

SUSTENTATION OF THE MINISTRY.

HAMILTON, November 2, 1876.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—The direction given by the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, at its meeting in June last, to the Sustentation Board of the Synod, then appointed, to visit all the Congregations in the Church with as little delay as possible, for the purpose of ascertaining the mind of the whole Church, and communicating information regarding the support of gospel ordinances, having been taken up by the Board and partially executed; it appears to be the duty of the Board to make known as generally as possible to the Church the results of these visits, which have extended to all the settled Congregations, with few exceptions, East of Toronto.

The following Congregations have been visited partly by John Burns, Esquire, and partly by the undersigned, according to the appointment of the Board under the direction of the Synod.

Streetsville—Rev. Mr. Rintouli.
Toronto—Rev. Robert Burns, D. D.
Darlington—Rev. Mr. Steele.
Peterboro'—Rev. Mr. Roger.
Oranoke—Rev. Mr. Wallace.
Caran—Rev. Mr. Douglas.
Cobourg—Rev. Mr. Alexander.
Grafton and Colborne—Rev. Mr. Reid.
Pitton—Rev. Mr. Hamilton.
Demorestville—Rev. Mr. Rodgers.
Gananoque—Rev. Mr. Gordon.
Spencerville—Rev. Mr. Geggie.
Kemptville and South Goscer—Rev. Mr. McDowell.
Belleville—Rev. Mr. Luke.
Bytown—Rev. Mr. Wardrope.
Ramsay—Rev. Mr. Johnston.
Perth—Rev. Mr. Melville.
Dalhousie—Rev. Mr. Finlay.
Brockville—Rev. Mr. Smart.
Prescott—Rev. Mr. Boyd.
Kingston—City Buildings.
Kingston—Rev. Mr. Reid.
Indian Lands—Rev. Mr. Clarke.
Lacinte—Rev. Mr. Henry.
St. Theresa—Rev. Mr. Black.
Montreal—Rev. Mr. Leishman.
Montreal—Cote Street.
Quebec—Rev. Mr. Clugston.
Port Neuf—Rev. Mr. Fraser.

A concluding remark of the Report furnished by Mr. Burns, reads thus: "From what I have seen and heard, I am convinced that the prosperity of the Church depends not a little upon the spirit with which the scheme for sustaining the Ministry is taken up. There is not, as far as I can judge, any real objection to the Synods Scheme, that those who oppose it are willing to urge." I might with advantage have made copious extracts from the same Report, but defer doing so at present, as the whole results of the visitation will be submitted to the Board, and by them, no doubt, communicated to the Church in authentic form. I may, however, be permitted to state from these Reports, that out of about thirty Congregations already visited, but two are opposed to the existing scheme of sustentation; two or three others appear undecided in the matter; their indecision arising apparently rather from their imperfect organization—and their having as yet no thorough acquaintance with the principle and working of any general sustentation scheme, than from any other cause.

It now appears desirable that the Hamilton Presbytery should also be visited. The members of the Board in this locality, would request the counsel of members of the Board from other localities, before proceeding further in this work, and for this purpose advertise a general Meeting of the Board at Hamilton, on Thursday, 14th January, 1877, at which meeting the Reports will be submitted, and the whole subject of the sustentation of the Ministry will come to be fully considered, and the visitation of the Hamilton Presbytery provided for.

Should this communication appear to you of sufficient importance, you will by giving it, and notice of the meeting on the 14th January, an insertion in the *Record* for the present month,

Much oblige, Rev. and Dear Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES WALKER,
 Secretary, S. B.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

The Presbytery of Hamilton held their ordinary meeting in Knox's Church, Hamilton, on the 14th October. There was a good attendance of members. Mr. George Smith was chosen Moderator, and much interesting and important business was brought forward, especially connected with Missionary Districts. While it was encouraging in one view that so many applications were made for the preaching of the Gospel, it was in another view painful to think that there were so few labourers to send into the vineyard. Our church, at the same time, has reason to be grateful to the Lord, for the blessing which seems to have accompanied her establishment and her labours, in her almost unprecedented extension in the Colony. The number of ministers, at the time of the disruption, little more than two years ago, having been about twenty three, while now there are about fifty. Interesting particulars were communicated in regard to the congregations at Woodstock, Ingersol, and St. Andrew's, and appointments made for the occasional supply of these stations. An appointment was made for organizing the congregation and ordaining Elders in Walpole, and it was resolved that Mr. Bethune's labours should be continued there.

The Rev. Mr. McLean gave in a report of his missionary tour, and especially called the attention of the Presbytery to the interesting field of labour in the district round Port Dover, Simcoe, and Victoria.

The cases of Owen's Sound, the eighth congregation of Flamboro', Wilnot, Beuheim, and Mitchell, were severally brought before the Presbytery.

At Niagara, and the Cross Roads, it was stated that Mr. Robert Burns had been labouring with much acceptance.

The subject of Session Records was brought forward, when it was enquired that the Records of the several congregations of the Presbytery be given in to the Clerk, at the ordinary meeting in May next, fully made up and regularly engrossed in suitable books, in order that they may be examined and reported on by the Presbytery.

Statements were given in by the Clerk in regard to the election of the Rev. Alexander Gale, by the College Committee, at Toronto, as Professor of Classical Literature, and Principal of the New Academy there. Professor Esson, a member of the College Committee, was present to support the translation of Mr. Gale;—and, after mature consideration, it was moved and agreed to, that in respect of the urgent circumstances of the case, the irregularities which have taken place in the proceedings in this matter be passed over, and the actions of the parties sustained, and that while the Presbytery express their deep regret at the prospect of being separated from their much esteemed brother, yet feeling the great importance of the office to which he has been called, and his high qualifications for fulfilling the duties of it, they are willing to acquiesce in the translation of Mr. Gale, provided no sufficient reasons be brought forward by the congregation against his separation from his present charge, and in consideration of the irregularities which have taken place, in sympathy with the circumstances in which the congregation is placed, and in order to prevent misapprehension, the Presbytery depute the Rev. Professor Esson, of the College Committee, and the Moderator of the Presbytery, to attend the meeting of the congregation, and state the whole circumstances of the case for their information.

The Presbytery thereupon resolved to wait the result of the congregational meeting, and adjourned till the evening.

The Presbytery, on resuming, had the call from Guelph to Mr. J. G. McGregor, of New Brunswick, probationer, which had been taken up at the *pro re nata* meeting at Guelph brought before them, when the call was sustained, and Mr. McGregor's acceptance of the call having been read, suggestions for his trial discourses were presented, and the Clerk was empowered to call a *pro re nata* meeting for the purpose of hearing them, and, if satisfied, of taking steps towards his ordination.

An application from the Presbytery of Kingston, in regard to the reception of Mr. Finlay, was agreed to.

An application from the congregation at North East Hope, to have the services of the Rev. D. Allan confined to that station, was given in and considered, and Messrs. Donald McKenzie, William Meldrum, and Robert Lindsay, along with their Elders, were appointed a Committee to ascertain the wishes of the people, and take such steps in the matter as they may think most advisable.

The case of Mr. David McKenzie was then taken up, and he having denied the charges brought against him, a committee was appointed to prepare a libel, and proceed to a full investigation of the same.

A deputation from the meeting of the congregation of Knox's Church, Hamilton, was then introduced, and read the following resolution, which had been passed at the meeting just held, viz.:

"This congregation, taking into consideration the great importance of the educational scheme of the church, and its manifest necessity for the stability and extension of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, *Resolves*, 'That, notwithstanding its devoted attachment to their beloved pastor, and his excellent partner, which has been confirmed by many years of endearing Christian intercourse, it does not appear, under the circumstances, to be consistent with an enlightened view of Christian principle, to oppose the application of the College Committee.'

On motion made and seconded, and agreed to, the Moderator, in name of the Presbytery, expressed to the gentlemen of the deputation the gratification which the Presbytery felt at the enlightened and Christian sentiments which the congregation had expressed in the above resolution, and the spirit which they exhibited in the matter.

The Presbytery did thereupon resolve to record their sanction to the transference of Mr. Gale to Toronto, and appoint the Rev. Mr. Stark to preach in Knox's Church, Hamilton, on Sabbath first, on the forenoon, and to declare the charge vacant. It was further resolved, that the congregation be placed, during the vacancy, under the superintendence of Messrs. Stark and Cheyne, who shall have power to confer with the Elders and Deacons, in all mental matters, and also to correspond with the College Committee, in regard to supply of preaching."

The names of the Rev. Mr. Cheyne and Rev. Dr. Ferris were added to the Home Mission Committee—Mr. Cheyne to be *Convener*—and the Committee to hold regular meetings, at Hamilton, on the first Monday of every month, at noon.

The Presbytery then adjourned till the following day, when an application was made from the Rev. Joseph Marr, to be received as a minister in connection with this church. The consideration of the application was deferred, in consequence of the want of the necessary documents.

Mr. William Ross Sutherland, student, was taken upon trials, and having undergone a lengthened examination on the usual branches, and the prescribed discourses having been heard, the Presbytery, on taking a conjunct view of the whole, unanimously agreed to sustain them, when the Moderator, after prayer, did license Mr. Sutherland to preach the Gospel, and having addressed him on the duties and responsibilities of his calling, he was accordingly received as a probationer within the bounds of the Presbytery, and was appointed to labour for three months as a mis-