

MINUTES
OF THE
ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
CONGREGATIONAL UNION
OF
CANADA,
HELD IN TORONTO, CANADA WEST,
8TH—14TH JUNE, 1859.

TORONTO :
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1859.

OFFICE BEARERS
OF THE
CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF CANADA.
FOR 1859-60.

Chairman,

REVEREND HENRY WILKES, D.D.

Secretary-Treasurer,

REVEREND EDWARD EBBS, PARIS, C.W.

Committee,

REVDS. F. H. MARLING,

" A. LILLIE, D.D.

" T. M. REIKIE.

" A. DUFF,

" G. CORNISH, B.A.

" D. DUNKERLEY,

MESSRS. C. ALEXANDER,

" G. HAGUE,

" J. BAYLIS,

" W. R. HIBBARD, and

" A. SAVAGE.

Next Annual Meeting at Montreal, on the Wednesday after first Sabbath in June, 1860, at 4 P. M.

N.B.—Union Chapel Deeds may be had on application to PATRICK FREELAND, Esq., Toronto, or to the Secretary-Treasurer. Reduced price of blank forms, \$3.

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CONSTITUTION AND STANDING RULES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF CANADA.

I. That the name of this Association be "The Congregational Union of Canada."

II. That it shall consist of Ministers and Professors or Tutors in Colleges and Theological Institutes, and of Churches, of the Congregational or Independent order, of approved character and sentiments, duly received at a general meeting.

III. That this Union is founded on a full recognition of the distinctive principle of Congregational Churches, namely, the Scriptural right of every separate Church to maintain perfect independence in the government and administration of its own particular affairs; and therefore that the Union shall not, in any case, assume Legislative Authority or become a Court of Appeal.

IV. That the following are the objects contemplated in its formation. 1. To promote evangelical religion in connection with the Congregational Denomination. 2. To cultivate brotherly affection and co-operation in everything relating to the interests of the associated Churches. 3. To establish fraternal correspondence with the several Congregational Unions on this Continent and in Europe. 4. To address an annual or occasional letter to the associated Churches, accompanied with such information as may be deemed necessary. 5. To obtain accurate statistical information relative to the Congregational Churches throughout the British American Provinces.

V. To promote the accomplishment of these objects and the general interests of the Union, an Annual Meeting of its members shall be held, each of the associated Churches being represented by two lay delegates, the meeting to be held at such time and place as may be appointed at each Annual Meeting.

VI. That the officers of the Union be a Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer, Minute Secretary, and Committee, all to be chosen annually, who shall execute the instructions of the Union, and prepare a docket of business for the Annual Meeting.

STANDING RULES.

I. Students who have finished their course at the Canadian Congregational Theological Institute who are ordained to the Ministry, and persons recommended by Associations of the same Church Order in other Countries with which a fraternal correspondence is maintained, shall be eligible for admission at any Annual Meeting; in the case of other Ministers and all Churches, a statement of doctrinal and ecclesiastical sentiments shall be made, and testimonials, if any, be supplied; and they shall be received only after having been proposed at the previous Meeting.

II. The Union shall meet annually on the second Wednesday in June, at four o'clock p.m., for organization; to commence with devotional exercises: the Chairman of the last meeting, (or failing him the Pastor in the place of meeting,) to preside then, and until his successor be appointed.

III. After the above exercises, the Constitution and Standing Rules shall be read, and a Minute Secretary for the Session appointed.

IV. The Roll of the Union shall be called, and a Sessional Roll formed.

V. A temporary Committee of five shall then be chosen on nomination of the chair for Business and Nominations, who shall be required to report, at the close of public service on the same evening, Standing Committees on Business, Nominations, Membership, Public Services, and Finance, and the Missionary Committee.

VI. An Annual Sermon shall be preached on the Wednesday evening; the preacher being appointed at the previous Annual Meeting.

VII. On Thursday morning, after the Devotional Services, the retiring Chairman shall deliver an Address, and the new Chairman shall be chosen by ballot without nomination. The Minutes of the last Meeting shall then be read, and the report of the Union Committee presented. Unless ordered by the Union, the next orders of the day shall be the reception of members, the Summary of Statistics, and Reports or other documents ordered by the Union.

VIII. The meeting shall be daily opened and closed with prayer; the morning devotional exercises to extend to an hour.

IX. No motion shall be discussed unless seconded; and no member shall speak more than twice to the same motion, without permission from the Chair; and every motion shall be presented in writing by the mover, if required by the Chair.

X. The Roll shall be called and the Minutes of the preceding day read at the opening of each day's session; and the minutes of the last day at the close of the session.

XI. The Church in whose locality the Annual Meeting shall be held, shall be requested to celebrate the Lord's Supper in connection with such meeting; with which Church the members of the Union shall individually seek occasional fellowship.

XII. On the Monday evening, during the sittings of the Union, a Public Meeting of the Union shall be held.

XIII. The Pastors or the Officers of the Churches are expected to send to the Secretary, one month at least before the Annual Meeting, a brief Narrative of the State of Religion, with Statistics, in their several localities; that he may prepare a condensed narrative of the whole for the Annual Meeting, and for printing if so ordered.

XIV. A Collection for the funds of the Union shall be made annually in each Church on or near the Lord's day prior to the meeting. From this source, in addition to the other expenses of the Union, the travelling fares of the Ministerial Members of the Union, and of one delegate from each Church contributing for the year, shall be paid in full, if possible; the deficiency, if any, being divided by the number of members herein defined as entitled to participate, and the amount of such dividend being deducted from the sum otherwise to be paid to each such member; on the understanding that such ministers and delegates shall remain during the sessional meetings, except with leave from the Chair.

XV. That delegates from the Union to Corresponding Bodies, who may fail to

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fulfil their appointments by personal attendance, shall address those Bodies by letter, communicating in substance such information and sentiments as they would furnish if present at their Annual Convocation.

XVI. Should any Ministerial Member of this Union remove from Canada, and not apply for a letter of dismissal for the space of a year after his departure, the Secretary of the Union shall, if he can ascertain his address, forward to him a letter certifying his membership up to the date of his departure; and if his location be unknown, his name shall be reported in order to erasure from the roll.

ROLL OF MINISTERIAL MEMBERS OF THE UNION.

Adams, L. P.
Allworth, W. H.
Armour, John.
Baker, Thomas.
Baird, R. G.
Barker, Enoch.
Black, R. K.
Boyd, James.
Bucher, G. B.
Buckham, J.
Burgess, Wm.
Burpee, A.
Byrne, J. T.
Campbell, John.
Clarke, William.
Clarke W. F.
Cleveland, E., A.M.
Climie, John.
Cornish, G., B.A.
Denny, Hiram.
Duff, A.
Dunkerley, D.

Durrant, John.
Ebbs, E.
Elliot, J.
Fenwick, K. M.
Fraser, James.
Hall, R. V.
Hay, Wm.
Hay, James.
Hay, Robert.
Hayden, Wm.
Howell, James.
King, Stephen.
Kribs, L.
Lancashire, H.
Lillie, A., D.D.
Marling, F. H.
McCallum, Daniel.
McDonald, A.
McGregor, Dougald.
McGregor, R.
McKillican, J.

McKinnon, N.
McLean, J. A.
Noble, E. A.
Parker, A. J.
Powis, H. D.
Pullar, Thomas.
Raymond, A.
Reikie, T. M.
Ritchie, G.
Robertson, J.
Robinson, R.
Sim, A., M.A.
Shanks, P.
Sherrill, E. J.
Snider, S.
Unsworth, J.
Wilkes, H., D.D.
Wickson, A., A.M.
Wilson, H.
Wheeler, J.
Wood, J.

LIST OF CHURCHES IN THE UNION.

Abbotsford, C. E.
Albion, C. W.
Barton & Glanford, C. W.
Bothwell, C. W.
Brantford, C. W.
Brock, C. W.
Brockville, C. W.
Broome, C. E.
Bowmanville, C. W.
Burford, C. W.
Caledon, C. W.
Caledon South, C. W.
Cobourg, C. W.
Cold Springs, C. W.
Danville, C. E.
Durham, C. E.
Eaton, C. E.
Eden Mills, C. W.
Eramosa, C. W.
Garafusa, C. W.
Georgetown, C. W.

Granby, C. E.
Guelph, C. W.
Hamilton, C. W.
Hawkesbury, C. W.
Hillsburg, C. W.
Indian Lands, C. W.
Inverness, C. E.
Innisfil, C. W.
Kelvin, C. W.
Kingston, C. W.
Lanark, 1st Ch. C. W.
Lanark Village, C. W.
Listowell, C. W.
Little Warwick, C. E.
London, C. W.
Markham, C. W.
Melbourne, C. E.
Martintown, C. W.
Montreal, 1st Ch. C. E.
Montreal, 2d Ch. C. E.
Newcastle, C. W.

Newmarket, C. W.
Oro, C. W.
Owen Sound, C. W.
Paris, C. W.
Phillipsburgh, C. E.
Port Sarnia, C. W.
Quebec, C. E.
Russelton, C. E.
Scotland, C. W.
Sherbrooke, C. E.
Springford, C. W.
Southwold, C. W.
Stanhurst South.
Stratford, C. W.
Stouffville, C. W.
St. Andrew's, C. E.
Toronto, 2d Ch., C. W.
Vaughan, C. W.
Warwick, C. W.
Whitby, C. W.

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Revd. L.
W. Burgess.
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Robert Hay

Albion, J
Bowmanvill
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Lightbody;
J. C. Bator
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SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF CANADA.

The Congregational Union of Canada assembled in the Second Congregational Church, Toronto, on Wednesday, 8th June, 1859, and continued in session till the afternoon of the following Tuesday. There were present,

MINISTERIAL MEMBERS:

Revs. L. P. Adams, W. H. Allworth, J. Armour, E. Barker, R. K. Black, W. Burgess, A. Burpee, J. Campbell, J. Climie, Professor Cornish, H. Denny, A. Duff, D. Dunkerley, J. Durrant, E. Ebbs, J. Elliott, K. M. Fenwick, J. Fraser, William Hay, James Hay, J. Howell, S. King, A. Lillie, D.D., F. H. Marling, D. Macallum, Dougald McGregor, J. McKillican, E. A. Noble, A. J. Parker, T. M. Reikie, G. Ritchie, R. Robinson, E. J. Sherill, S. Snider, J. Unsworth, H. Wilkes, D.D., A. Wickson, A.M., Hiram Wilson, J. Wood, J. Wheeler, J. T. Byrne, W. Hayden, R. G. Baird, T. Pullar, W. F. Clarke, Robert McGregor, and Robert Hay,—in all, 47.

DELEGATES FROM CHURCHES:

Albion, J. F. Warbreck; Brantford, James Wilkes; Brock, A. McMillan; Bowmanville, H. O'Hara; Caledon, Thos. Russell; Cobourg, William Harrison; Eden Mills, William Phin; Eramosa, Thomas S. Armstrong; Garafraxa, Andrew Lightbody; Georgetown, Joseph Barber; Guelph, Richard Baker; Hamilton, J. C. Barton and W. Edgar; Inverness, Peter Campbell; Kingston, W. Massie; Listowell, A. McMillan and D. D. Campbell; London, H. Matthewson; Markham, D. Cash; Montreal (1st Church), Charles Alexander and Wm. Learmont; Newmarket, R. H. Smith and S. A. Marling; Owen Sound, Wm. Smith; Paris, Charles Whitlaw; Port Sarnia, Richard Lewis; Scotland, Charles Chapin; Sherbrooke, Samuel Tuck; Stouffville, Philip Wideman; Toronto (2nd Church), W. D. Taylor and John Turner; Vaughan, Joseph T. W. Wallis and R. Kean; Whitby, Samuel Hill; South Caledon, John A. Macdonald; Burton and Glanford, David Liess,—in all, 36.

DELEGATES FROM CORRESPONDING BODIES:

Rev. J. O. Fiske, from the General Conference of Maine; Rev. J. Fraser, from the General Convention of Vermont; Rev. Robert Wilson, from the Congregational Union of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; and Rev. Jonathan Edwards, from New York State Association,—in all, 4.

HONORARY MEMBERS:

Rev. Joseph Hooper, of Newmarket; Rev. C. P. Watson, of London; Rev. Mr. Batt, of Niagara Falls; Rev. J. T. Pattison, of Garafraxa; Rev. Dr. Daggett, of Canandaigua, N. Y.; Rev. S. S. Higheon, of Roshville, N. Y.; Rev. Thos. Lightbody, of Charlottetown, N. Y.; Rev. J. L. Bennett, of Lockport, N. Y.; Rev. Dr. Jennings, of Toronto; Rev. J. Smith (Free Church), Bowmanville; Rev. A. Rankin, Agent for the Sabbath Hymn and Tune Book; The Students of the Canadian Congregational Theological Institute; Mr. F. Mould, of Eden Mills; Mr. Thom, Licentiate of the Free Church; Messrs. W. R. Hibbard and Wm. Moodie, of Montreal; and Mr. J. P. Wells, of Vankleek Hill.

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS.

The meeting was called to order by the Rev. F. H. Marling, Chairman; and after devotional exercises, the Secretary read the Constitution and Standing Rules of the Union. The Rev. E. Barker was chosen Minute Secretary, and Rev. R. Robinson, assistant.

All ministers present whose names stood proposed for membership, and delegates from churches in the same position, were received as honorary members, and also the students of the Theological Institute. A temporary Committee for Business and Nominations, viz., the Revs. K. M. Fenwick, E. A. Noble, A. J. Parker, and Messrs. R. H. Smith and C. Whitlaw, was appointed.

The hours of meeting were fixed to be from 9 A.M. to 12 M., and from 2½ to 5½ P.M. Rev. E. Ebbs, Secretary, read the Annual Report of the Committee.

Delegates to corresponding bodies reported.

Messrs. W. D. Taylor and W. Smith were appointed auditors of Treasurer's account.

The Union resolved to adjourn at 10 A.M. on Friday, to give place to the annual meeting of the Theological Institute.

ANNUAL SERMON.

The annual Sermon was preached on Wednesday evening, by the Rev. T. M. Reikie, from Rev. ii. 2,—“I know thy works.”

At the close of the public service, the temporary Committee for Business and Nominations presented a report.

THE RETIRING CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

Was delivered on Thursday morning, by the Rev. F. H. Marling. At a subsequent meeting it was unanimously

Resolved,—“That the cordial thanks of the Union be presented to the late Chairman for his excellent address delivered on his retiring from the chair, and that he be requested to prepare it for publication in the *Canadian Independent*.”

The balloting for the new Chairman resulted in the election of the Rev. H. Wilkes, D.D.

MISSIONARY AND STANDING COMMITTEES

The following Committees were appointed:

Missionary General Committee:—Revs. John Wood, of Brantford; E. Ebbs, of Paris; A. J. Parker, of Danville; Dr. Lillie, of Toronto; R. Wilson of Sheffield, N. B.; Messrs. C. Whitlaw, of Paris; C. Alexander, of Montreal; C. Chapin, of Scotland; S. Tuck, of Sherbrooke; W. D. Taylor, of Toronto; and R. H. Smith, of Newmarket; with the Rev. Dr. Wilkes, as *Secretary-Treasurer*; and the Rev. K. M. Fenwick, as *Home Secretary*. *Business Committee*:—Rev. J. Elliot, *Convener*. *Membership*:—Rev. A. Duff, *Convener*. *Finance*:—Rev. W. F. Clarke, *Convener*. *Nominations*:—Rev. J. Howell, *Convener*. *Public Service*:—Rev. F. H. Marling, *Convener*.

DELEGATES FROM CORRESPONDING BODIES.

According to the order of the day, delivered fraternal addresses on Thursday afternoon, viz.:—the Rev. J. O. Fiske, from Maine; the Rev. J. Fraser, from Vermont; the Rev. R. Wilson, from N. S., and N. Brunswick, and the Rev. Jonathan Edwards from New York. Letters were also read from corresponding bodies; viz. the General Association of Iowa, by Rev. C. H. Gates; and the General Association of Michigan, by Rev. J. Nall. The Rev. W. F. Clarke, also gave a description of the state of Congregationalism in Wisconsin. At the close of these fraternal salutations, the Union joined in singing the 133rd psalm, and were led in prayer by the Revs. Dr. Lillie and Jonathan Edwards, of Rochester. At a subsequent meeting a letter was read from the delegate appointed by the General Association of Massachusetts.

STATISTICAL TABLE AND SUMMARY.

Rev. E. Ebbs presented the Statistical Table, but on account of its length only read a Summary.

CHANGES IN THE ROLL.

On successive reports of the membership committee, there were received into the union, Revs. J. McLean, Robert Hay, A. McDonald, W. F. Clarke, Thos. Pullar,

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R. G. Baird and Robt. McGregor; and the churches of South Caledon, Hillsburg, Bothwell, with the united churches of Barton and Glanford. The Rev. Joseph Hooper, stands *proposed*, and also the church in Erin. Letters of *dismissal* were granted to Rev. T. Bayne, and Rev. R. J. Williams.

On Friday morning, the chair was vacated to allow the annual meeting of the Canadian Congregational Theological Institute to be held.

HYMN-BOOK QUESTION.

On Friday afternoon the union resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the Hymn-book question, having previously been addressed by the Rev. A. Rankin, on behalf of the Sabbath Hymn and Tune book. In the Committee of the whole James Wilkes, Esq., was called to the chair. This Committee reported to the Union a recommendation to appoint a Committee to report on the Hymn-book question to a Committee of the whole on Monday, at 3 p.m. The Union concurred in the recommendation, and the chair appointed Revs. F. H. Marling, W. F. Clarke, Messrs. C. Alexander, D. D. Campbell, and Professor Cornish, *Concener*. The report of this Committee, which recommended the Sabbath Hymn Book, was accepted on Monday, at 3 p.m., and the Union went into a Committee of the Whole, Rev. R. Wilson in the chair, the Committee of the Whole rose without any report. Professor Cornish, requested on behalf of the Hymn Book Committee that their report be withdrawn, which was allowed. It was also resolved on Tuesday, that the New Congregational Hymn books in the possession of the union, be divided amongst the different Associations in Canada, the friends in Lower Canada who are not united in a local association, the churches in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and British Columbia.

PUBLIC MISSIONARY MEETING.

The usual public Missionary meeting was held on Friday evening, Charles Whitlaw, Esq., occupying the chair. Dr. Wilkes presented an abstract of the missionary report, which stated that about 40 missionaries had been engaged during the year, and that the financial income from Canada had been very little short of last year; after which the statistics of the following churches were read by the Secretary of the Union, and short narratives of their state given by their several pastors; Albion, by the Rev. J. Wheeler; Potton and Fitchbay, by the Rev. L. P. Adams; Port Sarnia, by Rev. R. G. Baird; Scotland, by Rev. Wm. Hay; Hamilton, by Rev. T. Pullar; Stanstead South, by Rev. A. McDonald; Danville and Little Warwick, by Rev. A. J. Parker. Rev. R. Wilson, also gave an outline of the state of the body in N. Brunswick and Nova Scotia, making brief references to the churches at Sheffield and St. John, N. B., at Cornwallis, Halifax and Canso, in Nova Scotia. During the evening, a recess of half an hour was allowed for refreshment and social greetings. A collection was also taken on behalf of the Missionary Society.

DR. LILLIE'S ESSAY.

The essay of Dr. Lillie was read on Saturday forenoon; and it was unanimously resolved, that the hearty thanks of this Union be presented to Rev. Dr. Lillie for his valuable essay on "Permanency in the Pastoral Relation;" that he be requested to place the manuscript in the hands of the Union for publication in the *Canadian Independent*; and that should sufficient guarantees be given, it be also published as No. 3 of the Tract series.

WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

After the reading of Dr. Lillie's essay, the report of the Trustees of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, was read by Mr. W. R. Hibbard of Montreal; whereupon the Union gave way to a meeting of the subscribers to that fund.

APPOINTMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING.

Annual sermon, Rev. J. Elliot, Primary; Rev. A. Duff, Substitute.

Sabbath morning sermon, Rev. R. K. Black, Primary; Rev. J. Howell, Substitute.

Sabbath evening sermon, Rev. J. Wood, Primary; Rev. E. Barker, Substitute. Rev. K. M. Fenwick, was appointed writer of an essay on "Doctrinal uniformity—how far necessary and attainable in our denomination."

COMMITTEES.

On recommendation of the committee on nominations, the following committees were appointed.

Officers of the Union.—Rev. Dr. Wilkes, Chairman; Rev. E. Ebbs, Secretary-Treasurer; Revs. F. H. Marling, Dr. Lillie, T. M. Reikie, A. Duff, Professor Cornish, D. Dunkerly; Messrs. C. Alexander, G. Hague, James Baylis, W. R. Hibbard and A. Savage, Committee.

Missionary District Committees—Western District.—Revs. W. Clarke, E. Ebbs, W. Hay, J. Howell, W. H. Allworth, Messrs. F. P. Gould, C. Whitlaw, J. McKeand, S. Hodgskin, A. Malcolm, Secretary, Rev. J. Wood.

Middle District.—Revs. Dr. Lillie, F. H. Marling, T. M. Reikie, J. Unsworth, A. Wickson, M. A. Messrs. G. Hague, J. F. Marling, R. H. Smith, E. Childs, W. D. Taylor, J. Fraser, Secretary, Rev. J. T. Byrne.

Eastern District.—Revs. K. M. Fenwick, R. K. Black, J. Climie, W. Hayden, P. Shanks, Messrs. J. C. Field, B. P. Ross, R. Robertson, W. Massie, and J. Mair, Rev. A. Burpee, Secretary.

Lower Canada District.—Revs. Dr. Wilkes, A. Duff, A. McDonald, G. Cornish, Messrs. A. Savage, R. Holland, W. Moodie, and S. A. Hurd, (Eaton); James Baylis, Esq., Secretary of Montreal section; and Rev. D. Dunkerley, Secretary of the Eastern Townships.

Nova Scotia and New Brunswick District.—Rev. J. Sterling, Keswick Ridge; Rev. Mr. Thornton; Messrs. T. Barker and J. Burpee, St. John; Messrs. T. B. C. Burpee, and H. P. Bridges, Sheffield; Mr. J. Burton, Halifax; Mr. W. H. Freeman, Milton; Capt. McLeod, Liverpool; with power to add to their number. Rev. R. Wilson, Sheffield, N. B., Secretary.

DELEGATES TO CORRESPONDING BODIES.

To the U. P. Synod in Canada, for 1860, Rev. T. M. Reikie, Primary, Rev. A. Duff, Substitute.

To the General Association, Massachusetts, Rev. J. Elliot, Primary, Rev. G. Ritchie, Substitute.

To the General Conference, Maine, Rev. A. Duff, Primary, Rev. A. Macdonald, Substitute.

To the General Convention, Vermont, Rev. A. J. Parker, Primary, Rev. R. K. Black, Substitute.

To the General Association, Michigan, Rev. R. G. Baird, Primary, Rev. J. Howell, Substitute.

To the General Association, New York, Rev. J. T. Byrne, Primary, Rev. E. Ebbs, Substitute.

To the General Association of New Hampshire, Rev. J. McKillican, Primary, Rev. L. P. Adams, Substitute.

To the Presbyterian and Congregational Convention of Wisconsin, Rev. R. Robinson, Primary, Rev. J. Wood, Substitute.

To the Congregational Union of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, Rev. Dr. Wilkes, Primary, Rev. H. D. Powis, Substitute.

SABBATH SERVICES.

The sermon at the morning service was preached by the Rev. R. Robinson, from Heb. i. 6,—“And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.” Devotional exercises by Rev. D. McCallum.

In the afternoon, the members of the Union and many members of the sister Congregational Church in this city, united with the 2nd Church by invitation, in the participation of the Lord's Supper. The pastor of the 2nd Church presided; Revs. Dr. Daggett, Wm. Hay, H. Denney, and R. K. Black, took part in the service.

In the evening, the Rev. W. F. Clarke preached from Mark xiii. 34,—“For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.” At the close of the service, a religious conference was held, at which

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the brethren who had been preaching in the open air in various parts of the city stated that their services were attended with interest.

During the session on Monday forenoon, a full report of the donations to Mrs. Snell was made, with her expression of thanks; it was also resolved, that any monies yet on hand for Mrs. Snell be paid to the Rev. F. H. Marling.

Rev. Miram Wilson was heard on behalf of Fugitive Slaves, and Sailors on the Welland Canal, and the Business Committee were requested to prepare a resolution on this subject.

An interim Report of the Business Committee was adopted, viz: That with grateful acknowledgment of the services of the brethren who have delivered the Annual and Sabbath Sermons before the Union, they be requested to present their MSS. to this Union for future use, as the Union may direct.

FRENCH CANADIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

On Monday afternoon, the Revs. R. Robinson, and E. J. Sherrill, were heard on behalf of the French Canadian Missionary Society, and the following resolution was passed unanimously:—

"That we have great pleasure in avowing our unabated confidence in the French Canadian Missionary Society, and do still cordially commend it to the continued support of all our churches, recommending that an annual collection be taken up in its behalf."

A vote of sympathy with the family of the late C. J. Mickle, Esq., J. P., was unanimously passed.

THE PUBLIC MEETING OF THE UNION

Was held on Monday evening at half-past seven. Dr. Wilkes, the chairman of the Union presided, who gave a sketch of the proceedings of the Union, and according to vote was heard on behalf of the Canada Foreign Missionary Society. The summary of the statistics of the body in Canada was then read by the Minute Secretary, after which addresses were delivered by the Rev. J. Elliott, on "Congregationalism in Great Britain;" by Messrs. C. Alexander and W. R. Hibbard, on the Widows' and Orphans' Fund; and by the Rev. Joseph Hooper on "The Press." Narratives of the state of religion in their respective charges were also given by the Rev. J. McKillican, of Martintown and Rev. Robert McGregor.

At the close of the public meeting, the Union received the final report of the Finance Committee, which was adopted; 72 per cent. was paid on travelling fares and due bills of last year.

TEMPERANCE.

Memorials from Temperance Associations were read, and the following resolution adopted:—

"That without pronouncing on the merits of the organization of the Sons and Daughters of Temperance and other Temperance Associations, we heartily sympathize with them in their endeavours to remove, by moral suasion and legal means, the causes of Intemperance from our beloved land." The Union also instructed the Secretary to send a copy of this resolution to the Memorialists.

MISSIONARY AND TRACT SOCIETY RESOLUTIONS.

On British Columbia.—"That this Union conscious of a fervent interest in every portion of British Columbia, as the extreme Western colony of British North America, cannot refrain from expressing its deep gratification at the appointment by the Colonial Missionary Society, of our able, tried, and beloved brother, the Rev. W. F. Clarke, to labour in the Gospel and to represent our distinguishing principles in that exceedingly important region:—

That the Union devoutly and affectionately commends to the care and blessing of our Heavenly Father, our beloved brother, his partner, and their children, praying that He may vouchsafe to them journeying mercies and abundantly prosper them in their residence, and in all their undertakings in the land of their sojourn: and that our brother may be long spared to communicate to this Union personally or otherwise, such tidings as will enable them to unite with him in earnest thanksgiving to our God and to His Christ."

American Tract Society at New York.—"That this Union strongly deprecates the course pursued by the majority of the American Tract Society at its late meeting held at New York, by which it sought to suppress free discussion in a matter of great importance to the interests of Christ's Kingdom; and hereby expresses its heartfelt sympathy with the minority of that Association in the bold stand they have taken in relation to the duty of speaking out, according to the oracles of God, respecting the great evils of slavery: and earnestly hopes and prays that the Society may be delivered from a temporising spirit, and be led, from a sense of duty, boldly to protest against this and every form of oppression and sin."

American Tract Society at Boston.—"That this Union expresses its hearty approval of the course pursued by the American Tract Society at Boston, in relation to the matter of slavery, and hereby respectfully recommends the various Tract Societies of this Province to carry on the American branch of their business with the above Society as far as practicable."

Canadian Foreign Missionary Society.—"That this Union expresses its confidence in the Canadian Foreign Missionary Society, and cordially commending it to the prayers, sympathy, and support of the churches, strongly recommends that an annual collection be taken up on its behalf."

Natal.—The Rev. James Hay addressed the Union, after which it was carried unanimously, "That this Union has heard with much interest the statement of their beloved brother, the Rev. James Hay, relative to his contemplated emigration as a volunteer missionary to Natal, and pray God to direct all his steps; and further, that the Secretary of this Union be instructed to give him letters of commendation to Christian brethren in that colony, and on his way thither."

The Union then commended Mr. Hay to God in prayer.

"CANADIAN INDEPENDENT."

A statement was made on Friday forenoon, by the editor of the *Canadian Independent*, of the present position of that periodical, which represented it as self-sustaining during the year. It was resolved that there be a free conference of the Union on Monday, from 11 to 12 a.m., respecting the *Canadian Independent*. That conference was held on Monday and Tuesday, and resulted in a resolution to continue the magazine, and in the appointment of a committee to obtain a proprietary. At the closing meeting of the Union, guarantees were obtained to the amount of \$100.

NEW DIVISION OF MISSIONARY DISTRICTS.

The report of the committee appointed at the last annual meeting, to consider the re-arrangement of the Middle and Western districts, was received and ordered to lie on the table as recommended. The report proposed,

"1. That out of the existing districts named, both of which are undesirably large, three new districts be now constructed, to be known hereafter as Huron, Erie, and Ontario districts.

"2. That the proposed districts include, respectively, the following counties:—The Huron—the counties of Essex, Kent, Lambton, Middlesex, Elgin, Huron, Perth, and Bruce, embracing at least about 13 stations; the Erie—the counties of Oxford, Waterloo, Wentworth, Brant, Norfolk, Halton, Haldimand, Welland, and Lincoln, embracing in all about 20 stations; the Ontario—the counties of Grey, Simcoe, Peel, York, Ontario, Victoria, and Durham, with the exception of Port Hope station, which should not be dissociated from Cobourg, this district would comprise about 20 stations.

"3. They would further suggest, that to make the new nomenclature uniform, the districts at present known as the Eastern and Lower Canada districts, receive the names respectively of the Rideau and the St. Lawrence."

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

It was resolved, "That the interest and importance with which Sabbath schools are invested, in their past and present relation to the church, and to the world, claim for them a constant share in the attention and deliberations of this Union;

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and that the Rev. J. Elliott be appointed to collect statistics and suggestions, to be presented at our next session at Montreal."

DAY OF PRAYER.

It was resolved, "That we earnestly recommend the churches associated with us to observe the last Sabbath in June as a day of special confession of national sins and supplication to Almighty God, that he may command his blessing to rest on the roots and fruits of our land, thus preserving us from the various causes of blight by which we have severely suffered in former years."

PRAYER FOR COLLEGES.

It was resolved, "That whilst our Educational Institutes are of great value in aiding the promotion of the interests of the Lord's Kingdom, and of those who receive training in them, we cannot overlook the fact that the Divine blessing is essential to spiritual benefit: and therefore recommend to our churches to co-operate as far as possible with those of other denominations in observing the last Thursday in February as a day of special prayer for Colleges and other Institutions of learning, that the Lord would graciously and copiously pour upon them the Holy Spirit."

CORRESPONDENCE WITH SCOTLAND AND AUSTRALIA.

The Secretary of the Union was instructed to open a correspondence with our brethren in these lands.

DR. RYERSON'S CIRCULAR.

A circular requesting the views of the Union on the subject of religious instruction in Common Schools, and which had been previously referred to a Special Committee, was on Tuesday forenoon considered in a Committee of the whole. The Committee of the whole recommended the appointment of a Committee to consider the subject brought before the Union in the circular, and present a report at the next annual meeting. Committee nominated,—Revs. E. Ebbs, J. Wood, D. McCallum, W. Hay, and Chas. Whitlaw, Esq.

RAILROADS.

Resolved, "That the thanks of this Union are due, and are hereby tendered to the Grand Trunk, the Ottawa and Prescott R. R. Companies for their kindness to ministers during the past year in making an arrangement by which they were permitted to pass over their roads at half fare; and also to the Northern and Grand Trunk R. R. Companies for special arrangements in favour both of ministers and delegates coming to its present session."

CHURCHES AND FRIENDS IN TORONTO.

The thanks of the Union were tendered to the Pastor, members and congregation of the 2nd Church, together with the pastor and members of the 1st Church and other Christian friends of other denominations for their kindness and hospitality to the members of this Union during its present session.

MISSIONARY REPORT.

The first item of business on Tuesday afternoon was the adoption of the following resolution:—

"That the Missionary Report of the Secretaries (Revs. Dr. Wilkes and K. M. Fenwick) be considered as read; that it be received and adopted; and that it be published under the direction of the Committee."

LETTER TO THE UNION FROM THE 1st CHURCH, TORONTO.

On Saturday, a Committee was appointed to confer with the 1st Church, Toronto, on the subject of the letter addressed to the Union by the 1st Church, Toronto. On Tuesday afternoon they reported as follows:—

"It may be well at once for the committee to state the position of the question. The First Church, Toronto, has not applied for membership with the Union; nor has it sought any alteration of the constitution with a view to such an application. The object in addressing the Union was respectfully and affectionately to inform the brethren of the reasons why, as a church, it did not seek to be received as a

member, as well as in the hope that possibly some of the difficulties might be removed.

"We beg to report, first, that on enquiry we found that the church had appointed a committee to correspond with the Union, should such correspondence be sought; and having requested a conference with said committee the request was at once granted. We have had two meetings, and we cannot refrain from expressing our full satisfaction with the kind, frank, and truly affectionate spirit with which we have been met by the members of the committee.

"As the result of said conference we would respectfully express our confidence that the tendencies supposed to exist in our constitution do not really exist; but to make the principles, of the Union more evident; to remove, if possible, every difficulty out of the way of our brethren of the First Church, your committee is prepared to propose the following amendments of the constitution, viz:

"Art. II. (in place of the present), 'That it shall consist of churches of the Congregational or Independent order, of the pastor or pastors of, and missionaries and evangelists connected with, associated churches, and professors or tutors in Colleges and Congregational Theological Institutes, being members of such associated churches, approved and received at a general meeting.'

"After the words 'perfect independence' in Art. III., instead of what now follows read 'in its government and administration, and therefore that the Union shall not assume legislative or administrative authority, or in any case become a court of appeal.'

"In Art. V. after the words 'represented by two' strike out the word 'lay.'

"In Art. VI. after the words 'chosen annually' insert from 'its members.'

"In standing rules remove the 1st and 16th rules. In the 11th omit all after 'with such meeting.' In 13th omit all the words before 'the churches are expected.'

"II. We also think that although the missionary operation of the body have always before, as well as after, the general amalgamation, been strictly connected with the Union, that some such change as was several years ago effected on our Theological Institute, might with advantage take place on the Missionary Society. In this case, however, correspondence with the Colonial Missionary Society will be required."

In view of the above, your committee would respectfully suggest that a committee be appointed by the Union to take this latter subject into careful consideration to report early next session:—That the Sec. Treasurer of the Missionary Society be on this committee to conduct the necessary correspondence with the Home Society, and that the remaining members of the committee be nominated by the Chair. It was resolved, that the constitutional changes recommended in the former part of this Report be referred to a committee nominated by the chair, to report thereon at next annual meeting: said committee as nominated, Revs. K. M. Fenwick, J. Elliot, Dr. Lillie, T. M. Reikie and F. H. Marling. Also resolved, that the recommendation contained in the second portion of the Report be adopted. It was stated by the Convener of the Committee conferring with the 1st church, that no action in the conference of this committee with that Church should be understood as indicating the future course of that church towards the Union. The chair, in nominating the committee recommended in the second portion of the above report, re-appointed the parties who constituted that Committee, the Chairman himself, according to the recommendation being included, viz: Revs. A. J. Parker, K. M. Fenwick and J. Elliott, with Dr. Wilkes.

The Membership Committee having reported in relation to Mr. Harris of Simcoe, "That there be no alteration in the action of the Union from last year, a minority report recommended that a letter of dismissal be given to Mr. Harris, understanding thereby a letter signifying his membership up to his resignation, it was resolved, that in view of the inherent difficulty of the case referred to, the personal absence of the parties concerned, and the small number of members present at this late period of the session, these reports be accepted and laid on the table."

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It was resolved on report of the Business Committee, "That in reply to the letter from the church at Hamilton, the Secretary be instructed to state that the action of the Union last year in reference to the 'Simcoe case,' was not founded upon the result of the *ex parte* council."

Resolved, "That the unfinished business of last annual meeting still lie on the table."

Resolved, "That the Union adjourn to meet in Zion Church, Montreal, on the 2nd Wednesday in June 1860."

After a short address by the Chairman on the happy feeling that had pervaded the meeting, the members separated after singing the hymn beginning "May the grace of Christ our Saviour," and prayer by the Rev. Dr. Lillie.

EDWARD EBBS, *Secretary*.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS,--1858-9.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES.

There are altogether, so far as known, 82 churches. The returns from 75 have been embodied in the statistical table.

The Secretary would here record his gratitude to the brethren generally, for their prompt and full returns, and would venture to hope that in this good work they may yet attain even to perfection.

No estimate of the statistics of unreported churches has been added, as in previous tables, to the actual returns.

MEMBERSHIP.

Seventy-five churches report on their roll, May 3rd, 3,435 members; of whom 1,368 are males, and 2,067 females. During the year, 38 have been removed by death, 131 have received regular dismission by letter, 9 have withdrawn without church action, and 40 have been removed by discipline. Total removals, 218.

The additions reported are, 191 by letters of transfer, and 355 by profession; in all 546. Twelve reports show a decrease of 55 in the aggregate; eleven reports show no change, the removals and additions being equal; while forty-four report an aggregate increase of 384. The net increase according to the returns is 329.

Seven new churches have been formed, including one reorganization.

MINISTERS.

Again we are permitted to report that death has made no breach upon our staff of ministerial labourers. But three have resigned their charges, with impaired health, and are seeking its renewal by temporary cessation from labour. A fourth has been entirely disabled by sickness, throughout the year, though he retains his pastoral charge. One of these brethren is about to leave our northern clime for the coast of Africa, in hope of thereby regaining physical vigor.

Three graduates of our Theological Institute—two of last year's classes, and one of the present—have entered spheres of pastoral ministry. Another graduate, who for a time labored in New-York State, has returned to this Province, and gathered a new church.

Three ministers have entered the field from Great Britain, and are in pastoral charges.

Thirteen ministerial settlements have taken place during the year now expiring.

The following table, it is believed, includes all the Congregational Ministers of Canada.

Pastors, or stated supplies	55
Professors, Tutors, or otherwise in Educational departments....	5
Agents of Missionary or other Religious Societies	3
Without charge	8

AVERAGE HEARERS.

There are 133 regular stations connected with the 75 churches that have reported, with an aggregate average of 9,788 regular hearers, and 2,000 attendants on occasional services: together making 11,788. In addition to the above Sabbath congregations, there are 88 week day services reported, with an aggregate average attendance of 1,739.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Eighty-six are reported; 5 of which are "Union Schools," and their attendance is not included. The 81 belonging to the churches reporting, have 555 teachers, and 4,102 scholars.

CHURCH PROPERTY.

The churches in the table report 60 Houses of worship: with seating accommodation for 15,880 persons; estimated as worth \$151,336. There are six other churches owned by the denomination, some of which, however, are at present loaned, or let to other bodies. The sum of \$58,500 is insured upon the 60 chapels reported. Only 42 reply satisfactorily to the inquiry respecting the legal transfer and registration of these real estates.

There are likewise six ministers' houses owned by the churches, valued at \$3,500. A large proportion of the returns evidently state the value only of the buildings, making no estimate of the real estate. Another year this indefiniteness should be remedied. The total value of property, as reported is \$154,836.

FINANCES.

The returns shew a sum-total of \$38,971 contributed for all purposes: made up of the following amounts, viz:

For Ministers support.....	\$20,026
" Incidental expenses	4 400
" Home missions, including F. C. M. S.	3,751
" Foreign Missions.....	1,512
" Theological Institute.....	1,042
" Debts, building, or repairs.....	6,014
" General religious purposes.....	2,226

\$38,971

This aggregate compared with the present roll of Church members, shews an average of about \$11 30, for every name enrolled. This, of course is not the true average of each member's contributions, as many, not enrolled, are liberal supporters of religious institutions. But it is the nearest approximation that we can make. The average to each regular hearer, is about \$4

Fifty-three returns report Home Missionary collections; and eleven, have contributed to Foreign Missions. Thirty-eight report subscriptions, or collections to the Theological Institute. Fourteen report considerable expenditures under the heading of "debts, building, and repairs."

EDWARD EBBS,

Secretary.

CR.

Congregational Union of Canada in account with EDWARD EBBS, Treasurer.

DR.

Dr. *Congregational Union of Canada in account with EDWARD EBBS, Treasurer.* Cr.

B 1858.

To Balance due former Treasurer, per account.....	\$12 46
" Subsequent expenses by Rev. K. M. F.....	1 12 1/4
" Travelling fares	145 22 1/2
" Expenses of Delegates to F. B.....	51 50
" Maclear Co's, account.....	83 40
" Printing and Posting bills.....	3 50
" Grant to Rev. Mr. Hitchens.....	5 00
" do. to Mr. J. Jones, (Indian).....	5 00
Aug. 11.— Rev. K. M. Fenwick, Stationery, postage &c..	2 05

1859.

To Sundry express charges.....	4 37
" Sundry Postages.....	3 30
June. 6.— " Printing Circulars.....	4 00
	<u>\$320 93</u>

EDWARD EBBS,
Treasurer.

Examined and found correct.

W. D. TAYLOR, }
WM. SMITH. } Auditors.

Toronto, 11th June, 1859.

1858.

June.—By Collections from Churches.....	\$274 03 1/2
" do. at Public Meeting.....	22 00
" Sale of Deeds.....	18 00
" Deduction from Maclear & Co's, account.....	3 40
" Donation from Dr. J. Clarke.....	1 00
" Cash balance from Finance Committee.....	1 12 1/4
" Balance due Treasurer.....	1 37

\$320 93