TENTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

THE

CONGREG'ATIONAL UNION

OF

EASTERN CANADA.

OCTOBER 10TH AND 11TH, 1849.

W. H. MARING.

ABSTRACT OF THE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS,

AND

" A. J. Pangers

REPORT OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY,

&c. &c.

MONTREAL:

PRINTED, BY LOVELL AND GIBSON, ST. MICHOLAS STREET. 1849.

GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE UNION.

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REV. T. BYENE, " H. WILKES, " F. H. MARLING, " A. J. PARKEE, MESSES, J. BAYLIS, MESSES, T. M. TAYLOR, " J. SAVAGE, " J. SAVAGE, " J. KELLER, " J. MOSSEN, Quebec.

W

H. VENNOB, Esq., Treasurer. REV. R. MILES, Secretary.

REPORT OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY

CONSTITUTION OF THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF EASTERN CANADA.

I. That the Union of Congregational Churches and Ministers of Eastern Canada is founded on a full recognition of their own distinctive principle: 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.

II. That this Union consists of Ministers and Churches of the Congregational or Independent Order, duly received at a General Meeting.

III. 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 sincere co-operation in everything relating to the interests of the associated Churches.
- To establish fraternal correspondence with the several Congregational Unions of Great Britain and Ireland, and with similar bodies throughout this continent.
- 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.

IV. To promote the accomplishment of these objects and the general interests of the Union, an Annual Meeting shall be held, consisting, if practicable, of the Minister and a Layman of each of the associated Churches; that the Annual Meeting be held in Montreal, or such other place as may be appointed.

STANDING RULES OF THE UNION.

I. The Union shall meet annually at Montreal on the second Wednesday after the first Sabbath in September, and commence at ten o'clock in the forenoon with devotional exercises, accompanied with a short address by the Chairman.

II. At the close of the above devotional exercises, a Minute Secretary for the Session shall be chosen.

III. The Secretary shall take the roll of Ministers and Lay Delegates.

IV. The meetings shall be daily opened and closed with prayer.

V. A Committee shall be annually chosen to manage generally the affairs) of the Union, and prepare a docket of business for the meeting.

VI. A Committee of three shall be early chosen by ballot, who shall be a Committee of Overtures, and who shall nominate Delegates or Correspondents with foreign or other bodies; also all Committees to whom business or subjects shall be referred for them to report thereon.

VII. No motion shall be discussed unless seconded, and no member shall speak more than twice to the same motion, without the permission of the Chairman; and every motion shall be presented in writing, by the mover.

VIII. Every member shall be present at and remain during the several meetings, unless he have leave of absence by a vote of the Union.

IX. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to prevent desultory remarks.

X. At the opening of the morning sitting, the Minutes of the preceding day shall be read, and the Minutes of the last day at the close of the Session.

XI. The Ministers of the Union shall 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.

XII. The rules, with the plan or Constitution of the Union, to which they shall be appended, shall be read at the opening of every Annual Meeting.

XIII. All business standing over from the last Annual Meeting shall be first transacted.

XIV. The roll of Members shall be called at the opening of every day's Meeting, during the Session.

XV. The Chairman for the ensuing year shall be chosen by ballot,--a majority of the Members present to constitute a vote.

XVI. That each Church shall contribute by its Pastor or Delegate, 5s. at least annually, to the funds of the Union-payable at the Annual Meeting.

XVII. That Delegates from this Union to corresponding bodies, who may fail to fulfil their appointment 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 Convocations.

XVIII. That an annual sermon be preached on the evening of the first day of the session of the Unioh, and that the preacher be appointed at the previous Annual Meeting.

STANDING RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, That this Union recommend to all the Pastors of Churches to exercise special care in the introduction of persons to the Christian Ministry within our bounds.

That previous to Ordination they seek and abtain full and satisfactory evidence of soundness in the faith, and fitness to exercise the duties of the Pastoral Office. And that in case of any doubt, the Pasters more immediately concerned should request a consultation with as many brethren as possible, that is this particular "The Ministry be not blaned."

Resolved, That this Union do consider it inceptions that the Pastoral relation should be dissolved without the advice and approbation of the Ministers and Churches in the vicinity.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE GENERAL PURPOSES OF THE UNION .- 1849 (See Rale XVI)

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ABSTRACT OF MINUTES, &c.

THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF EASTRIN CANADA held its Tenth Annual Assembly, in the Lecture Room of Zion Church, Montreal, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 10th and 11th of October. The postponethene of the Meeting from the time previously appointed (5th September) was occasioned by the prevalence of the fatal Epidemic. The Session opened, as usual, with devotional exercises, and with an appropriate address by the Chairman, the Rev. J. T. Byrne, of Bytown.

The following Ministers and Delegates of the Churches were present on the occasion :

The Revds. D. Connell, J. Fisk, J. Anderson, R. Miles, T. Bayne, W. McKillican, A. J. Parker, E. J. Sherrill, F. H. Marling, A. Rankin, A. C. Geikie, Messrs. H. Lyman, A. Muckle, J. McEachern, J. Musson, -- Hickock.

The Rev. S. McKean, Delegate from the General Convention of Vermont. The Rev. D. Dyer, Delegate from the Massachussetts General Association.

The Rev. H. F. Leavitt, Delegate from Addison County Association, Vermont.

The Rev. J. H. Woodward, Delegate of the Chittenden County Association, Vermont.

The Rev. E. H. Dorman, Delegate, North West Association, Vermont.

The Rev. W. Clarke, Delegate from the Congregational Union, Canada West.

The Rev. J. Buckham, Vermont.

The several Delegates were received with fraternal cordiality, and invited , to sit with the Union during its Session.

The Rey, T. Bayne was chosen Recording Secretary for the Session.

The Rev. F. H. Marling, 2nd Congregational Church, Montreal, and the Rev. A. Rankin, of Melbourne, were received by vote into the Union.

On motion, a Committee was chosen by ballot, consisting of the Revds. A. J. Parker, E. J. Sherrill, R. Miles and Messrs. H. Lyman and J. Mussen, to arrange a Schedule of business for the Union,—as also to be the Committee of Overtures, &c.

It was Resolved, That the Union hold its several Meetings, during the present Session, from 10 to 1 A. M., and from $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 to 5 P. M. The Session to close on Thursday.

On motion, the Union adjourned, to allow time for the Committee to prepare a Schedule of business for the consideration and adoption of the Union.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

After an interesting discussion on the subject of the Clergy Reserves and State Support of Religion, it was

Resolved, That it is the deliberate opinion of this Union, that the funds arising from the Sale of the Lands, called the "Clergy Reserves," ought not to be appropriated to *Ecclesiastical* purposes, but to the support of general and unsectarian Education; — and in order to effect this, it is recommended. that each Minister endeavor to enlighten the public mind on this subject. and procure petitions from the people to the Provincial Parliament at their approaching Session.

Resolved, That this Union expresses its cordial approbation of the recent action of the Provincial Legislature in relation to the University of King's College, Toronto, by which that important Institution has, at length, been divested of its Sectarian and exclusive character.

Resolved, That it be a Standing Rule of the Union, that a Sermon be preached on the evening of the first day of the Annual Meeting, and that the Preacher be appointed the year preceding.

Resolved, That the Secretary correspond with the Union of Canada West, to carry into effect the Resolution of this Union in 1847.

The recent removal, by death, of our valued brother, the Rev. J. Drummond, of Quebec, was the subject of solemn reference and consideration, when it was

Resolved, That this Union desires to acknowledge the hand of God in the death of our highly esteemed and valued brother, the Rev. James Drummond, of Quebec; and while we bow, with submission, to this severe stroke, we desire to sympathize with the bereaved widow and fatherless children, and with the Church thus suddenly deprived of a valuable and successful Pastor, and devoutly pray that God may be pleased to sanctify this affliction to the good of those more immediately connected with our departed brother and to the Members of this Union yet spared to labor in the cause of the Redeemer.

On Wednesday Evening, the Annual Sermon was preached in Gosford Street Church, by the Rev. J. Fisk, of Philipsburg, from Ephes, ii, 20.

THURSDAY FORENOON.

After the usual devotional exercises, the Minutes of the*preceding day's Sittings were read and adopted.

The Rev. John McLoud, Pastor of the American Presbyterian Church, Montreal, was cordially received by the assembled brethen, and invited to sit with the Union as a corresponding Member.

The remainder of the Sitting was occupied with hearing interesting Reports of the state of Religion, &c., from the Delegates of Sister Churchesand from several Members of the Union.

AETERNOON SITTING.

The Prospectus of the "Christian Statesman," a Weekly Newspaper intended to be published by a Committee of the Congregational Union, Canada West, was submitted to the consideration of the Union, and its co-operation and support solicited by the Rev. W. Clarke, the respected Delegate of the Sister Union,-when after discussion it was

Resolved, That in the existing circumstances of the Province, it is deemed advisable to leave the matter to the consideration and action of individual brethren.

The visit of so many brothren from beyond our own borders was a subject of pleasant, fraternal congratulation, when it was most cordially

Resolved, That this Union have witnessed, with much pleasure, the presense, at their Meetings, of the several Delegates from Sister Associations in the United States and Canada West; that we tender them our sincere thanks for this expression of their sympathy and for the information, comsel and encouragement which they have given us; that we wish them individually every personal blessing, and much usefulness in their several spheres of labor; and that these brethren be requested to express to the Chauches which they represent, our sincere reciprocation of their fraternal feeling, and our carnest desire for a renewal of these interesting visits.

The following appointments were voted by the Assembly :

The Reyds. F. H. Marling and D. Connell, Delegates to the General Convention of Vermont, and also to the General Association of Massachusetts.

The Revds. A. J. Parker and D. Dunkerley, Delegates to the New Hampdure Association.

The Rev. J. T. Byrne, Delegate to the Congregational Union, Canada West,--Substitute, Rev. J. Anderson.

The Rev. E. J. Sherrill, to preach the next Annual Sermon.

The Revds. H. Wilkes, J. T. Byrne, F. H. Marling, T. Bayne and R. Miles, to be the Committee of Examination of Candidates for the Ministry and admission into the Theological Institute, Toronto.

The General Committee of the Union, (see second page).

The Session closed with devotional exercises.

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A delightful spirit of harmony and fraternal feeling pervaded the several Sittings of the Assembly, evincing "how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

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CONGREGATIONAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY

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FOR

EASTERN CANADA.

THE following Preamble and Constitution of the Society was adopted at the Public Meeting held in St. Maurice Street Church, Montreal, October 21st, 1846.

Whereas, it is the incumbent duty of every Christian to exert himself in sustaining and diffusing the Gospel,—and whereas it is highly dosimble and necessary that a Missionary Society be organized in connexion with the Congregational Union of Eastern Canada, for the purpose of aiding feelble Churches in sustaining their Ministers, and for other general Missionary objects of the Congregational body.—therefore,

Resolved, I. That this Society be now organized, and called the "Con-GREGATIONAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY FOR EASTREN CANADA."

U/That all persons subscribing to the funds, shall be Members of this Society,—and any person subscribing at one time £5, or upwards, shall be an Honorary or Life Member of this Society.

III. That the business of this Society shall be managed by a Committee, including a Treasurer and Secretary.

IV. That the Committee shall consist of one half resident in Montreal, and the other half in the several other Stations of the Congregational Union.

V. That all Ministers belonging to the Union shall be, when in Montreal, ex-officio Members of the Committee.

VI. That regular Quarterly Meetings of the Committee shall be held, and Special Meetings called when necessary.

VII. That five Members of Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

VIII. That a General Meeting of this Society shall be held annually, when a report of the proceedings of the Society shall be presented, and the Committee for the ensuing year appointed.

IX. That every Church receiving aid to sustain its Minister, shall be required, as the condition of its continuance, faithfully to fulfil their own engagements towards his support.

XI. That every settled Minister receiving aid from this Society, will be expected to devote one month annually, if required, to the immediate service of the Society.

XII. That no Church or Minister be aided by this Society, without satisfactory proof of their soundness in the faith, and their regular standing in the denominational body.

XIII. That all Ministers receiving aid from this Society, shall transmit regularly, every year, Reports to the Committee, through the general Secretary.

On Thursday evening, October 11th, 1849, the CONGREGATIONAL MISSIONARY SCHERTY held its THIRD ANNIVERARY MEETING in Zion Church, Montreal. T. M. Taylor, Eq. presided on the occasion, and introduced the business of the Meeting with an appropriate address. A brief Report was read and several interesting addresses were delivered by the Speakers who moved and supported the various Resolutions.

A collection was taken up to aid the funds of the Society.

The weather being exceedingly unfavourable, the attendance on the occasion was not large.

The following Committee was appointed for the ensuing year.

Committee.

- Rev. H. Wilkes, " D. Connell, " J. Andreson, " J. T. Byrne, J. Barks, J. Barlis, C. Alexander,
- Messrs. S. Forster. J. SAVAGE. H. VENNOR. J. MUBSON. T. H. OLIVER. LAAR. Hawkesbury.

T. M. TAYLOR, Esq., Treasurer. Rev. R. MILES, Rev. F. H. MARLING, Secretaries.

X. That the grants to () and one individual the second statt b.

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

CONGREGATIONAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY

EASTERN CANADA.

IN-presenting the Third Annual Report of this Society, the Committee would call upon its members to unite with them in thanks to God, that we have not, this year, to record the death of any one of our valued Missionaries. All have been spared, and have been enabled to occupy their several spheres of labour. The number who have received aid from us during the past year is *seven*, namely:--

Rev. W. MCKILLICAN, Indian Lands.

" A. J. PARKER, Danville, Shipton.

" R. V. HALL, Stanstead. In trapathi off. ". enderta

" E. J. SHERRILL, Eaton.

" J. FISK, Phillipsburg.

" T. BAYNE, St. Andrews.

" N. MACLEOD, Inverness.

The labours of these brethren have not been in vain. Two of the Churches, especially, have enjoyed the outpouring of the Spirit to an unusual degree. But from the nature of their work in this country, great and striking results must not be expected at once. The population is thin and scattered, and cannot be brought together in large numbers, with frequency and regularity; and even amongst these, our adherents are not very numerous. We are working for THE FUTURE, and it is therefore, pecularly, "a work of FAITH." While we thus labour, then, let us "rest in the LOED, and wait patiently for Him."

Every added year of the Society's existence attests more powerfully the necessity for such an institution. Notwithstanding all that is done by Christians of other denominations, the wants of the country are such, that without our aid, "the glorious Gospel of the Blessed God" would not be preached in several of our Stations. Souls would be left to perish in their sins the Sabbath would be worse profaned—the young would be left without the benefits of Sabbath School instruction—believers would be left to mourn the loss of the many privileges of Christian fellowship—and all corrupting and debasing influences would be permitted to work, unrestrained, among the people. Even with the assistance now given to the Pastors, they have to endure many privations, and forego many of the comforts of life. *A bare livelihood* is all that most of them receive. If the grants of this Society were withdrawn, they would be compelled to retire from the field. At the present time, several Churches and neighbourhoods are left without Ministers, while Ministers are leaving the country for want of adequate support !

We are therefore most loudly called upon to do our utmost in sustaining this Society. Our Lord and Master, whose command we would not, and dare not, disobey, has commissioned us to "go forth into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature." We interpret these words in the spirit of another command, given by the Apostle Paul: " As ye have opportunity, do good unto all men;" and we thus conclude, that the share which we have to take in this great work consists very mainly in THE EVANGELIZATION OF OUR OWN COUNTRY. The souls of our fellow-countrymen are, at least, as precious as those of men in other lands. We can reach them with far less labour and expense. They are already prepared, in great part, by early training and other influences, to receive the saving knowledge of the truth. In bringing them to Christ, we are increasing the resources of the Missionary Church, and are thus really though indirectly, working for the salvation of the Heathen. And a Christian patriotism, not at all opposed to the most comprehensive philanthropy, demands that we should spread throughout our own beloved country, that divine Religion, which has done more than any other influence to promote liberty, intelligence, order, and civilization,-having "promise of the life that now is, as well as of that which is to come." We owe these exertions, also, to the faithful and honoured brethren whom we assist. Some of these laboured for many years, before the formation of this Society, in the localities which they now occupy. They were the first pioneers in the wilderness. They toiled on--amidst difficulties which none can appreciate but those who have experienced them---in hope of reaping, afterwards, the fruits of their efforts. They have "borne the burden and heat of the day." Some are enjoying the results of past labours and sacrifices. Shall they be driven from their homes and their Churches, and their people be left without Pastors? Surely we cannot tolerate such an injustice. These brethren must be sustained.

There are also great principles of Christian truth, with reference to the constitution of the Church, which we consider ourselves specially charged to uphold and diffuse. We conceive them to be of very high importance, and that our testimony to them is particularly needed in this country, and at this time. Our national institutions and habits are all in process of formation, and are fast acquiring a settled character. We are menaced with many dangers. Romanism maintains and seeks to extend its power. The alliance of the Church and the State is partly established, and will be defended at all hazards; and we are in danger of having imposed upon ourselves and entailing upon posterity, the system which, in other lands, has done so much to secularize the Church, without improving the State. Although we are far from exalting our voluntaryism into an essential of the Christian Faith, yet we cannot fail to see that it is too closely interwoven with the spirituality and prosperity of the Kingdom of Christ, ever to be forgotten, or to cease to be proclaimed. Our maintenance and practical adoption of this principle, however, entails upon us much temporary loss. If we would accept pecuniary support from the State, we might sustain our Missionaries in larger numbers, and in greater comfort. Since we are thus made to suffer for conscience' sake, we feel that we have a very strong claim upon the generous assistance of our brethren .- Our principles also require us to use all possible exertions to maintain Purity of Communion in the Churches. This turns away from

us many who wish to bear the name, while they will not assume the character, of Christians; many who, though they might fill our Churches, and increase our wealth and worldly influence, would do us spiritual harm, and bring down upon us the displeasure of our Lord. Thus again are our numbers diminished, and our resources limited.

Yet, as we believe that these principles are true, accordant with the word of God, we cannot desist from their advocacy. and adopt a course which might make us more popular. Nor can we doubt of their ultimate success, for Truth must ever be, in its own essential nature, more powerful than Error, and Holiness than Sin. That which is from God must eventually overcome all that is opposed to it, whencesoever it has arisen, and howsoever it is supported. It has always been the lot of those who have contended for great and divine truths, to be a few, and to have to encounter the steady opposition of the many. Yet they have succeeded in the end-their force of argument has overcome some-the excellence of their example has convinced others-and those who have still opposed them in theory, have often imitated them in practice. The history of the struggle of Truth with Error, entered upon against such overwhelming odds, but almost invariably terminating in victory, encourages us to hope that we shall not uphold these principles in vain. We already see their importance acknowledged by many who do not call themselves by our name, and we doubt not that this will be the case to a far wider extent than hitherto.

We earnestly appeal, therefore, to those who are like-minded with us, to support us generously with their efforts, their prayers, and their contributions. We acknowledge, with gratitude, the assistance received in this country, and from the neighbouring States. We can assure our constituents that the utmost economy and care are used in the distribution of our funds; and though we cannot point to any outwardly striking and magnificent results, yet, in the conversion of sinners, the edification of believers, and the *indirect* influence which we are sure we have exerted upon other Christians,—to a degree far greater than is commonly supposed,—we see enough accomplished in the past, and to be expected in the future, to repay, abundantly, all the efforts and all the sacrifices which have been made in this cause.

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LIFE MEMBERS.

· September

By payment of £5 and upwards, to the Funds of the Society.

J. P. WILLISTON, Esq., Northampton, Massachussetts, by four donations of £7 10s., £10, £30, and £6 5s.

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Rev. W. H. TYLER, Pittsfield, Massachussetts, by donation of £6 5s.
Mr. J. BAYLIS, Montreal, by two donations of £25, £25.
Mr. T. M. TAYLOB, Montreal, by donation of £25.
R. D. STRWART, ESQ., Philadelphia, by donation of £6 5s.
Rev. A. Rood, Philadelphia, by donation of £6 5s.
Mrs. BANTER, Newbury Port, Massachussetta, by donation of £12 10s.
Rev. W. SMITH, D. D. St. Albans, by donation of £7 17s. 6d.

COLLECTIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

TO THE

CONGREGATIONAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

For the year ending September 30, 1849.

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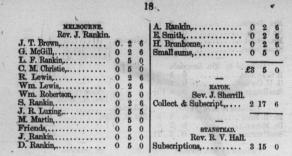
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UNITED STATES.

VERMONT.

St. Albans.

J. H. Brainerd, Esq.,	1.00	l
C. B. Swift,	1.00	l
W. O. Gadcome,	1.00	l
H. Seymour,	2.00	1
Mrs. H. Levingstone,	0.50	l
Charles Wyman,	1.00	
A. H. Huntington;	2.00	l
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Mrs. L. Brainerd,	10.00	ł
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19 To balance.... To overdrawn by one Missionary To Gash paid grants to seven Missienary Pastors... 175 0 0 By balance from last year's account..... Br. MONTREAL, 30th September, 1849. The Congregational Missionary Society in account with 3. Ricks. 5 £204 14 2 2 10 0 By fourth donation of J. P. Williston, Esq..... £s.d. Errors excepted. 7 9 6 By Mr. Dickinson, Prescott..... By balance in the hands of the Treasurer, By By By Collections in the United States..... •• in Canada East, 126 10-10 at Annual Meeting ... JOHN BIRKS, Treasurer. E204 14 2 £7 9 6 44 4 2 10 5 10 2 18 4 £ s. d. 0 0 5 0

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