

THE PROBLEM OF THE WEST.

Presbyterians Decide Up on a Most Important Step.

A CRUCIAL TIME.

Three Men to Replace the Late Dr. Robertson.

MISSIONARY NIGHT.

Principal Patrick's Remarkable Speech-The Foreign Elements in the Northwest-A Fraternal Interlude.

The work of the General Assembly yesterday was marked by the taking of an exceedingly important step. The problem of the west, as Principal Patrick, the new head of Manitoba College, styled it, lies very heavily upon the heart of the Assembly, and yesterday afternoon this great problem was faced, and the decision taken to replace the late Rev. Dr. Robertson by not one, but three, Superintendents of the work. The taking of this decision may be counted a species of triumph for the men who are in a sense the leaders of the church. The recommendation of the Home Mission Committee to this effect, it is known, was received by the church at large with a certain degree of hesitancy, the step seeming a daring one. When the recommendation came up Rev. Dr. Warden, the Convener of the committee, supported it in a speech of great force. Addressing the Assembly at quite unusual length for him, employing all his mastery of facts and detail, and speaking in terms of the utmost gravity, he pressed upon the Assembly the urgency of the situation at this critical juncture. Mr. Charlton re-echoed his words, and then Principal Patrick, the successor of the late Rev. Dr. King in Manitoba College, presented the "problem of the west" to the Assembly with such mastery, power and commanding eloquence that the work begun by Dr. Warden was completed. Hesitation was fairly overborne, and amid a thrill of very real emotion the recommendation was passed by an absolutely unanimous vote.

God's holy word in some of the colleges; he did not want to go into particulars. The church was tolerating and winking at that which, in black and white, was unsettling the faith.

Rev. Dr. Thompson of Sarnia suggested that it would be better to wait till the reports of all the colleges were presented.

Dr. McMullen replied that he had said what he desired to say, and he regretted that Prof. McNaughton of Queen's expressed a desire to say some of the vast amount of things which were to be said on the other side.

Rev. Dr. Warden pointed out that this matter would come up in the discussion on an overture from the Presbytery of Toronto asking for the appointment of a committee on the colleges.

Mr. G. M. Macdonnell, K.C., presented the report of Queen's University. The Board of Trustees of Queen's University reported that the total number of students registered last session was 820—in the faculty of arts, 407; in medicine, 187; in practical science, 105; in theology, 31. Eleven men completed their theological course.

Mr. Macdonnell devoted his remarks mainly to the proposed severance of relations between the church and the university. He traced the history of the movement from 1874, when, on the occasion of the union, it was not felt desirable that the church should retain control of the university, and the university was accordingly given a constitution which made it a practically independent corporation.



REV. PRINCIPAL CAVEN, Knox College.

would become absolutely, technically and legally independent of the church; there would remain historic associations, and spiritually Queen's would be a child of the church, and there would subsist between them the relation of parent and child.

College Reports. The affairs of the colleges were discussed at the morning sederunt of the General Assembly.

Principal Forrest of Dalhousie University made a reference to his intimate personal relations with Principal Grant; they had been born within two miles of each other, their families had been friends before they were born, his father had dressed the wound when the future Principal Grant lost his right hand.

Principal Forrest of Dalhousie University when the religious and moral element had become more in evidence than on that very day. As for the decline in the number of ministers, it must be remembered that in Nova Scotia at all events the idea had gone abroad some years before that there were too many candidates for the ministry.

Principal Caven seconded this in a speech of great power and precision of expression. He expressed gratification at the success of Queen's, whose progress, he remarked, had been especially great during the last ten years.

Rev. Dr. Black, in seconding the motion, dwelt at some length upon the falling off in candidates for the ministry, and recited a number of reasons which might be responsible for the decrease.

Rev. Dr. McMullen of Woodstock agreed that the church was faced by a crisis which should be considered by ministers and elders. He quoted opinions that the majority of educated young men were of unsettled religious views. Some of the causes for the falling off in the number of candidates lay in the colleges themselves. There had been a weakening of the authority of

d from the church nominally, even as it had in reality been separated from the church since 1875. The theological faculty, on the other hand, would be brought into close relations with the General Assembly.

Principal Caven, in conclusion, made reference to the death of Principal Grant, his words being uttered with evidence of strong emotion. Principal Grant, he said, was a notable man, a man of large faculty, of marvellous versatility both in faculties and in attainments. His force in carrying out his convictions was almost abnormal, and he united to these qualities a gentle and singularly kindly manner.

The Affairs of Queen's. Mr. G. M. Macdonnell, K.C., presented the report of Queen's University. The Board of Trustees of Queen's University reported that the total number of students registered last session was 820—in the faculty of arts, 407; in medicine, 187; in practical science, 105; in theology, 31. Eleven men completed their theological course.

Other Speeches. Rev. Dr. Milligan spoke in support of the motion proposing the providential evolution which had marked the history of Queen's, and declaring that the removal of the Principal would not affect the work of the university.

Principal Forrest's motion was carried and the Assembly adjourned.

The Home Mission Problem. The first thing which came up in the afternoon sederunt was the question of appointing Superintendents for the home mission work in the west.

Mr. John Charlton, M.P., seconded the motion. He was greatly impressed with the magnitude of the territory and the work. They stood on the eve of a crucial time. The last section of virgin arable land on the continent was about to be filled. The church must put forth its utmost efforts to hold that country.

Principal Patrick discussed the question of the Galicians, entering into the curious and complicated matter of the claim of the Roman Catholic Church that the Galicians belong to that communion, that they are Unitarians, i.e., Greek Christians in communion with the Roman Catholic Church.

Principal Patrick closed by urging the adoption of the report. On the vote being taken the motion was carried unanimously.

Principal Forrest presented the report of the eastern section of the Foreign Mission Committee, comprising the missions in the New Hebrides, Tahiti, and the Philippines.

At this juncture fraternal delegations representing the Church of England and the Methodist Church were received. The Anglican delegation was composed of Ven. Archdeacon Allan, Rev. Canon Sheraton, Rev. Prof. Clark, Rev. Prof. Cody, Dr. N. W. Hoyles, Mr. J. C. Morgan and Col. O'Brien.

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anda, and that the only unexhausted fertile land on the continent belonged to Canada. The stream of settlement, he believed, would flow steadily and be permanent.

The Problem of the West. What was the duty of the General Assembly with regard to the future expansion of the west? They did not know where the immigrants would settle.

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REV. PRINCIPAL PATRICK, Manitoba College.

towards the General Assembly. He discussed the question of Christian unity with much tact, arousing hearty applause by expressing the hope that the time might come when every Christian minister wherever he saw a temple erected to God could go in, join in its services and officiate at its altar.

The report noted enlargements and improvements in the various publications, which have commended themselves to the church. The general business in the full list of Sabbath school supplies sold by the publications' office has greatly enlarged.

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On the vote being taken the motion was carried unanimously. Rev. Dr. Warden moved that a committee be appointed to name the three superintendents, whose appointment was thus authorized, and decide as to their salary and other duties.

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The evening sederunt was devoted to foreign missions, and the church was well filled. Rev. Dr. Falconer presided at the report of the eastern section of the Foreign Mission Committee, comprising the missions in the New Hebrides, Tahiti, and the Philippines.

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\$54,053, of which \$17,772 came from Canada, \$21,100 from the Government for the schools and \$5,578 from the native church. In Corea an encouraging state of affairs was reported.

Encouraging Reports. Rev. Dr. R. P. Mackay seconded this, presenting the report for the western section, embracing the missions of Formosa, Central India, Honan, Shanghai, the Chinese in Canada, Macao and the Indians in Canada.

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stating that one of the graduates of the school has been for some time in South Africa, with the 2nd C. M. R., fighting the battles of the empire.

Judge Forbes of St. John, N.B., related impressions gathered during a visit to Trinidad and Demerara. His description of the striking and picturesque scenes of the work among the coolies in the West Indies was vivid and most interesting.

Rev. W. A. Wilson, a returned missionary from Central India, gave a sketch of the work in that region. Rev. Mr. Malcolm, from China, spoke briefly of the work in the Far East.

Rev. Mr. Malcolm, from China, spoke briefly of the work in the Far East. The Moderator then addressed the gentlemen who are going to the mission field, Messrs. Thurlow Fraser, J. H. Bruce, Archibald Ewing, D. G. Cook and Dr. Gilbert, telling them that they had the support of the church in addressing themselves to the difficult work before them, and bidding them Godspeed.

The Work in China. Rev. Murdoch Mackenzie was the final speaker, his address being a series of pictures setting forth with singular vividness and power the scenes of missionary life in China, and the need of the Chinese for the Gospel.

At the Assembly communion service, which will be held at 4 p.m. to-morrow in Bloor Street Church, to which others than commissioners will be welcome, a collection will be taken up in aid of the Atlin work. The sum of \$500 is required.

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