

of the bounds of Presbytery, in fulfilment of appointments; and the Presbytery resolved to prosecute missionary labours in said field as much as possible.

The Presbytery had an application from parties in Scott to be visited by a deputation of Presbytery, in order to their being recognized by the Presbytery; and to have Rev. R. D. Mackay, who has for some time been laboring there, to be appointed as their Missionary supply. The Presbytery considered that it would be premature to take any steps previous to obtaining fuller information; and appointed the Rev. Messrs. Baird and McArthur to visit, and obtain, if possible, such information as may enable Presbytery to proceed with propriety if further steps are required.

A committee, consisting of Dr. Thornton, Messrs. Montcath, Sharp and King, was appointed to arrange a scheme for missionary meetings within the bounds of Presbytery, to report at next meeting, which is to be held at Columbus, on the 2nd Tuesday in January, at 11 o'clock A.M.

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

Three special meetings of this Presbytery were held on the 7th and 27th of August and 29th of October. At the first Mr. Milligan was ordained to the pastoral charge of Kirby and Laskey. At the second Mr. McKerracher was ordained pastor of West Gwillimbury and Bradford. At the third the Presbytery sustained the invitations of the Foreign Mission Committee as calls to Messrs. Jamieson and Nesbit, to proceed as missionaries to British Columbia and Red River Settlement, and summoned parties to appear at next meeting.

On the 5th and 6th of November the regular meeting of Presbytery was held. Among other things, the Presbytery sanctioned the transference of Mr. Nesbit from Oakville to the Mission in Red River Settlement; and recorded their deep regret at parting with a brother who, for nearly twelve years, has labored within their bounds, and secured the personal esteem and respect of all his brethren, and whose untiring zeal and remarkable prudence, exercised especially in the home mission work of the Presbytery, have been of the greatest service.

The Presbytery also sanctioned the transference of Mr. Jamieson from York Mills and Fisherville to the Mission in British Columbia; and recorded their sorrow at parting with their beloved and respected brother, whose labours in this as well as another Presbytery of our Church, have proved him to be a workman not needing to be ashamed, but well-qualified for the important work to which he has devoted himself.

In accordance with a petition from Gould Street Congregation, Toronto, and on motion of Principal Willis, seconded by Mr. Coutts, Dr. Burns (who had been previously appointed Moderator of Session) was appointed to supply the pulpit for the next twelve months—the Presbytery reserving the right to reconsider the arrangement if necessary. This motion was carried by a majority of 19 to 3: several members declining to vote. Mr. Mitchell—who had proposed a different arrangement—dissented and complained to the Synod for several reasons, which in substance were, that the Presbytery had no right to the services of Dr. Burns, whom the Synod had removed from a pastoral charge in Toronto to a professor's chair; that the appointment was an introduction of the bad system of stated supply; and that the services of Dr. Burns might have been rendered to Gould Street Congregation without the Presbytery placing itself gratuitously in opposition to the Synod.

To these reasons answers were given in by a Committee, of whom Dr. Willis was convener, to the effect that the Presbytery accepted Dr. Burns' services with conditions; that as the Presbytery did not appoint Dr. Burns to the permanent charge of the congregation, they only acted in accordance with the recognized propriety of accepting preaching at the hands of professors; that the charge of innovation is groundless; and that the Presbytery only formally sanctioned what the complainant was willing that the Presbytery should permit or connive at.

The Presbytery recommended the ministers and congregations within the bounds to give some suitable expression of gratitude to God for the recent harvest and other national mercies; and the Moderator was requested to correspond with the Moderator of Synod with reference to the appointment of a day of general thanksgiving.

The next meeting of Presbytery was appointed to be held in Toronto, on the first Tuesday of February next.

WILLIAM GREGG, *Pres. Clerk*