

CHATHAM PRESBYTERY.—This Presbytery met in Wellington Street Church, Chatham, on the 16th of October. The attendance of ministers and elders was good. The following were the more important matters before the Court.

A call was laid on the table from the congregation of Petrolea addressed to Mr. R. H. Warden, of Bothwell, offering a stipend of \$1,000 per annum and a free manse. The Rev. J. W. Chesnut appeared for the Presbytery of London, and Messrs Barclay and McKenzie for the congregation of Petrolea. There also appeared Mr. Pennycook for the Session, and Messrs. McCraney, Ferguson, Walker, and McKeown, for the congregation of Bothwell and Sutherland's Corners. After hearing commissioners, Mr. Warden expressed his mind as in favour of remaining in his present charge, when the Presbytery, on motion duly made, declined to translate Mr. Warden to Petrolea. Extract minutes were granted Mr. Chesnut on behalf of the Presbytery of London.

The Presbytery considered the Remit from the General Assembly ament the "Status of retired Ministers," and after discussion, agreed to approve *simpliciter* of the remit and to recommend accordingly.

The Presbytery next took up consideration of the Remit ament the "appointment and duties of Mission Agent," and unanimously agreed to recommend the appointment of such an agent, and to express approval of the remit as to the duties of said agent.

Mr. J. Gray gave notice that at next regular meeting he would move that Mr. R. H. Warden, of Bothwell, be nominated by the Presbytery for the office of Mission Agent.

A letter was read from Mr. James Stewart declining the call from Tilbury West and Mersea, and the call was accordingly set aside.

The Presbytery discussed at length the report of a committee, appointed at a former meeting, to devise a plan to raise the stipends of all ministers in the bounds to at least \$600 per annum, where at present a less amount is received. Practical action was taken so as to secure this in all the congregations before the close of the present year, if possible.

A petition was laid on the table and read from the Maidstone Station, praying for the services of Mr. W. King, of Buxton, on each alternate Sabbath. Commissioners from Buxton were heard, as also Mr. King. The Presbytery granted the prayer of the petition, and appointed Mr. King to supply Maidstone for one year from the 24th November, on each alternate Sabbath, the Maidstone people to contribute at least \$150 towards Mr. King's support, and the Buxton congregation to pay, as heretofore, \$150 per annum. Mr. King reported dispensing the Ordinance of the Lord's Supper in the township of Sombra, where he also organized the people in due form.

Fifty-four persons were received into Membership with the Church, and the ordinance Baptism administered to twelve.

The report was received and the satisfaction of the Presbytery expressed with the efficiency of Mr. Peter Nicol, one of the students of Knox College, who labored in Sombra last summer under the care of the Student's Missionary Society. A petition from Sombra, praying the Presbytery to take steps towards the election of elders, was granted, and Mr. Forrest was appointed to visit the field early in November to attend to this matter. The following subjects were appointed for discussion on the evening of the first day of the next regular meeting of Presbytery. (Tuesday, 7th January, 1873):

1. Septical objections to the efficacy of prayer, with special reference to the views lately promulgated by Professor Tyndall; to be introduced by Mr. W. Walker.
2. The statistics and general working of the Home Missions in our own and other churches: to be introduced by Mr. R. H. Warden.

R. H. W., PRES. CLERK.