

his appointments, and by officiating in two places every Sabbath, has been present in each once a month. His remarks that all these stations seem to be in a healthy condition, and are increasing. He has raised, by collections, for the half year that is about to close, £6 16s. 14d., being a small increase upon the amount collected for the corresponding period of last year.

The case of the Rev. Andrew Kennedy, which was referred to your Committee at the last meeting of Synod, has been brought under the consideration of the Mission Board in Scotland, and warmly recommended to their favourable notice. A letter from the Rev. Mr. Sommerville, which was received shortly afterwards, announced that the Board had agreed to grant Mr. Kennedy £20 sterling, and it will be observed from the published report of the proceedings of the United Presbyterian Synod in Scotland, that it was considerably resolved that £20 sterling, additional, should be paid him out of the Synod Fund.

Mention was made by your Committee, in their Report for last year, of the spiritually destitute condition of the Owen Sound tract, to which attention has been called by the Wellington Presbytery, and your sanction was procured for an application to the Board in Scotland for a man to cultivate that field in particular, his salary to be paid out of the fund at home. To this application the Mission Board readily assented, leaving it to the Church here to choose the person who might appear best qualified for the work, and to receive the reports of his labors, which might from time to time, be furnished; and agreeing to place him on a footing with Preachers coming from the old country; that is, to pay him at the rate of £100 sterling for three years; yet, mentioning that this would be an excellent opportunity for awakening the missionary spirit and interest of our congregations in the Province, and suggesting that it should be embraced. As the application had originated with the Wellington Presbytery, it was decided that the letter of the Secretary should be referred to them to take what action upon it they judged advisable.

Mr. Thornton, Clerk of the Durham Presbytery, sent in to the Committee a very interesting account of the Mission Field which that Presbytery embraces—the opportunity it affords for the extension of the Church, and the progress which has been made of late in that district. At the meeting at which this document was read, it was resolved, in token of the pleasure which the Committee felt at the statements it contained, and of the expectation that it might be generally interesting and useful, that copies of it be furnished to the editors of the *Canadian Presbyterian Magazine*, and the *United Presbyterian Record*, for publication in these periodicals, which was done accordingly.

Some years ago, a proposal was adopted that each Presbytery should nominate to the Mission Committee a weak congregation within its bounds, for aid from the Mission Funds, raised in the Province. The following have been supplemented in fulfilment of that plan: Chatham, in the Presbytery of London; Chippawa, in the Flamboro' Presbytery; a peculiarity has arisen in the case of Toronto Township and Brampton, in the Toronto Presbytery, which will come up before your Court for consideration. All of these have been materially benefitted. Chippawa has become self-supporting; Chatham appears to be in a highly prosperous state; the membership has increased last year by seventeen, while the income has been more than doubled, and, in a letter read in Committee, upon the 11th January last, it is stated that the congregation expected to raise £46 for their minister's stipend, additional to what they had raised for the year preceding. The Committee have been so well pleased with this, that they engrossed in their minutes their approbation of the spirit which this congregation was evincing, and of the energy which they were displaying. May they soon be among those that can say, "we have not only a minister of our own, but we also support him by our voluntary offerings."

Much difficulty has been felt in the consideration and adjustment of Preachers' accounts, the recurrence of which would be prevented if the Synod were pleased to adopt some form which could be given to Preachers, when they commenced their labours, to fill up. It is not wished to do away with either reports to Presbyteries, nor with the certification and transmission of them, but, when several documents come in at different times, from different quarters, and embracing periods separated from each other by an interval, of which no account may be received for weeks or months, owing to the fact that there may not be a meeting of the particular Presbytery, or that the Clerk may not certify and transmit the account that has been presented to him, considerable trouble is experienced in forming these into a connected whole. Probationers, again, do nothing more than mark the sums they have been paid at the vacancies where they have preached; thus giving your Committee the trouble of entering into a calculation as to the amount which they are entitled to draw. We would recommend that they be instructed to furnish the Committee directly with a general statement of their receipts, and the Sabbaths on which they have been employed, with their own calculation, showing the amount of balance to which they have a claim, and this could be checked by the reports that come in from the respective Presbyteries. At a trifling expense such a form could be printed as would greatly facilitate the labour of all parties, and, if thought proper, one for Presbyteries might also be adopted, and the Committee of Distribution could furnish each Probationer with one when he entered upon his duties. This would put an end to the unbusiness form in which their reports now come, as well as save time and trouble to the Committee.

The statistical reports of the different Presbyteries, for the year ending December, 1851, were published in the *Canadian Presbyterian Magazine*, as soon as they could be prepared, and an advantage was ta-

ken of the type, from which this was printed, to throw off a number of copies on separate sheets, that one might be transmitted to each congregation. As the members of Synod are in possession of that document, your Committee will say nothing in the way of describing it, and we hope its publication will meet with your approval.

As the last of the Presbyterial statistical reports, for the year 1852, did not come to the hand of the Convener till a week ago, he has been prevented from preparing a general table as soon as was desirable. He is able, however, to give an outline, and since your Committee on Missions is also your Committee on Statistics, it has been thought part of their duty to embody such an outline in this report.

The names of 69 congregations occur in the papers that have come to hand, but three of these give no statistics, while in the case of several others these are incomplete. 44 "stations within bounds," are returned, being an increase of 4 upon last year. The "average attendance" throughout the Church, amounts to 12,845, showing an increase upon the returns of the preceding year of 2,287; 930 members have been added, and 374 removed, while the numbers in the previous return were, respectively, 719, and 276, showing a total increase of 556, and an increase of 113. The total membership is 6,495, baptism has been dispensed to 613, and 2,988 are in religious classes; 959 attend prayer-meetings. "Volumes in Libraries," amount to 12,424, and the number of "Churches" is 76. Congregational debt, according to the reports, is £2,947 7s. 4½d. The "Total Income" has been £6,425 15s. 5d., and there have been expended upon stipend, £4050 12s. 10d., and on Church Property, £1,930 8s. 8½d. On these items severally, there has been a great increase; on that of "Income," for example, upwards of £1,050; on that of "Stipend," £1200; on that of "Church Property," more than £717. For the Theological Fund, there have been raised £76 6s. 6½d.; for the Synod and Presbytery Funds, £51 2s. 1½d.; for Synod's Missions, £197 4s. 10d., and for General Missions, £225 7s. 0½d. On the two last items there has been a gradual falling off for the past year. While the total income, in the returns for the year ending December, 1851, gave an average of less than £1 to each member; this year it is just about that sum.

It will be observed that these general results do not present the actual state of the Church, for, in several cases, full returns have not been made—a circumstance which is much to be regretted, and which, it is highly desirable that Presbyteries should remedy in future, and again we are able to compare the present only with a year, the returns for which are imperfect. Sufficient evidence, however, is afforded that the United Presbyterian Church in Canada is prospering, and while we breathe the prayer, upon taking this retrospect, "Establish thou the work of our hands upon us, yes, the work of our hands establish thou it;" let the success with which God has blessed, and is still blessing the labours of his servants, stimulate them to renewed zeal and activity, in unfolding and bearing forward the banner which God has given them to display in the cause of truth.

### Miscellaneous.

#### "A STRONG CITY IS OUR GOD."

(Translated from the original of Martin Luther, by Thomas Carlyle.)

A safe stronghold our God is still,  
A trusty shield and weapon;  
He'll help us clear from all the ill  
That hath us now o'ertaken.  
The ancient Prince of Hell,  
Hath risen with purpose fell;  
Strong mail of craft and power  
He weareth in this hour,  
On earth is not his fellow.

With force of arms we nothing can,  
Full soon were we down-riden;  
But for us fights the proper man,  
Whom God himself hath hidden.  
Ask ye, who is this same?  
Christ Jesus is his name,  
The Lord Zebaoth's son,  
He, and no other one  
Shall conquer in the battle.

And were this world all Devil's o'er,  
And watching to devour us,  
We lay it not to heart so sore,  
Not they can overpower us.  
And let the Prince of Ill  
Look grim as o'er he will,  
He harms us not a whit,  
For why? His doom is writ—  
A word shall quickly slay him.

God's word, for all their craft and force,  
One moment will not linger,  
But spite of Hell, shall have its course,  
'Tis written by his finger.