

conducted the services in auditorium and Dr. Macdonald in basement on both occasions, Rev. Geo. McLennan Pinkerton presided at 3 p.m. The services were of a high order and greatly enjoyed. On Monday night following Mr. Murray delivered an exceedingly interesting lecture entitled the "Yellow Stone Park," which was listened to with great attention and thoroughly enjoyed by all present. Proceeds \$300.00.

PRESBYTERY OF HURON.

This Presbytery met in Elyth on the 19th January. Mr. Martin was appointed moderator for the ensuing six months. Session records were examined and attested. The reports on Church Life and Work were delayed till next meeting. On behalf of the committee to consider the remit on Mission Board, Mr. Acheson presented a report. After some deliberation it was agreed to disapprove of the remit. Messrs. Anderson and James Hamilton addressed the court in the interest of the Claims of the Widow's and Orphan's Fund, and of Manitoba College, when said funds were warmly commended to the liberality of the congregations, and the attention of those who failed to contribute last year was called to the omission, and the hope expressed that contributions would be forthcoming this year. On the recommendation of the committee, on Christian Endeavor through Mr. Fletcher, the convener, it was resolved to organize a Presbyterial Society at next meeting of Presbytery. The annual report of the Presbyterial Woman's Foreign Mission Society was submitted. The report shows that there was an increase in members and contributions during the past year. The aforesaid report was disposed of with the following motion by Dr. McDonald, duly seconded:—"The Presbytery having read the report sent to them containing the result of the efforts of the W. F. M. S., of the Presbytery during the year 1896, feel called upon most emphatically to recognize the goodness of Him, whom we are seeking to serve, in giving such marked success as is indicated in the report. The spirit of consecration is extending and the liberality of the people is increasing, and we pray that the society may be more fully and thoroughly endowed with the spirit of God."

The next meeting of Presbytery is to be held in Clinton on the 9th March, at 10.30 a. m.—A. McLean, Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF MANTLAND.

Met at Wingham, January 19th, 1897. Moderator, Rev. A. MacNab. The minutes of last regular and special meetings were read and adopted. Elders' commissions were received in favor of Messrs. R. B. Campbell, of Armon, John MacIntosh, of Cranbrook, and Gilbert MacIntyre, of Wingham.

The Clerk reported having given Presbyterial certificates to Rev. T. Davidson and A. Y. Hailley. His action was approved. The ministers reported the exchange of pulpits carried out as arranged at last meeting.

The Rev. A. Sutherland tendered his resignation of the pastoral charge of Knox Church, Ripley, on account of infirmity by advancing years; he being in the 81st year of his age. On motion the resignation was laid on the table and the congregation ordered to be cited to appear for their interests at the meeting of Presbytery in March. The reading of the citation to the congregation was left in Mr. Sutherland's hands.

The Revs. Messrs. Murray and MacLennan and their representative elders were appointed a deputation to visit the congregation of Knox Church, Ripley for the purpose of conferring with them as to a retiring allowance to their minister who has labored among them for over 30 years.

It was agreed that the next regular meeting of Presbytery be held in Huron Church, Ripley, on Tuesday, March 16th, at 1 p.m. Messrs. Miller and Maxwell were appointed to give missionary addresses at the evening soderuns in connection with the presentation of the annual report of the Presbyterial W. F. M. Society.

On motion of Mr. MacLennan duly seconded, Rev. John Thompson, D.D., of Sarnia, was unanimously nominated as Moderator of the next General Assembly.

In answer to a request from the session of East Ashfield's congregation, the Revs. J. L. Murray, F. A. MacLennan and A. MacKay were appointed assessors to it.

Deputations were appointed to visit and receive congregations for the purpose of conferring with them regarding augmentation of stipend, and report at next meeting as follows:—Deputation to Walton, Mr. Hall and Mr. MacLeod and his representative elders; North Kinross, Riversdale and Enniskillen, Mr. A. MacKay and his representative elders.

Mr. Anderson gave notice of motion that the item "Report on Church Life and Work," be inserted in place of item No. 10 of March meeting, and that the items 5, 6, 7, of January meeting be omitted.

It was agreed that the report on "Church Life and Work" be received and considered at the meeting in March.

Mr. Ross called the attention of the Presbytery to the urgent need of the Ministers', Widows', and Orphans' Fund of liberal contributions on the part of congregations, and recommended all ministers to be connected with the said fund.

The Presbytery approves of the Assembly's remit on representation in that court, making it one-sixth instead of one-fourth as at present. The Presbytery agreed that the system of billeting members of Assembly be abolished and that a general fund for defraying the expenses of commissioners in whole or in part be instituted.

The remit re Sabbath School Board of Publication will be considered at the March meeting.

On motion it was carried that the remit on uniformity in public worship be disapproved in toto.

The Rev. Mr. MacKay, of Goderich, was invited to sit as corresponding member.

The committee on Y.P.S. reported that a convention of Y.P.S. was held in Wingham on the evening of Monday, 18th January, when it was agreed to ask the Presbytery to organize the Y.P.S., of the churches in the Presbytery into a Presbyterial society under the Model Constitution approved by the General Assembly, the annual meeting to be held in connection with the Nov. meeting of Presbytery. The report was received and adopted.

Mr. Hall gave notice that he will move at next meeting that the Nov. meeting of Presbytery be held at centres, to be appointed annually at the preceding meeting in order to allow the Y.P. Presbyterians Society to reach as many of the churches as possible.

The auditors reported the treasurer's books as carefully and correctly kept, and recommended that the basis of assessment for the Presbytery funds for the current year be seven cents per family. The report and its recommendation were received and adopted.

The Rev. J. Young, of Hamilton, addressed the Presbytery in the interests of the Lord's Day Alliance, setting forth its objects and the importance of forming branches of the Alliance in centres of population. On motion of Mr. Murray it was agreed to tender the thanks of the Presbytery to Mr. Young for his address, and express our sympathy with the object of his visit.

Next meeting will be held in Huron Church, Ripley, on Tuesday, March 16th at 1 p.m.

John MacNab,
Clerk.

Lucknow, Jan 22nd 1897.

THE SARNIA PRESBYTERY.

The Presbytery of Sarnia met, pro re nata, on the 12th January in St. Andrew's church, Sarnia, and took up consideration of a call from St. Paul's church, Hamilton, to Neil McPherson, B. D., of Petrolia church in this Presbytery. There was a large representation from St. Paul's church, Hamilton, consisting of Messrs. Leggott, Black and McLaggan for the session; Messrs. Knox and Coburn for the managers; and Messrs. Hamilton, Briggs and Morison for the congregation. Mr. P. Barclay appeared for the session and congregation of Petrolia, and Mr. McPherson for himself. These

were heard in the above order, Mr. McPherson intimating his acceptance of the call. Parties were removed, when on motion of Dr. Thompson it was agreed that having heard the pleadings pro and con, and Mr. McPherson having declared his own mind to accept the call tendered to him from St. Paul's church, Hamilton, this Presbytery agrees to his translation from Petrolia congregation, and in doing so, we desire to record our esteem for our brother who is about to leave us, our high appreciation of the services he has rendered to the Presbytery and the Church at large during his pastorate; the Presbytery also express its deep sympathy with the congregation that is hereby deprived of a ministry that they valued so highly, and we pray that the Great Head of the Church may soon send them one whom they may unitedly choose to carry on that same work and minister to them in holy things.

It was also moved that the resignation take effect on the 25th inst., Mr. Cuthbertson to declare the church vacant on the 31st inst., and act as interim moderator of session thereafter.

Parties were recalled and the decision announced in which all acquiesced, and the Presbytery was closed with the benediction.—Geo. Cuthbertson, Clerk.

Annual Meetings.

CENTRAL CHURCH, TORONTO.

At the annual meeting, Jan. 18, it was shown that there has been a slight increase in membership during the year; that the work of the church has been faithfully carried out and the finances of the church are in a fairly good position. In all the congregation has raised about \$10,000 in the year, rather over \$6,100 being spent in the ordinary work of the church and over \$3,900 being given for missionary purposes.

Mr. C. B. Petry of the Board of Managers, occupied the chair and Mr. A. D. Crooks acted as Secretary. The report of session was presented by Rev. Dr. McTavish, the pastor. It noted the chief events of the year, making special mention of the losses sustained by death, and stated that the congregation now numbers 655 members. There were 78 additions in the year, 27 by profession and 51 by certificate. The church lost 5 by death, 81 by certificate, 2 by discipline and 27 by retirement, leaving a gain of 14. There were 11 baptisms of infants and 5 of adults. The adoption of this report was moved by Rev. Dr. McTavish, seconded by Mr. J. W. McEwen, and carried.

The report of the managers showed total expenditure of \$6,181.09, the largest outlays being:—Stipend, \$2,500; interest on mortgage debt, \$973.34; expenditures on mission district, \$577.65; church officer's salary, \$350; organist's salary \$300. The receipts were \$5,958.44, leaving a total deficiency of \$225.25, of which \$139.90 was from 1895, leaving the deficit for the year of \$85.35. Of the receipts \$5,254.35 was from weekly collections and \$435.67 from special collections in November and December. The receipts from the weekly collections showed a decrease of \$422.80 from 1895. The expenditure of the church is greater than in 1895 by \$152.48. The floating debt has been reduced by about \$350, and stands now at \$2,233.50. A plan to wipe this out was promised for the near future.

Great regret was expressed by the managers at the death of the late Mr. Richard Donald, the Chairman of the board since 1889.

The election of two trustees for church property to replace retirements came next. Messrs. Petry and Crooks being chosen. A resolution presented the Board of Managers that the church assume the ownership of the Elizabeth street mission, together with the \$4,000 debt thereon, was also carried.

The reports of the numerous societies of the church, including the Elizabeth street mission, and Christian Endeavor, the Sunday School, the Missionary Association of the church, the Ladies Aid Society, the Mission Band, the auxiliary of the W.F.M.S. and the mothers' meeting showed healthy and vigorous work. They showed that the church has raised all told in the year \$2,844 for missionary purposes. Of this sum \$430 came from the Sunday School