

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

LATELY a very pleasant entertainment was held in the Presbyterian Church, Binbrook (two miles east of Hall's Corners), in connection with the Sabbath school. The unfavourable state of the weather and roads did not prevent a large turnout of the good people of Binbrook on the occasion. The choir did not put in an appearance, but one was selected from the audience. The chair was occupied by Mr. Alexander McPherson. Tea, cake, etc., were served in the school-room, and ample justice was done thereto. Dr. Russell delivered a very clever speech on "Sabbath schools," dwelling particularly upon the importance of early religious training, and condemning in the strongest terms the reading of trashy literature. Mr. N. Awrey, M.P.P., also made an excellent speech, and was followed by the Rev. Mr. Harris on an appropriate topic. Mr. W. H. Corman was the last speaker, relating some of his early experiences in the Sabbath school in a manner highly pleasing to 'old and young. After the customary votes of thanks the chairman announced the receipts to be \$22. The singing, during the evening, of Miss Maggie Shields, Misses E. and R. Degrow and Mr. N. Laidman was greatly appreciated.

THE Haldimand Branch Bible Society held their annual meeting on Friday evening, 19th inst., in the village of Grafton. The President, W. E. Johnston, in the chair. The meeting was addressed by Rev. Messrs. W. Steer, Grafton; John Hogg, Toronto; and J. W. Jeffery, Cobourg, agent of the Society. After the agent's address, the Rev. W. Steer stepped up to the table and said: "Mr. Smith, a small but pleasing duty devolves upon me. The Haldimand Branch Bible Society, through their Committee, have deputed me to express to you thus publicly their high appreciation of your conduct in the capacity of their Secretary. I understand it is now thirty-one years since you first accepted that office, and from that time to the present you have discharged its duties efficiently, in uniform urbanity, without fee or reward, and at some considerable cost to yourself. We are thankful to Him from whom all holy desires, good counsels, and all just works proceed, who has enabled you to act thus; but we wish to give you some small token of our appreciation of your services. I have therefore, on behalf of Haldimand Branch Bible Society, to request your acceptance of 'The History of Protestantism,' by Wyllie, in three volumes." The Rev. J. W. Smith replied in a most humorous and appropriate manner.

THE Cobourg "World" has in its last issue the following notice of farewell presentations made to the Rev. Wm. McWilliam and his wife on their leaving Bethesda to take charge of the Presbyterian congregation in Streetsville: "We have previously referred to the fact the Rev. W. McWilliam LL.B., who for over seventeen years has been the minister of Bethesda and Alnwick, has accepted a call to Streetsville, and is about to depart from this county. On Friday, the 12th inst., a large deputation of the ladies of Bethesda congregation met at the Manse, for the purpose of presenting Mrs. McWilliam with an address and several gifts, as a token of their affection and esteem, and their deep regret at the separation which is now taking place. We may mention that among the gifts were a handsome and costly tea-service of six pieces, with appropriate inscription, and a valuable sewing-machine. On the same evening, Mr. McWilliam's Bible-class presented him with an address, and at the same time handed to him a fine watch, and two copies of the Scriptures, one for himself, and the other for Mrs. McWilliam. We have much pleasure in recording these facts. In these days when we sometimes hear ministers, and (if they will pardon us for saying so) ministers' wives as well, complaining of the treatment which they receive from those among whom they are settled, it is not a little refreshing to find this congregation, after more than seventeen years of service, shewing so much affection and respect for their pastor and his family. In replying to the address presented to his wife, Mr. McWilliam bore strong testimony to the fact that no congregation could have received a minister more affectionately at the commencement of his work, or treated him more kindly during its continuance, or dismissed him more honourably at its close, than his people at Bethesda and Alnwick had done. Whatever the future may have in store for him, he might

well, looking back on the past, 'thank God and take courage.' The manse of Bethesda is situated beside the church, at the foot of a hill, in a beautifully sheltered spot near Rice Lake. An eminent minister, on a visit there, pronounced it 'the very perfection of a rural retreat.' Those who have seen the manse and garden in their summer beauty would give ready assent to his opinion. With such a congregation, and such a residence, the people there should have no difficulty in speedily obtaining a worthy successor to Mr. McWilliam. It may be well here, also, to record, that the neighbouring congregation of Coldsprings under the charge of Rev. F. R. Beattie, M.A., did Mr. McWilliam the honour of sending over a deputation (headed by their pastor), to present him with a very kindly address, and a purse of \$35, as a mark of gratitude for services received from him while living in their neighbourhood, and of regret at his approaching departure."

PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.—This Presbytery met on the 16th inst., at two o'clock, Rev. Mr. Rennie, in the absence of the Moderator, presiding. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Rev. W. R. Sutherland, Ekfrid, asked that the business with which he was connected should be taken up immediately, as he wished to return home to attend the funeral of Mr. Allan, who had been a member of the Presbytery for over thirty years, and who was at the time of his death an elder of the congregation over which he presided. It was agreed that the business indicated—an appeal from Glencoe—should be the first order at the evening session. Rev. W. Galloway, of Lucan, was heard before the Presbytery in reference to the resignation of his charge. Rev. Mr. Rennie moved that the congregations of Lucan and Fraser Church be cited to appear at the next meeting of the Presbytery. A letter from Rev. Mr. Caswell, asking that Messrs. Kincade and McGibbon be appointed assessors to act with him in the selection of elders for West Adelaide and Arkona. The request was considered unnecessary, and the Clerk was authorized to inform Mr. Caswell of that fact. The report of the committee appointed at the last Presbytery to consider the state of religion in the London Presbytery was read, and on motion, in the absence of Rev. J. A. Murray, who was appointed to open the discussion, Rev. Mr. Duncan was requested to begin the debate at the evening session. The report of Rev. Mr. Fraser, Moderator, in the call to South Delaware Church, which was unanimously in favour of Rev. J. A. McConnell, without charge, was read. The people had guaranteed a stipend of \$700. After discussion, which was taken part in by Rev. Messrs. Duncan, McDonald, Rennie, Cameron, McRobbie, Johnson, and others, the call was sustained, and the Clerk instructed to communicate with Rev. Mr. McConnell. On motion, Rev. Messrs. McDermid and Urquhart were appointed to examine the records of the First Presbyterian Church, London. The question as to the best mode of conducting missionary meetings was then taken up, when it was moved by Rev. Mr. Cameron, seconded by Rev. Mr. Rennie, that the ministers of the various congregations in the Presbytery make their own arrangements, but that the meetings be held previous to the March meeting of the Presbytery. After considerable discussion the motion prevailed. It was then ordered that the reports from the missionary meetings to the Presbytery be made verbal. Rev. Mr. Duncan read the report of the committee appointed to visit Ailsa Craig and Carlisle to bring before the congregations at those places the necessity of increasing the stipend of the minister in charge. The report stated that the congregations had promised to make every effort to comply with the request. On motion the report was received, and the thanks of the Presbytery were tendered to the Committee. Mr. Bodkin appearing before the Presbytery as a Commissioner from Delaware Congregation. He stated that the call to the Rev. Mr. McConnell was unanimous, and that the stipend promised would be forthcoming. The statement was considered satisfactory by the Presbytery, and an adjournment was made at 7.30 p.m. The Presbytery convened at 7.30 p.m., the Moderator presiding. The Clerk read a reference from St. Andrew's Church, Glencoe, in regard to the admission of three members of Knox congregation, Ekfrid Presbyterian church, who had applied to be received as members of the Glencoe church. It would appear that the gentlemen, Messrs. Taylor, Sims and Tait, had left the Ekfrid church on account

of some fancied grievances. Rev. Mr. Cameron stated that the documents before the Presbytery gave all the information at his command. As he had not been in Glencoe long he of course knew very little about the matter. After discussion of the whole matter, Rev. Mr. Thompson's motion, that the matter be referred to the session of St. Andrew's Church, Glencoe, with a recommendation that they deal with the matter as they think best, was carried. Rev. Mr. Duncan then presented his written dissent from the action of the Presbytery in relation to the call from Delaware. Rev. Mr. McRae and Elder Gordon joined Rev. Mr. Duncan in his dissent. Principal McVicar, of Knox College, Montreal, was nominated as Moderator of next Assembly. The committee which was appointed to examine the records of the First Presbyterian Church, London, reported that the same were found to have been kept in a proper manner. The report was adopted. Rev. M. Fraser, of St. Thomas, read a very able paper on the state of religion in the London Presbytery, which was received with applause, and the discussion of it left over to the morning session. Rev. Mr. McKinnon asked permission to moderate in a call to Alvinston, which was granted, and the Presbytery adjourned till nine o'clock Wednesday morning. Presbytery re-opened at nine o'clock on Wednesday morning, with devotional exercises, the Moderator, Rev. John Milloy, presiding. The minutes of the previous session were read and sustained. A telegram was read from Rev. J. McConnell, accepting the call to Delaware. The Clerk, Rev. Mr. Cuthbertson, moved that the settlement of Rev. J. McConnell take place on Wednesday, 1st December, Rev. J. Knox Wright to preach, Rev. Alexander Fraser, Moderator of session, to address the minister, and Rev. Mr. Scobie to address the people. Agreed to. On motion the discussion of a resolution left over from last session of Presbytery, in reference to the supplementary grants to clergymen, was proceeded with. Rev. Mr. Duncan pointed out the injustice of the present system in a very lucid manner, and, in concluding, moved the adoption of the resolutions, seconded by Rev. Mr. Goodwillie. The discussion was continued by Rev. Mr. McDonald, who moved in amendment, seconded by Rev. Mr. Thompson, that the resolution be not adopted. The seconder thought that it would be impossible to bring all the salaries to the point aimed at. The principal difficulty was that some of the congregations did not do their duty, and this was particularly noticeable where they were rich. It was necessary to treat every case on its merits as it came before the Presbytery. Revs. Messrs. McRae, Cuthbertson and Rennie, spoke in favour of the amendment, after which the discussion was closed by Rev. Mr. Duncan, who pointed out the mistake into which the previous speakers had fallen. The object of the resolution was to hold up and not to level down, and what was aimed at was to bring the salaries of clergymen up to the proper standard, which was considered to be \$700. On a vote being taken the motion to adopt the resolution was declared lost. Rev. Messrs. Goldie, Duncan, Scobie, N. McKinnon and McRae, then entered their dissent from the action of the Presbytery. The resolutions, eight in number, which were discussed at the last meeting, were then adopted and ordered to be entered in the minutes of the Presbytery. The protest and appeal of Rev. Mr. Henderson and Mr. Weir, of Hyde Park, against the decision of the Presbytery in the matter of reduction in the stipend of the Rev. Mr. Henderson, was read by the Clerk. The document pointed out at great length the ground on which the protest was based. On suggestion, the Moderator appointed the following Committee to answer the protest and appeals: Rev. Messrs. Duncan, McRae and Currie. A notice of motion was given by Rev. Mr. McRae, to the effect that he would move at the next meeting of Presbytery, that the Moderator should be appointed, not as heretofore, by rotation, but that he should be elected by ballot, and that the appointment should continue for a twelve month, instead of for six months, as now. Hon. Mr. Vidal brought up the question as to whether the lay members of the Presbytery should not be eligible for election to preside over the Presbytery. He thought that they all met on an equal footing and should be treated in that manner. He brought up the question, not because he desired preferment, but because he thought it was a principle of Presbyterian practice. The Moderator thought that, as the custom was in the Church that the Moderator of sessions was always