

extent may be made so; but to accomplish this, the lively interest, the ready assistance, the earnest support, and the active, energetic co-operation of the members of the Association are required; and they urgently submit to them that, if they thus strengthen the hands of their Officers, the Society may be privileged to accomplish a large measure of good and prove a valuable auxiliary of that section of the Church of Christ, to whose communion its members belong.

The whole respectfully submitted.

Montreal, 25th November, 1851.

Hugh Allan, Esq., then, after some preliminary remarks, moved, and Neil McIntosh, Esq. seconded the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

That the Report of the Office-bearers be received, adopted, and printed for the information of the members of the Society.

William Edmonstone, Esq., then addressed the Society with reference to the Bursary Scheme, which he thought one of peculiar importance. He was of opinion, that, other circumstances being equal, the sons of Clergymen, who designed prosecuting their studies for the Ministry, should have the preference over others in the distribution of the Bursaries of the Society. After some other practical remarks, he concluded by moving, seconded by T. A. Gibson, Esq., the following resolution, which was unanimously carried:

"That, in view of the urgent want of Ministers for the many vacant congregations in the Province, the Bursary Fund, affording, as it does, assistance to Students prosecuting their studies with a view to the Ministry, has peculiar claims upon the support of the members of this Society and of the Church at large."

Some other resolutions, relating to the management of the Society, having been passed, but which we think it unnecessary to report, the election of Office-bearers for the ensuing year was proceeded to, with the following result, a vote of thanks having been first given to the Hon. Peter McGill for his valuable services to the Society, and the warm interest he had taken in its management during the long period of six years past.

President:

HON. P. MCGILL.

Vice-Presidents:

JOHN SMITH.

HUGH ALLAN.

NEIL MCINTOSH.

JOHN GREENSHIELDS.

Treasurer:

R. BLACKWOOD.

Recording-Secretary:

ALEXANDER MORRIS.

Corresponding-Secretary:

A. DAVIDSON PARKER.

Managers:

WILLIAM EDMONSTONE, T. A. GIBSON, THOMAS ALLAN, DUGALD STEWART, JOHN FISHER, JOHN BRUCE, H. RAMSAY, J. MITCHELL, J. M. ROSS, C. A. LOW, DAVID GREENSHIELDS, WILLIAM SPEIRS, J. F. SMITH.

Chaplains:

REV. A. MATHIESON, D. D.

REV. R. MCGILL.

The result of the election having been announced, the Rev. Dr. Mathieson was then called upon to close the proceedings with prayer, which he did in a very earnest and impressive manner.

ALEXANDER MORRIS,

Recording-Secretary.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

We have been favoured of late with more local intelligence than hitherto; but we are persuaded that a very large amount of interesting intelligence regarding the progress of our Church might be monthly conveyed through our pages, did those, within whose cognizance these matters more specially come, see it their duty to favour the *Presbyterian* with brief notices of all the efforts making by the congregations with which they are connected. The efforts made by one section of the Church would react upon all the others, and stimulate the whole to engage with renewed earnestness in their labour of love. We know that many of our congregations are contributing freely to various Missionary and other Religious enterprises; but we seldom, save by chance, hear of what they are doing. We may instance, as an evidence of this, what we recently learnt of the position of the church at Bytown. We were very much pleased, when lately passing through that town, to learn, that the church there, a very handsome stone edifice, had been reroofed with tin during the summer by a voluntary subscription among the adherents of the church. We also found a Tract organisation in effective operation, by the instrumentality of which, if our memory serves us, tracts to the value of £40 had been distributed, to wend their way in, let us hope, some instances as messengers of mercy. We also were gratified to learn that a Society existed among the ladies, for the relief of indigent females, and specially of that class who are generally employed as domestic servants. In addition to flourishing Sabbath classes amongst the ordinary members of the congregation, we were pleased to learn that a class was also conducted among the soldiery of the garrison.

Such are some of the evidences of life and Christian earnestness, which we observed, exhibited by the congregation at Bytown, and, though they were not mentioned to us with any view to publication, we conceived it to be our duty thus casually to notice them, for the whole Church is deeply interested in being made acquainted with the progress making by the congregations of which it is composed; and we are extremely desirous to make our periodical become the vehicle of communicating full and accurate information regarding the efforts making by that section of the Church with which we are more immediately connected. We trust our friends will give due consideration to this expression of our wishes, and favour us with communications to a still greater extent than hitherto.

THE CONGREGATIONS IN THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS.

"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few: Pray ye therefore

the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest."

In September I paid a visit to my old congregation in the Township of Durham and Farnham. Arrangements having been previously made, I preached in Higgin's School-house on Thursday evening to a congregation of eighty persons. Their conduct was becoming the occasion of our meeting. On Friday evening I addressed an audience of about fifty at one of my old preaching-stations. On Saturday I went to Cowansville, and visited some of the families in that neighbourhood, and preached on Sabbath morning in the Court-house; then rode nine miles and addressed a second congregation at Wallace School-house, and finished the labours of the day at the place where I began on Thursday. During all these occasions, and in the different places, I had attentive and well-behaved audiences. Contrasting the past with the present, the difference was very great.

When I commenced my labours in these Townships nigh twelve years ago, external order in conducting the service of the House of God was not so well attended to, nor was the Lord's Day so well observed as it is now. It was no uncommon thing then to see the farmer engaged in agricultural pursuits, and fishing and shooting parties in common with him desecrating that hallowed season of rest. But now things wear a more pleasing aspect. Since I left that field of labour, it has been occupied by the Rev. Mr. Connal, an Independent clergyman, who is conscientious to promote the best interests of the people.

I found my old people still cherishing a warm regard to the Church of their fathers. A difficulty, which is common in many rural districts in collecting a congregation, is felt here. The people are not so numerous in any one locality as to form a congregation; they are scattered over a wide surface, and often the difficulties, which intervene between them and the main road, are such as to prevent them from travelling any distance to enjoy the ordinances of Religion. A minister settled in such a quarter is obliged to take-in a wide range of country to make-up a congregation. He knows nothing of the ease and convenience of a City Clergyman, who has his congregation collected in one place; his eye has to wander miles between his first and last preaching-stations, and over roads which put his skill and patience to the test.

During the three years and half which I spent in the Townships, I preached three times every Sabbath in different sections of the county, traveling a distance of thirty miles from the time I left home in the morning until I returned in the evening. What was mine, I doubt not, is the experience of many a clergyman in the country. Add to this the week-day la-