

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

This Presbytery met on the 29th and 30th of April, and transacted a considerable amount of business. The following is a brief notice of some of the principal matters before the court.—

Mr. Holmes, of Brampton, petitioned the Presbytery for a disjunction of the E. Toronto Station from his pastoral charge, on account of the extent of his field of labour. The petition was favourably received, and ordered to lie on the table till next meeting. Mr. Holmes' Congregations to be summoned to appear for their interests.

The following sessions that have hitherto failed, in spite of calls repeatedly made, to give in their Records to the Presbytery for revision, were again urgently called on to do so without farther delay, viz.:—Vaughan, Streetsville, King; also Cooke's Church, Toronto—Markham—Brock and Reach.

An interim report on Mansos was given by the Clerk to the effect that from only a few of the Congregations replies had been received to the circular issued on this matter; but that from the communication received it appears that within the Presbytery there are two Manses, viz., at Streetsville and Markham—and that steps are being taken by the Congregations at Orillia and Oro, and also at Union and Norval, for providing Manses. Rev. Messrs. Lowry, McTavish, Gray, and McKenzio and Thomas Dallas, Esq., were appointed a Committee to attend farther to this matter.

The following motion by Mr. Laing, seconded by Mr. Lowry, on the subject of examination of students, was after some discussion, passed without a vote, viz.:—The Presbytery having considered the Overture on examination of students committed to Presbyteries by the Synod—Resolve, that while the functions of Presbyteries in the examination of students continue to be exercised according to the present practice of the Church, viz.:—an examination before entrance on their studies in college, an examination annually of students within their bounds, and the usual trials for license, it is expedient that a Board be established by the Synod for the examination of students as to their Literary, Philosophic, and Theological attainments, based on the following principles.—

1. That the Board shall represent the whole Church, consisting of two members of each Presbytery appointed by their respective Presbyteries. 2. That every student before being admitted to the Theological Classes, when he appears before a Presbytery for examination, shall produce a certificate from the Board that he has passed a satisfactory examination in Literature and Philosophy. 3. That when a student applies to a Presbytery to be taken on trial for license, he shall produce a certificate of having passed a satisfactory examination by the Board, in Theology, Church History, and Hebrew. 4. That notice of the text books, as far as possible, on the various subjects of examination, be given to the students at least six months before the examinations take place.

It having been suggested that the Presbytery tender their sympathy to the Rev. Dr. Burns on account of his recent severe illness, and the Court having unanimously expressed their cordial sympathy with him, it was resolved that the Rev. Mr. Gray, and Mr. Heron, Elder, be appointed a deputation to call upon and convey to Dr. Burns such expression of sympathy.—A note of acknowledgement was subsequently received from Dr. Burns, in reply.

Messrs. Gray, Ure and Laing were appointed a committee to examine Draft of Book of Discipline, and report thereon at next meeting. The Rev. Robert Jamieson, recently minister of the Congregation at Belturbet, Presbytery of Cavan, in Ireland, laid upon the table a testimonial from the said Presbytery, certifying the orderly dismissal of his charge and his being designated as a missionary to Canada. The testimonial was found to be satisfactory, and Mr. Jamieson

was accordingly received as an ordained Missionary of this Church. Mr. John McKay, Student, having finished his course of study in Knox's College, was taken on preliminary trials and examined on Languages, Philosophy and Theology. The Presbytery being satisfied with the result of the examinations agreed to apply to the Synod for leave to take McKay on trials for license.

The next meeting of Presbytery is to be held at Oakville, on the second Tuesday of June, at 10 o'clock, a. m.

T. WIGHTMAN, *Pres. Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

The Presbytery of Hamilton met according to appointment in McNab Street Church, Hamilton, on the 6th of May. A call from Port Dover and Simcoe to Mr. William Craigie was received and sustained, and accepted by Mr. Craigie. The Presbytery agreed to meet at Port Dover, on Thursday the 5th day of June, to hear Mr. Craigie's trials—subjects for which were appointed—and if satisfied, to proceed the following day to his ordination in accordance with the laws of the Church; Mr. Robert F. Burns to preach and preside, Mr. John Alexander, and Mr. James Black severally to address the minister and the congregation. A call from Elora in favor of Mr. James Middlemiss was also given in and sustained, and Mr. Middlemiss having agreed to close with the same, his trials were appointed, and the Presbytery agreed to meet at Elora to hear the same on Tuesday the 3rd day of June, and all things proving satisfactory, to proceed to his ordination the same day at noon. Mr. Alexander McLean, of Pushech, was appointed to preach and preside; Mr. Sinclair to address the minister, and Mr. Young the people.

Mr. Inglis requested to be allowed to alter his overture to the Synod on the management of congregational affairs given in at last meeting, as follows, which was agreed to:—

"Whereas, some congregations in connection with the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, and under the inspection of its Presbyteries, do commit the management of their congregational affairs to pew-holders, pew-owners, or subscribers, instead of communicants; and whereas the tendency of such practices is to bring the Church into bondage to the world:—Therefore, the Presbytery of Hamilton do hereby respectfully overture the Revd. the Synod of the said Church to order that congregations hereafter organized under the supervision of the Presbyteries of that Synod, shall be organized in consistency with the word of God and our subordinate standards, giving the right of suffrage and management only to communicants in good and regular standing; and that where the constitutions of existing congregations are at variance with this rule they be directed to conform to it in such a way as shall be for the edification of the body of Christ; and that special attention be directed to the Synod's former action in regard to the formation of Deacons' Courts."

The adoption of the overture was moved by Mr. Inglis, seconded by Mr. Alexander.

Mr. McRuar, seconded by Mr. Gillespie, moved in amendment, that the overture be deferred to the meantime. The motion was agreed to, when Mr. McRuar entered his dissent in his own name and in the name of those who may adhere to him for reasons to be given in. These are as follows:—

"Whereas, the Presbytery of Hamilton at its present session have agreed to transmit to the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada an overture ancient the management of congregational affairs, we, whose names are hereunto appended, dissent for the following reasons:

1st. It is unnecessary, inasmuch as this Presbytery have already declared the law which should regulate our Churches in the matter re-

ferred to in the overture, in the case of the Owen's Sound congregation, as recorded in the minute of Presbytery 9th January, 1856. The Presbytery would stultify themselves by applying for the enactment of a law already declared.

2nd. It is inexpedient,

1st. Because of its limitation in not covering the general principle of the deeding of property for ecclesiastical purposes.

2nd. Because it is prejudging cases already pending, and so making the Presbytery a party, when they should be neutral in the meantime.

3rd. The Presbytery should beware of enacting laws which they have not the power to execute. It is ultra vires of any Court of the Church to modify Trust Deeds already executed and under which property is already managed, and supposing we had the power, it would not be expedient to exercise it.

(Signed)

DUNCAN McRUAR,
JOHN GILLESPIE,
ROBERT IRVINE,
ANDREW J. MACAULEY.

Mr. Inglis and Mr. Alexander were appointed to answer the above reasons of dissent and the following answers were given in.

1st. To the first reason of dissent it is answered that while the principle enunciated is generally acknowledged, there is no declarative enactment of the Synod on the subject to guarantee a uniform action throughout Presbyteries.

2nd. To the second it is answered:—1st. That the overture is intended to secure uniform and scriptural practice in the management of congregational affairs irrespective of the mode of deeding the property; the principle involved being applicable to all cases affecting the management of ecclesiastical property.

2nd. That the Presbytery disclaim the imputation of prejudging any case now before the Church Courts, as they only seek Synodical action in regard to the principle enunciated by the unanimous voice of the Presbytery in the case of Owen's Sound.

3rd. To the third it is answered.—That this reason is fully met by the dissentients themselves in their first reason of dissent, and that in so far as the overture is retrospective, the Presbytery agree that existing cases should be met with all leniency and Christian prudence.

The Committee on the Book of Discipline not being prepared to report, were instructed to prepare their report for the meeting of Presbytery at London during the meeting of Synod.

The following overture introduced by Mr. Inglis was adopted:

"Whereas the necessity is deeply felt of diffusing information among the members of our congregations in regard to the missionary schemes of our Church, the Presbytery of Hamilton respectfully overture the Revd. the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada to take such steps as may be necessary for the preparation and publication of a small volume or tract embracing all necessary information respecting the history, claims, and present condition of our various missionary schemes as a permanent book of reference for ministers and congregations; also, for the preparation and publication of a quarterly or occasional fly sheet to be circulated a few weeks prior to the Synodical collections or at such time as may be advisable, and also to divide the labour of preparation of missionary articles for the *Ecclesiastical and Missionary Record*, and to co-operate with the Editor in giving still greater efficiency and interest to that excellent periodical."

Mr. Alexander moved, and it was seconded and agreed to, That the Convener of the Presbytery's Home Missionary Committee be instructed to write enjoining all vacant congregations and missionary stations, which have been receiving missionary supply, and who have not paid up the arrears due to the missionaries or catechists to do so forthwith; and for the future