

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

A CANVASS just finished of Knox Church, Scarboro', and of St. Andrew's Church, Scarboro', and St. John's Church, Markham, has resulted in an addition to the subscription for the Endowment Fund of Knox College of \$2,000, over \$500 of which has been paid. The district, as is well known, is a purely agricultural one. There were, however, seven subscriptions of \$100 each, with others of \$50, \$40, and \$30, with of course many of smaller amounts. Between \$1,300 and \$1,400 was subscribed by the congregation of Knox Church; over \$700 by St. Andrew's and St. John's—one pastoral charge—being a very creditable amount when account is taken of the large sum which the people of this charge subscribed some years ago to Queen's College. The money was in most cases very cheerfully subscribed. Dr. King takes this opportunity to thank the friends for the readiness with which they responded to his appeal, and the ministers, Messrs. Mackay and Tanner, whose hearty co-operation was invaluable. The hope is entertained that, with two pastoral charges contributing \$2,000, the rural districts of the Presbytery of Toronto may be counted on to make up \$12,000 of the Endowment Fund.

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.—An extra meeting of this Presbytery was held in the usual place on the 26th ult., Rev. J. M. Cameron, moderator *pro tem*. The main object for which the meeting was convened was to dispose of an appointment, by the Assembly's Home Mission Committee, of Rev. W. McWilliam, of Streetsville, to Prince Albert, in the North-West Territory. It was reported that the congregation of Streetsville had been duly informed of said appointment, and cited to appear for their interests at this meeting. Papers were then submitted and read from the session and congregation just named, expressing their warm regard for Mr. McWilliam, both because of his worth and labours; praying also that his connection with them might not be dissolved, and resolving, in tangible evidence of their earnestness in this matter, to raise his salary to \$1,000, payable from January last, in the hope of soon making it more. After the reading of these papers, Rev. Dr. King was heard on behalf of the Home Mission Committee; Mr. Wm. Barber and Mr. Thomas McCracken were heard on behalf of Streetsville session, and Dr. Thom and Mr. Wm. Steen on behalf of the congregation. Mr. McWilliam was then heard on his own behalf, when he stated in substance that without overlooking the expressions of regard for him as set forth in the papers above mentioned, and as brought out in the statements of the commissioners, he was strongly of opinion that the territory or the North-West had weightier claims on his services than his present sphere of labour, and, therefore, that he was willing, with the concurrence of the Presbytery, to act on the appointment given him by the Assembly's Home Mission Committee. It was then moved and seconded that the Presbytery agree to loose Mr. McWilliam from his present charge. In amendment, it was moved and seconded that the Presbytery refuse to loose Mr. McWilliam from his present charge. On a vote being taken, the motion prevailed over the amendment, and the Presbytery decided accordingly. It was also agreed that this decision shall take effect at the close of August; that Rev. E. D. McLaren, on the first Sabbath of September, shall intimate the decision to the congregation, and that during the vacancy he shall be *interim* moderator of session. A minute was further moved and adopted, expressive of the Presbytery's appreciation of Mr. McWilliam's worth and past labours, as also of their sense of his admirable fitness to represent the Church, and to care for its interests in the North-West. An extract minute was read from the Presbytery of Guelph, ancient the call from Knox Church, Guelph, to Rev. R. P. McKay, minister of Knox Church, Scarborough. The call, the paper of concurrence from adherents, the guarantee for \$1,400, payable weekly, and reasons for translation were all produced and laid on the table. It was then moved, and agreed to appoint Rev. D. McIntosh to preach to the congregation in Scarborough not later than the 26th of August, to inform them of the foregoing, and to put into their hands the reasons for translation, and to cite them to appear for their interests at next meeting of Presbytery. Mr. McKay was also to be notified of the foregoing by the clerk, and cited to appear on his own behalf. Agreeably to

a suggestion made, a committee was appointed, consisting of Revs. Dr. Reid, P. Macleod, D. J. Macdonnell, Messrs. John Harvie and W. B. McMurrich, to consider what should be done to secure public religious services on the Lord's day for the benefit of our church members and others, who reside for weeks or months in the summer season on the Island opposite Toronto. The next meeting of Presbytery was appointed to be held in the usual place on the 5th of September at eleven a.m.—R. MONTEATH, Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF WHITBY.—This Presbytery held its quarterly meeting at Port Perry on the 17th July; Mr. Abraham, moderator. There was a good attendance of members. Elders' commissions were presented, and the roll made up for the year. The Home Mission report was given in, and, as in former years, the report mentioned the fact, that there were no mission stations within the bounds. Messrs. Carmichael, Abraham, and Madill were appointed the Home Mission Committee for the current year. The commissioners to the General Assembly reported diligence, and their travelling expenses were paid by the Presbytery. The finding of the Synod was read on the reference submitted to it, *v. z.*: Is it competent for the Presbytery to sanction the alienation of any of the proceeds of the Endowment farm of St. John's, Pickering? The Clerk was instructed to procure a copy of the trust deed, and also full extracts from the Presbytery records of Toronto (Old Kirk) bearing on the question, and forward them to the convener of the Assembly's Committee on the Protection of Property. The Presbytery took final action in the case of Mr. Spenser. A *pro re nata* meeting had been held a fortnight before, at which it was agreed to dissolve the pastoral relation between Mr. Spenser and St. Andrew's Church, Bowmanville, at the quarterly meeting, and the congregation had been cited to appear for their interests at this meeting, but no one appeared in behalf of the congregation. Mr. Spenser had submitted two papers containing objections; but, as these had formed part of the case adjudicated upon by the Synod and the General Assembly, the Presbytery felt that it was not competent for it to deal with them. Whereupon, it was moved by Mr. Drummond, seconded by Mr. Roger, and unanimously agreed to, that, in accordance with the instructions of the Synod of Toronto and Kingston, and of the General Assembly, this Presbytery now dissolves the pastoral relation between Mr. Adam Spenser and the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, Darlington, and declares that Mr. Adam Spenser be no longer the pastor of the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, Darlington. The moderator solemnly pronounced this separation as the finding of the Presbytery. A committee was appointed to deal with the congregation with regard to the claims of Mr. Spenser, and endeavour to procure from them an adequate portion of the arrears. Mr. Spenser's name was removed from the roll of the Presbytery, and placed on the list of ministers without charge. Mr. Spenser was instructed to deliver over to the clerk for the congregation the session records, the treasurer's books, the key of the church, and whatever other records or property he may now have in his possession, that belong to the congregation. Mr. Spenser demanded his Presbyterian certificate; the Presbytery agreed that this request should lie on the table till he had complied with the above instructions. Mr. Drummond was appointed moderator of session, and Mr. Kennedy was appointed to preach in St. Andrew's Church on Sabbath the 22nd inst., and declare the church vacant. A call was laid on the table from the congregations of Danborton and Highland Creek, in favour of Mr. R. M. Craig, probationer—signed by 122 members and forty-five adherents, and was sustained as a regular Gospel call. Mr. Craig accepted it and trials were prescribed to him and the ordination fixed for Tuesday 14th August. A petition from the congregation of Ashburn was presented, desiring that steps might be taken to separate Ashburn and Utica and uniting them with other congregations, believing that, were this done, more adequate support for Gospel ordinances would be thereby attained. The Presbytery deferred the consideration of this matter, till they would have before them the Scheme for the Better Support of the Ministry, which was agreed upon at the General Assembly in London, hoping that it would give relief to congregations in such circumstances, and obviate the necessity of any change in this case. The subject of the increased post-office work required of all the post-office employes

along the line of the Grand Trunk from Montreal to Toronto, was before the notice of the Presbytery, and a small committee was appointed to draw out a resolution condemnatory of this desecration of the Sabbath, with instructions to send a copy of it to the Postmaster-General. Mr. Spenser has refused to give up the key of the church, and on Sabbath when Mr. Kennedy went to conduct service he found a goodly number of the congregation, but the door was locked. Standing on the platform he engaged in devotional exercises and read the notice declaring the charge vacant. Mr. Drummond preached to the congregation in the town hall last Sabbath afternoon at half-past two o'clock.—A. A. DRUMMOND, Pres. Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.—This Presbytery met on Tuesday, July 10th, in the First Presbyterian Church, Park avenue, Rev. Mungo Fraser, moderator. Rev. J. K. Wright, of London East, acting as clerk. There was a fair attendance of members present. Rev. J. A. Murray rose to a question of privilege. He complained that in reference to certain remarks made by him in the discussion on the State of Religion, he was represented by the Toronto "Mail" as associating card playing with the gallows, pistols, daggers, and bloodshed, and in consequence he had been held up by a certain portion of the press as speaking of this question with narrowness, ignorance, and bigotry. He stated further that he was responsible not for what he did not say on this matter but for what he did say. What he said was that "within his own observation, card-playing for money or gambling was associated with the pistol, the dagger, and the gallows. Mr. Murray holds that there is a wide distinction between card playing and gambling. In his speech on the occasion referred to he had said that cards may be played, and often were played, as an innocent amusement, but that in every such case great caution must be used. Rev. Mr. Martin, of Exeter, was asked to sit as a corresponding member. The clerk read the report of the committee appointed to prepare answers to Rev. Mr. Henderson's reasons for dissent to the adoption of the minutes of a previous session. Moved by Rev. Mr. McDonald, seconded by Rev. Dr. Proudfoot, that the report be adopted. Lost. After a lengthy discussion the matter was dropped. Rev. Mr. McKinnon reported a minute in regard to the resignation of Rev. Alex. Fraser, who has gone to Manitoba. The minute set forth the high esteem in which Rev. Mr. Fraser was held by the members of this Presbytery, and followed him with their prayers and best wishes in his new sphere of labour. Rev. Mr. Rennie, co-convener of the Home Mission Committee, submitted the following report: "The Presbytery of London, having had under consideration the circumstances of the mission station of Springfield, resolved respectively to submit the following statements and request to the Presbytery of Paris: (1) This station was formed some years ago, and has been supplied mainly by students, with exception of a short period during which, in connection with Aylmer, it enjoyed the services of a settled pastor. (2) Springfield has at present about twenty-four families connected with it, thirty communicants, and its revenue is about \$50 per annum. (3) The character of the field is such that there is little possibility of the station becoming a self-sustaining congregation, unless a centration be obtained for it with neighbouring congregations. (4) It is believed that the congregation of Colclough, now in connection with Tilsonburg, in the Presbytery of Paris, might, without injury to the latter, be detached therefrom, and if united to Springfield there would be formed a new pastoral charge, which, it is believed, would be self-sustaining very soon, if not from the first. (5) This Presbytery therefore respectfully requests that the Presbytery of Paris will take the necessary steps to effect the change above referred to." The above was adopted, and Rev. Mr. Rennie empowered to appear before the Paris Presbytery in advocacy of the proposed change. Rev. Mr. Rennie proposed that a member of the Presbytery should visit Port Burwell and dispense the communion, and suggested that this duty be performed by Rev. Mr. Paradis, of Port Stanley. Agreed to. Rev. Mr. McDonald, of Belmont, stated at length the necessity for additional mission work in Aylmer, and throughout the surrounding districts, as far south as the lake. Rev. Mr. McDonald was authorized to make a full report to next Presbytery on the condition and prospects of this field, with a view to its spiritual improvement and the