

## WESTERN ONTARIO.

The laying of the corner stone of the new Presbyterian church at Buxton took place on Thursday last.

Rev. W. J. Knox, M.A., of Strathroy, preached in Knox church, Hamilton, on Sunday, 10th.

Rev. Mr. Mustard, of Kingston, occupied the Shakespeare pulpit on Sunday 10th inst.

Rev. J. D. Cunningham, M.A., has been inducted into the pastoral charge of the congregation at Welland.

Rev. G. I. Johnson, of North Bay, was the preacher at St. Andrew's church, Guelph, morning and evening last Sunday.

Thirty new members were received into full communion in Erskine Church, Hamilton, on June 8, by Rev. S. B. Russell, 7 by certificate and 23 on profession of faith. Rev. Roy Van Wyck assisted at the service.

Among the legacies left by the late Helen Huntington, widow, of 722 Ontario street, Toronto, are two sums of \$100 each to the Presbyterian church, Quaker Hill, Uxbridge, Ont., and to the Baptist church, Uxbridge, respectively.

Anniversary services were held in the First Church, Westminster, on Sunday week, and also on Monday evening. Principal Gordon, Dr. J. F. McLaren, of Rocklyn, Rev. Robert Laird, Dr. Milligan and others took part in the services.

The morning service in St. Andrew's Church, Hamilton, on June 10th, were conducted by Rev. Beverley Ketchen, of MacNab Street Church, and the evening service by Rev. E. F. Torrance, D. D. pastor of St. Paul's Church, Peterborough.

Mr. Edward McGougan, M.A., of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, has been spending the week with Rev. J. A. Wilson of St. Andrew's Church, Hamilton. Mr. McGougan is speaking at the different city churches in the interests of the Presbyterian Student Volunteer movement.

Rev. Mr. Laidlaw, of Belleville, conducted services in Knox church, Woodstock, on the 10th inst. Mr. Laidlaw, who was formerly assistant at the church, was heard with pleasure by a large congregation. Dr. R. P. MacKay of Toronto, preached in the evening.

Rev. Mr. Wood, of Metcalfe, preached in Knox church, Galt, last Sunday evening to a large congregation, which thoroughly enjoyed his excellent discourse. In the morning, Rev. Mr. Knowles occupied his own pulpit, and in the evening preached at Kirkwall.

Last Sunday morning in St. Andrew's Church, Sunday school, Hamilton, Rev. J. A. Wilson, the pastor, presided at the communion, when the forty-six new members who had joined the church, partook of the sacrament. The building was crowded, and Mr. Wilson preached an impressive sermon.

Rev. D. R. Drummond, St. Paul's Church, Hamilton, delivered an able discourse in Erskine Church on the use and the abuse of the imagination. The edict was read by Rev. S. B. Russell, who was in St. Paul's regarding the ordination of elders which will take place at the morning service on the 24th inst.

Referring to the subject of Church Union last Sunday in Central Church, Rev. Dr. Lyle asked was it right and was it desirable? He thought it was right and desirable, though he did not favor it being done hastily. There were too many great considerations to be thought of before it could be entered into. He thought there were too many churches in small communities, and that they were a hindrance instead of a help to Christianity. One authority said they fostered the spirit of the devil instead of the spirit of Christ, because of the rivalry between them. He would like to see the Baptist and Anglican Churches join the union, and thought it could be affected with honor to the three who were in favor of it, and hoped it could be to the honor of the other two denominations who were standing off.

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He would, however, vote for Dr. Patrick's motion. The amendment would knock the breath out of the union movement, and the present was not the stage to deal such a blow.

Rev. Dr. D. M. Ramsay, Ottawa, considered the union practicable, but criticized the doctrinal positions.

Mr. T. C. James, an elder from Prince Edward Island, said his Province was opposed to union. They looked upon it as an academic question, except in Halifax, "where the enlightened rest," he sarcastically remarked.

Dr. Campbell, Clerk of the Assembly, said the motion did not ask for a verdict from the people, but sought to educate them as some leading men desired. All the women of the church were against union. As in the rhyme of Dr. Fell, they did not like it, "the reason why they could not tell," but there was an instinctive dislike for it. It was more feasible than desirable.

Dr. Milligan asked when there was to be an end. Many would like to speak, but there was other work to be done.

Principal Scrimger spoke as an elder, and intended to vote for the motion. Co-operation was twenty years late, he said.

A motion to close the debate was carried by 123 to 73.

## Close of Great Debate.

Principal Patrick, in reply, asked if the house had meant anything when they appointed the committee two years before. Were they honest, or did they intend the committee to act honestly? They were under the most solemn obligation to consummate a union if found practicable. He could not understand brethren accepting a place on the committee and then attempting to arrest the movement with a virtual discharge when the committee presented their results. Mr. MacKay's amendment was based on mere sentiment. "I do not like thee, Dr. Fell," as Dr. Campbell had admitted. His speech breathed a spirit of separatism at variance with the New Testament and all ideals of Christian union. "And what of the church invisible and triumphant?" he asked: If they could not mingle here under any conditions, what would it be hereafter? He would sum up the doctrine on schism in a sentence: "Union was an absolute duty unless conscience constrained to the contrary." He quoted the statements of Dr. Robson and Prof. McEwen, U. P. members of the United Free Church of Scotland, on the beneficial result of union. The resolution would acquire no special authority and that could be disavowed if necessary. But the congregations had an inalienable right to know what the Supreme Court was doing. They had heard of disruption. Wise men did not threaten. In its essence it was a hopeless question, and the time would come when they would rise and speak.

A vote was then taken on Mr. MacKay's amendment, which was defeated by 179 to 22. A motion to adjourn was carried by 112 to 40.

Montreal was chosen for the next Assembly, on the first Wednesday of June next, on the invitation presented by Mr. Walter Paul and Principal Scrimger, Erskine church, of which Rev. Dr. Mowatt is the minister, will be the meeting place. Winnipeg also extended an invitation through Rev. Dr. Duval.

## French Evangelization.

In presenting the report of the Board of French Evangelization at the evening sederunt, Rev. Dr. Mowatt said the workers were not to be looked upon as mere adversaries of Rome, who might be satisfied if they could detach the people from that system. Such triumphs would be of questionable value unless followed by sound conversion.

The field of operations of the Board of French Evangelization extended from Louisbourg to Grand Bend and from the St. Lawrence to the Quinze. The main body of workers were necessarily in Quebec, where fifty-four were engaged, while seven were in Ontario, and two in the Maritime Provinces, who visited all the French settlements there and whose salaries were partly met by the Bible Society Auxiliary of St. John, N.B. The report of the board attributed the awakening of Quebec from intellectual torpor in no small degree to the missionary work of the evangelical churches. "Her people realize that they have been wronged," it was said, "but shrink as yet from openly fixing responsibility for the wrongdoing. The French-Canadian has rightfully a natural affection for the land of his ancestors, and cannot but be influenced by the religious movements there. There can be no stronger indictment of the Roman Catholic Church than the fact that in France where she has had undisputed sway for centuries, and has enjoyed every opportunity of moulding the faith and character of the people, all that is best in the intelligence, patriotism and manhood of the nation has risen against her domination as incompatible with the liberty and nationality of the country. The law of separation in France is bound to have world-wide consequences which will reach Quebec. It is impossible to forecast what the effect will be. It is safe to say that one effect will be the acceleration of the present drift which is bound to issue in revolt or reformation."

Dr. Mowatt stated that Erskine church, Montreal, had undertaken to raise \$10,000, one-sixth of the entire amount required for the new buildings at Point aux Trembles.

Principal Brandt described the religious training given in the schools, and the methods adopted in missionary work. A great work, he said, could be done peacefully in Quebec. He was proud of the big families of his race. He pointed out that French-Canadians doubled in number every twenty-five years. This meant 32,000,000 French-Canadians in a century. They were covering the Maritime Provinces and eastern Ontario. They had an immigration bureau right at home.

Rev. M. F. Boudreau, Montreal, spoke of the difficulties encountered. There were 5,000 French Protestants in Montreal, but they merged with the English churches. Those among whom they worked were taught to look upon private judgment as of the greatest danger. Illiteracy was very common. The French Protestants lost nothing of their race fecundity. One family of ten persons converted in 1858 now numbered 160 descendants, and had given two ministers to the church.

Prof. Scrimger seconded the adoption of the report, and explained the desirability of having the treasurer of the board located in Montreal, as recommended.

Mr. A. G. Farrell, Smith's Falls, objected to the change, and Dr. Scott seconded his amendment, which was carried, leaving the Treasurer in Toronto. The report was then adopted.

## SEVENTH DAY.

London, June 14.—Today's business was put through with all possible speed. It consisted for the most part of the reports of the smaller committees, which, in the aggregate, make a very important feature of the work of the church. In the morning there was an interesting discussion on the teaching of the Bible in the Public schools of Ontario, and the assembly endorsed a recommendation that certain school lessons should be set apart for that purpose. The British Columbia and Alberta Synods were divided, and a moderator appointed to preside over each. A new synod was established in Saskatchewan, which will be henceforth independent of Manitoba. A committee was appointed to consider the feasibility of founding a Church college in British Columbia, and various other matters of interest to the West were con-