

PRESBYTERY OF PICTOU.

The Presbytery of Pictou met at Pictou 13th May. Were present—Messrs. James Watson (Moderator), Angus McGillivray, David Roy, James Waddell, George Walker, James Bayne, and James Byers—Messrs. George Grant and Robert Stewart, ruling elders.

After sermon from Rev James Byers from Rom. i. 16, "For I am not ashamed," &c., the Presbytery entered upon the Presbyterial visitation of Prince Street congregation. The questions of the Formula being put—the answers to these questions were most satisfactory, and the affairs of the congregation appeared to be in a prosperous condition. In regard to secular matters, it was found that while all the funds necessary for the supply and maintenance of gospel ordinances in the congregation had been fully and promptly furnished, the congregation had likewise raised during the past year for the various schemes of the Church the sum of £268 3s. 3½d.

In regard to the religious affairs of the congregation the Presbytery have also to record their approbation. The attention paid to the religious training of the youth of this congregation claimed the special notice of Presbytery—besides the Sabbath School in Town, numbering about 150 pupils; there are 4 schools in the country sections of the congregation whose average number of scholars is 25 each, making the gross number of Sabbath scholars under public religious instruction in this congregation 250. Each school is superintended by an elder; and the members of Session are either steadily or occasionally engaged in teaching. There is a large library connected with the school in town, from which all the other schools are furnished with books, and there is a quarterly meeting of the Sabbath School teachers to which all the teachers are invited.

After remarks by the Presbytery upon the state of the congregation, it was moved and unanimously agreed to, "That the Presbytery express their high approbation of the state of this congregation, as shown by the answers given to the questions of the Formula."

The Clerk intimated that Messrs. Alexander Cameron and John Currie, students of Theology, had returned to the bounds of the Presbytery and were prepared to give in their trials for license, whereupon the Presbytery appointed its next meeting at New Glas-

gow on Tuesday, 27th current, for the purpose of receiving their trials, and the Clerk was enjoined to give them (the students) due notice of the meeting.

Read a report of Mr Mathieson's labours in Cape Breton—the report was received and approved of, and ordered to be transmitted to the Home Mission Board.

Rev Mr Waddell, as convener of Committee appointed to receive the exercises of Messrs. J. D. McGillivray and Isaac Patterson, students, reported that Mr McGillivray had met with the committee and had delivered a homily on Eph. ii. 8—read from the Eph. to Phil. in Greek, and from the first 10 Psalms in Hebrew. The committee were much pleased with his exercises. The report was received and diligence of committee approved.

Adjourned to meet at New Glasgow 27th current.

The Presbytery of Pictou met this day, 27th May, at New Glasgow. Were present—Revs James Watson (Moderator), Angus McGillivray, David Roy, George Walker and James Bayne—Mr Kenneth Forbes and James McGregor, Esq., ruling elders.

Mr Alexander Cameron, student, was present and proceeded to deliver his trial exercises. He lectured on James ii. 20th to the 26th inclusive, preached from Matt. xi. 28, and read an exposition and address on Gal. iii. 12. Each of these discourses was remarked upon by the Presbytery after delivery, and each was sustained and approved of as part trials for license. Mr Cameron was next examined on Church History, on Systematic Divinity, on a portion of the Hebrew Bible, and on various parts of the Greek New Testament. He was likewise examined as to the motives which influenced him in seeking to become a preacher of the Gospel. All which exercises and examinations, after remarks by the Presbytery, were approved and sustained as part of his trials for license. These being all Mr Cameron's trials, a vote was taken—sustain these trials *in cumulo* or not—when it was carried unanimously sustain. A vote was then taken—proceed to license or not—when it was carried with the same unanimity proceed. The questions of the Formula for license were then put to Mr Cameron and satisfactorily answered. The Moderator then solemnly,