestly recommended all our ministers to connect themselves with the fund, and instructs presbyteries to call the attention of ministers at their ordination to this subject. It was also resolved to overture the General Assembly in favour of making it a regulation that ministers should place themselves on the fund.

There was a rushing of business in the Synod in the afternoon. Among the re-

ports hurried through were those on Sunday school work, Sabbath observance, the McLeod bequest, public education and civil rights, and that on the state of religion. That on public education and civil rights evoked the greatest interest. It drew special attention to the fact that the public schools laws were in several towns being violated in the letter and especially in the spirit of them—the schools being made to all intents and purposes denominational. The following deliverance was, on motion of Rev. H. H. McPherson, seconded by Rev. Dr. Murray, unanimously adopted:

"The Synod receives the report and thanks the Conveners for their diligence. The Synod expresses their sympathy with the Protestants in Bathurst and other places in New Brunswick in efforts to secure the removal and redress of the grievances of which they complain. The Synod further expresses as in former years, their strong disapprobation of any contravention of the free non-sectarian school laws of these provinces, either in letter or in spirit, and urgently recommend all the ministers and members of our Church to watch with due diligence against any encroachment upon the rights of our people in relation to school education and against all such compromises as in any respect contravene the public school laws in the interests of any particular religious denomination."

The Home Mission Committee, Eastern Section, was appointed as the Synod's Committee to manage the McLeod bequest, given for Home Missionary purposes. Last year the interest amounted to \$229.80. (On the State of Religion, Rev. James Sinclair reported favourably. Mr. McGillivray moved, seconded by Dr. McLeod, a resolution expressing gratitude to the Lord for His goodness manifested in the work accomplished during the year and the peace and harmony prevailing, and urging officers and members to still greater diligence in maintaining the character of His Church as His Body, and in preparing generally for His coming.

The report on Temperance was submitted by Rev. A. Rogers. On motion of Rev. W. P. Archibald, seconded by D. S. Fraser, the Synod adopted a resolution approving of the temperance teaching in schools, and thanking God for improved temperance sentiment and unabated zeal; recommending the plan of organization; condemning the dram-shop and the bar-room as sources of great danger and ruin; calling for prohibitory legislation; favouring a popular vote on the subject, and enjoining diligence in securing pure wine for use at the Lord's table. It is also recommended that in addition to the annual sermon, the Session hold at least one annual public meeting in the interests of Temperance. A very cordial vote of thanks was moved by Rev. D. Sutherland, and seconded by Rev. A. Robertson.

The motion of thanks to all who had so generously entertained the Synod, was moved by the Rev. Messrs. Sutherland, of Charlottetown, and Robertson, of New Glasgow, and was enthusiastically agreed to.

Moderator Simpson then gave the closing address. He spoke of the large attendance, representing every section of the Maritime Provinces, the large amount of work done; the fact that there had not been one disturbing note sounded during the session. The Synod had been stimulated, but now they must face the work. He dwelt for a little on the advantages of long pastorate, and in conclusion thanked the Synod for the support he had received while occupying the Moderator's chair.

After the singing of the 122nd Psalm, Rev. H. B. McKay, of Wallace, at the request of the Moderator, led in prayer. With the official announcement of the place and time for the next Synod, and the benediction, the Synod closed.

(Concluded.)

Rev. John McNair, pastor of the Waterloo Presbyterian church, and Mrs. McNair were pleasantly surprised by the ladies of the congregation recently. Mr. McNair on returning from the station, where he had gone to meet Mrs. McNair, to whom he has just lately been married, found put down a handsome Brussels carpet in the parlor and the room furnished with curtains, centre table, four elegant easy chairs, beautifully upholstered, including two antique rockers and a lady's and gent's easy chair. The cellar was well supplied with fruit and the many indispensable articles needed by young housekeepers. The Ladies' Aid, under whose auspices the work was done, had planned wisely and kept their secret well, and it is needless to say that the young pastor and his wife were not only surprised, but overwhelmed by this manifestation of kindness on the part of the ladies of the congregation.