

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

REV. R. J. LAIDLAW of Hamilton, recently delivered an address on "The use of the Bible in our Schools," before the Halton County Teachers' Association.

REV. JOHN LAING of Dundas, took part in the opening of the new Presbyterian church at Minesing, Simcoe County, on Sabbath last. He also preached in Barrie.

THE Rev. D. Tait was ordained and inducted to the pastorate of St. Andrew's Church, Berlin, on the 6th inst. Rev. Mr. Hamilton of Winterbourne preached, Rev. Dr. Wardrope presided and addressed the minister, and Rev. J. K. Smith addressed the people.

THE Rev. J. Carmichael, of Columbus, moderated in a call at Oshawa on Monday, the 6th inst. The vote was given by a very large majority in favour of Mr. Eastman who is a promising young man ready for ordination, and a medalist of Toronto University. By a subsequent vote the call was made unanimous.

LAST Friday evening a very pleasant entertainment took place at St. John's Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, under the presidency of the Rev. Thomas Goldsmith, the esteemed pastor. The attendance was pretty good but not such as the quality of the programme deserved, owing, no doubt, to the state of the weather.

THE Orillia Presbyterian church is undergoing extensive alterations and improvements. It is to be reopened on November 9th, when the Rev. G. M. Milligan, M.A., of Old St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, will conduct the services. On the following evening he will lecture. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be dispensed on the 16th, when the Rev. J. M. King, M.A., of Toronto, will assist the pastor.

THE Rev. Stuart Acheson has been called by the congregations of Burns' church and Dunn's, now forming with East Essa one pastoral charge. The stipend promised by this newly formed charge is \$850 and a free manse. Mr. Acheson has accepted the call, and the induction is to take place on the 15th. Mr. Cochrane of Thornton to preach, Mr. McKee of Angus to preside and address the minister, and Mr. Burnett of Alliston to address the people.

ON the evening of Thursday, the 2nd inst., a social was held in the Seaforth Presbyterian Church in celebration of the union recently effected between the congregations of Seaforth and Harpurhey. The chair was occupied by the pastor, Rev. A. D. McDonald, and addresses were given by Rev. Messrs. Stewart of Clinton, Musgrave of McKillop, Graham of Seaforth, Thomson of Brucefield, and others. One item in the programme was the presentation of an address and \$250 to the Rev. Mr. Barr by the members of his late congregation.

ON Wednesday evening the Rev. John Dunbar, late of Glenmorris, lectured in Free St. John's, Walkerton, on "Man, his True Place and Power." The lecture was one of marked ability in thought and in composition. On Sabbath last the same congregation raised \$55 for the Home Mission Fund—certainly a very good collection, considering the many special claims already met during the year. Although collection day, the large new church was full. The sermon was upon Rahab's Faith, the four points made, that it was thoroughly original, thoroughly fearless, thoroughly practical, and thoroughly effectual. One special feature of this church is the Sabbath morning prayer meeting, led by Mr. Moffat. It has been continued about three years and is well attended by old and young.—COM.

PRESBYTERY OF KINGSTON.—The quarterly meeting of this Presbytery was held at Kingston, on the 30th ult. and 1st inst. There were present twenty-four ministers and seven elders. The Moderator was instructed to write to the Rev. Mr. Young, and express the deep sympathy with him of his brethren in the sore bereavement recently sustained by him through the drowning of his eldest son. Arrangements were made for moderation in a call at Napanee on the 13th. Mr. Burton tabled his resignation of the charge of the John street Presbyterian Church, Belleville, for the purpose of removing to another field of Christian usefulness. The resignation was accepted, and arrangements made for declaring the charge vacant on the 12th inst. The following resolution was adopted in relation to Mr. Burton: "The Presbytery desires,

in parting with Mr. Burton as a member of this Court, to put on record its sense of his valuable services in the past, of his fraternal bearing to the brethren, and of his faithful discharge of all the duties that devolved on him as pastor of a congregation and as a member of this Presbytery." The following were appointed a committee to prescribe to Mr. Millar a special course of study, namely: Messrs. Wishart (Convener), Gray and Kelso. The financial report was presented by Mr. Macalister, Treasurer. Thanks were tendered to him for his diligence, and arrangements made to secure payment to the Presbytery fund from defaulting congregations. The reports of the several deputations appointed to visit the supplemented congregations and mission stations in the interest of the Home Mission Fund were heard, and after a careful consideration of each case the amounts of supplement, and grants in aid to be recommended were decided on. These are the same as formerly. The Home Mission report was received. A proposal to supply certain stations monthly during the winter by settled pastors was adopted. There were presented petitions as follows: From Morton, asking to have Delta associated with them; from Consequon, to be re-united to Trenton; from Mill Haven, to be supplied during the winter by Mr. Kellock; and from Thanet and the Ridge, to have the services of Mr. Miller. Rev. Robert Stevenson is to be employed as ordained missionary in Camden and Sheffield during the ensuing six months. Arrangements were made for the holding of missionary meetings, and deputations appointed to carry them into effect. The following motion anent horse-racing was adopted: "The Presbytery having assembled in the City of Kingston at a time when horse-racing is going on in the neighbourhood, avail themselves of the opportunity of resolving that in their opinion such a practice is an abuse of one of God's best gifts to man, and attended invariably with many heinous sins and sad evils; that they would affectionately and earnestly dissuade all connected with the congregations under their care to refrain from in any way encouraging or countenancing this great and growing evil in our country." The following anent Mr. Nicholson was adopted: "In releasing the Rev. A. B. Nicholson from the pastoral charge of the congregations of Lansdowne and Fairfax, the Presbytery of Kingston desire to place on record the regret felt by all the brethren on his removal, their sincere regard for him as a co-Presbyter, and their cordial wish for his welfare and success in his new sphere of labour. They regard with great satisfaction his activity and success in maintaining the cause of our Church at Lansdowne, and the high esteem and affection entertained towards him not only by the members of his congregation, but also by the general community of all classes and creeds. Regretting that he should feel it to be his duty to leave the active duties of the ministry for which his energy of character, genial spirit and Christian devotedness so well qualify him, to engage in the work of a secular calling, the Presbytery wish him Godspeed, and earnestly commend and commit him to the care and keeping of our covenant God, and to the guidance and grace of the Great King and Head of the Church."—THOMAS S. CHAMBERS, Pres. Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF BRUCE.—This Court held its regular meeting at Paisley, on the 23rd and 24th ult. There were seventeen ministers and seven elders in attendance. On application from Hanover and North Normanby the Rev. R. C. Moffat was empowered to moderate in a call to a minister before the next meeting of Presbytery. Mr. Tolmie submitted the Home Mission quarterly report, which was received, and for which he received the thanks of the Court. There was read a very full and satisfactory report from the Rev. H. McKay of his mission labours on Manitoulin Island. Said report contained a financial statement showing that he had received \$100 from the people of the mission field for the first year, \$130 for the second year, and from the Home Mission Fund up to September inst. \$350, leaving a balance due him from the Home Mission Fund of \$820. It was resolved to forward this report to the Assembly's Home Mission Committee. There was read an application from Gore Bay and Kagawang Lake asking that Mr. McKay's services be confined to these stations, and promising to pay \$300 per annum towards his support. On motion of Mr. McClung, seconded by Mr. Straith, it was resolved: That the application of these congregations be granted, with the understanding that

Mr. McKay occasionally exchange with the labourers on the other parts of the Island, with the view of taking a general supervision of the whole field; also that Mr. Jones at Manitoulin be engaged as a catechist on the Island during the winter months. The Presbytery guarantee, on behalf of the mission field, Mr. Jones \$100 as part of his salary; these arrangements being subject to the sanction of the Assembly's Home Mission Committee. There was read a schedule from the Rev. J. R. McLeod, of Sault Ste. Marie, containing the following figures, viz.: The number of families in connection with the congregation is 22; communicants, 30; amount contributed per Sabbath, \$4.80½, or \$250 per annum. On motion of Mr. Straith it was resolved: "To recommend the Home Mission Committee to continue the grant to Sault Ste. Marie, especially in view of the effort now made to wipe out the debt on the church edifice there, and with the hope that the congregation will be able henceforth to increase their proportion of the missionary salary. It was agreed that it be left with the Convener of the Home Mission Committee of the Presbytery to correspond with Riversdale and Enniskillen, with the view of making arrangements with them as to the manner in which they are to be supplied for the next three months." It was left with the Session of Salem congregation the supply of their pulpit for the next three months. Mr. Blair reported that he had preached and moderated in a call at Chesley on the 18th ult., and that the call came out unanimously in favour of the Rev. John Ferguson, probationer. The salary promised is \$800, to be paid quarterly. The call was sustained and forwarded to Mr. Ferguson. There was read a petition from Mr. Joseph Whytock complaining of the Session of Westminster Church, Teeswater, for declining to give him a certificate of membership. Owing to an irregularity in the manner of presenting the petition it was not considered, but Mr. Whytock was instructed as to the proper mode of procedure in the matter. Mr. McLennan, Convener of the committee appointed to prepare a deliverance anent the Sabbath School Convention held at Paisley in July last, read a very able and excellent deliverance, for which the committee and especially the Convener was thanked. The deliverance was ordered to be inserted in the local papers. Mr. Straith (Convener), Mr. Tolmie and Mr. Gourlay, ministers, and Mr. McBride, elder, were appointed a committee on statistics, to report thereanent at next meeting of Presbytery. It was agreed to instruct all the congregations of the bounds to hold missionary meetings, each Session to be allowed to make arrangements for their own meetings. It was resolved to consider the remits of General Assembly at the next meeting and at the first sederunt of the second day. Messrs. Anderson, McLennan and Forbes were appointed a committee to prepare questions for Presbyterial visitation of the congregations of the bounds, to be submitted at next meeting. The next meeting of Presbytery is to be held at Port Elgin, on the 16th December, at two o'clock p.m.—A. G. FORBES, Pres. Clerk.

HOME MISSION FUND.

MR. EDITOR,—The following resolution was adopted at the meeting of the Home Mission Committee held last week in Toronto:

Whereas, the indebtedness of the Fund at this date is the sum of \$23,000, and there are claims upon the Fund which the Committee are, by the instructions of the General Assembly, required to pay as preferential claims, which, with the present indebtedness, will exhaust the entire income expected by the Committee for the year, the Committee resolve not to proceed in making any appropriations for the next six months, the claims for which, as sent by Presbyteries, amount to about \$12,000; but to adjourn until the last week in March next, and then to meet to distribute among the various Presbyteries of the Church, in respect of mission work and supplements during the six months then past, such moneys as the liberality of the Church may by that date have placed at the disposal of the Committee; provided always, that the Committee may meet at an earlier date, if the Convener see cause.

Copies of this resolution will be sent to every minister of our Church in Ontario and Quebec, and to the Clerks of Presbyteries, for such action as they deem best. Meanwhile let me say that we have reached a very grave crisis in our mission work, and unless the funds are replenished forthwith, our cause must be abandoned in many hopeful districts. In face of the Assembly's instructions, that the receipts and expenditures must be equalized, there seemed to the Committee no other alternative than the above.

WM. COCHRANE.