

I had more strength to put in the work. I am sorry to say I do not have too large a stock on hand at present. I never felt the sun so much as this hot season. I have been able to visit seven villages during the year and speak to the women.

Any spare time I have devoted to half-castes and soldiers' wives. This is a pleasant change from all native work, and seems to half rest one. It is pleasant to use English *sometimes* in the work. The hot season is again upon us with cholera and drought. I feel as though there was a strain upon us looking forward. The work is more than hopeful—on the whole, it is successful.

Hoping you may be very successful, and that your Society may prosper and do a good work for India, yours very sincerely,
MARION FAIRWEATHER.

Indore, March 13, 1878.

WOMAN'S POSITION IN THE CHURCH.

MR. EDITOR,—In the leading article of to-day's issue of your valuable paper, which treats of cases of discipline dealt with by the recent General Assembly of the northern section of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, you make reference to the case of the Rev. Mr. Lee, who had been allowing women to occupy his pulpit during divine service, and contending for their admission to the office of the ministry. In condemning these obvious aberrations from sound Bible principle and practice, the Assembly, you, in effect state, included in their decision a careful definition of woman's position in the Church.

Would you kindly oblige myself, and I have no doubt, many others of your readers, by giving in an early number of the CANADA PRESBYTERIAN the definition here referred to. Yours sincerely,
H.

Goderich, 12th July, 1878.

[We cannot at this moment lay our hands on the finding of the Committee of Assembly or the question referred to in the above. Whenever we do so, we will print it for the edification of our correspondent and our readers. In the meantime it will suffice to say that the Assembly were unanimous in condemning the practice of admitting women to pulpits and that on scriptural grounds. But it was careful to express its appreciation of women's associations established for missionary purposes, and to commend the example of women holding special meetings for prayer and leading these themselves. — ED. C. P.]

OUR HOME MISSION WORK.—II.

MR. EDITOR,—In a few sentences I shall try to complete the statement of our present position and responsibilities with regard to our Home Mission work.

From what has been said already it is clear that it will be impossible for us to overtake the work or to do justice to the claims that will devolve upon us, especially in the North and North-West.

It may be said there are other denominations, and if we fail to do all that we would like to do, it will be done by them, and after all the cause of Christ will not suffer absolute loss, only the relative strength of the Presbyterian Church will be less than it otherwise would be in these Provinces—a matter which after all should not trouble us deeply. There is force in this, or rather, there might be under certain circumstances. I could go even beyond such a statement and say that it is narrow and wrong to spend time and money and energy trying to force Presbyterianism by planting churches among a people already well enough supplied with the means of grace by the other evangelical denominations; but this only brings out with greater vividness a feature of the work in the North-West which increases our responsibility very greatly and makes even a partial failure on our part a matter of a very serious kind.

According to the statistics of the Province of Manitoba, a large proportion of the settlers, both of families and single men, are Presbyterian. For example, out of 472 families 329 are returned as Presbyterian, and out of a total of 402 single men 210 are reported as Presbyterian. Making all possible allowance for imperfect statistics or for any probable change in the relative proportions of the different denominations among the people who may go into the Province in time to come, it is still very evident that the Presbyterian element in the population will be in excess of that representing any other denomination. According to the numbers given, fully *one-half* of the population

returned themselves as favourable to the Presbyterian Church. This leaves the remaining half to be divided among the other denominations, and, even allowing this to be two-thirds, leaving only one-third for the Presbyterian Church, the advantage is still very great and the responsibility of neglecting is proportional. With this so greatly in our favor, if we leave other churches to do the large share of the work with all this relative disadvantage to begin with, it will be as if the man with five talents came back with seven, while the steward with two talents brought back ten. Or to make clear by an illustration. Suppose a settlement of 100. A Presbyterian missionary opening service will have a congregation of fifty at once, while any of the other denominations opening service in the same place will have to begin with a congregation of twenty or thirty. And this is not all. There is such a thing as *inertia*, which, apart from any consideration of its moral value, as a simple property of bodies, is a *fact* which will affect results, statistical or dynamical; and it is sufficiently true to be taken as a general statement that a Presbyterian who ceases to be a Presbyterian because his own church is beyond his reach is attracted with so much difficulty towards other denominations that his presence at last is but little help to their vitality. As a general principle it seems to be true that a mind once thoroughly permeated and penetrated by Calvinism cannot heartily accept any view of truth which fails to present the doctrines of God's sovereignty and man's responsibility as he has been accustomed to receive them, so that there is an *absolute* loss to the Church, and a serious injury to individual lives, whenever we fail to supply our people with the means of grace.

Besides all this, our sister Churches have all that they can do without our laying the burden of our peculiar responsibility upon them.

Taking a view of the case as it stands to-day, there are certain facts which it is impossible to put aside, and they may be summed up in few words. A work of surpassing importance claims our attention at the present moment. It is a work which we have proved to be beyond our ability. We have done much; we hope by God's blessing to do much greater things, but the demands, the pressing need of the work will, in all human probability, increase far more rapidly than our ability and resources. It is a work that will not lie aside and wait our convenience, as the forest may lie uncleared until you want the land. It is a field of rich deep soil, open and ready. If you can sow it with wheat, well; if not, nature will take care that it shall be sown, and the harvest will be as the sowing. Ten years will largely tell the story of the foundation work of our Church in these provinces, and *that* will affect its life and prosperity for many a year to come.

In your next issue I hope to state the way which has suggested itself, by which it seems possible to overcome the difficulties which lie before us at the present time, and to place this work on a strong and satisfactory condition. Yours very truly,
G. BRUCE.

PRESBYTERY OF LINDSAY.—This Presbytery met at Woodville, on 16th inst. Received a call from Knox Church, Harriston, to Rev. Mr. Campbell, Cannington. Received Mr. B. J. Brown as a minister of the church. Also after examination and discourses from Messrs. A. Fraser and W. J. Smyth, licensed them as preachers. An adjourned meeting was appointed to be held at Woodville, on Tuesday, 30th inst., at eleven o'clock a.m. J. R. SCOTT, *Pres. Clerk*

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.—This court met on the 16th July, when twenty-three ministers and thirteen elders were present. A call from Simcoe was sustained in favour of Mr. D. C. McIntyre, but was declined by him as he accepted the previously given call from Beamsville. The ordination and induction (D.V.) will take place at Beamsville on the first Tuesday of September, (the 3rd), at 11 a.m., Mr. J. Frazer to preside, Mr. Laidlaw to preach, Mr. Murray to address the pastor, and Mr. Radcliff the people. A committee was appointed to visit Vittoria in reference to alleged difficulties there, and another to visit Niagara. A resolution of condolence with the Rev. J. Black, who is laid aside by a serious accident, was adopted. The Woman's Board of Foreign Missions was advised to conduct their operations under the constitution approved and recommended by the General Assembly. The rest of the business was not of public interest.—JOHN LAING, *Pres. Clerk*.

PRESBYTERY OF OWEN SOUND.—This Presbytery met in Knox Church, Owen Sound, on July 9th. The

afternoon sederunt was taken up in a conference on the state of religion, and it was agreed that the first evening sederunt at the next ordinary meeting be spent in a further consideration of the items of Mr. Currie's report on that subject. Mr. Currie was appointed to moderate in a call to a colleague for Mr. Morrison, of Knox Church, Owen Sound. Owing to the action of the General Assembly in depriving retired ministers of their full status as members of Presbytery, Mr. Dewar resigned the convenership of the Presbytery's Home Mission Committee, and Mr. Somerville was appointed convener in his stead. Mr. Alex. Leslie and Mr. D. G. McKay, having passed satisfactory examinations in the subjects prescribed, were licensed to preach the gospel. The Presbytery adopted the following minute in reference to Mr. Whimster's translation:—"That in consenting to the translation of Mr. Whimster, the Presbytery take this opportunity of placing on record their high estimate of his worth, and the great loss they sustain in being deprived of his services both as a member of Presbytery and a minister of the gospel, and their earnest prayer to Almighty God is: that he may bless their beloved brother with a larger measure of health and strength in the new field to which, he is called, and that he may be still more encouraged in the work of God and making known to men the unsearchable riches of Christ." Mr. Currie gave notice that he will move at the next ordinary meeting, that the Presbytery take the necessary steps to hold a pastoral visitation of all the congregations within the bounds. Adjourned to meet at same place on 30th inst., at 10 a.m.—JOHN SOMERVILLE, *Pres. Clerk*.

PRESBYTERY OF CHATHAM.—The Presbytery of Chatham met on Tuesday, the 2nd day of July last, in Adelaide street Church, Chatham. The attendance was not so large as usual, particularly that of elders. The question was raised whether mission stations that have sessions have a right to send representative elders to sit and vote in Presbyteries and Synods. The consideration of the question was postponed till the next regular meeting of the Presbytery. The Revs. A. W. Waddell, A. McCall, and J. R. Battisby, and Mr. Duncan McVicar reported that they had attended the General Assembly as commissioned, and they gave an account of the proceedings of the supreme court. The General Assembly having granted the prayer of the Presbytery, in reference to Mr. John Cairns, catechist, Messrs. McCall, Walker and Battisby were appointed to superintend Mr. Cairns' studies in Church History and Government, in Mental and Moral Philosophy, and in Latin, Greek and Hebrew. Rev. D. L. McKechnie and Mr. McKeown were appointed to levy an assessment on the congregations within the bounds for the purpose of defraying the travelling expenses of the delegates to the General Assembly. The deputation appointed at the previous meeting to visit Buxton reported that they had done so, but that certain promises made by the people at a congregational meeting held by the deputation had not yet been fulfilled—the report was received and the deputation re-appointed. It was agreed that the next regular meeting of the Presbytery be held at Thamesville, on Tuesday, the 17th day of September next, and also that a Sabbath School Convention be held at that meeting. The Rev. Messrs. Becket, Battisby, Gray and McKechnie, and Messrs. Bartlett, Captain Taylor, McKerncher, Webster, and Kenneth Campbell were appointed a committee to make all requisite arrangements for the Convention. Messrs. Walker, Gray, and Battisby, ministers, and Messrs. Bartlett and McVicar, elders, were appointed to visit Amherstburg and to inquire into the financial state of the congregation there. A petition from the mission field of Wallaceburg, praying the Presbytery to take the necessary steps to give them a session, was granted, and Rev. J. A. McAlmon with assessors was appointed to attend to the matter and to bring it to an issue. On motion, Messrs. Gray, McKechnie and Walker were appointed a committee to correspond with the Presbytery of London concerning proposed changes in the bounds of this Presbytery. Mr. Donald Currie, student, was licensed to preach the gospel. The Presbytery adjourned to meet at Thamesville, on the 17th September, at 1 o'clock p.m. WM. WALKER, *Pres. Clerk*.

PRESBYTERY OF KINGSTON.—A quarterly meeting of this Presbytery was held at Picton on the 9th of July. The following were the chief items of public interest. Rev. Alexander Young was appointed Mod-