

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

THE report of the united congregations of Chalmers Church, Keady, Zion Church, Peabody, and Desboro' for the year 1879, is an exceedingly encouraging one. At the beginning of the present pastorate, three years ago, the united membership of all the three was eighty-three. It now, making allowance for all removals, stands at 172, or more than double. During the same period a comfortable brick manse has been built and is being gradually freed from debt, two of the churches have been completed, and the third is so far advanced as to allow the congregation to worship in it. There is no debt on any of the churches. In Keady the stipend seems to be somewhat in arrear, but how far is not said. The different contributions to the schemes of the Church are not large; but they may be expected to increase as the congregations gather strength, and complete all their building operations.

PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.—This Presbytery met in London, on the 18th inst. The attendance was large and the business chiefly of a local character. A call from Lobo and North Caradoc congregations to the Rev. John Johnston was presented and accepted by Mr. Johnston. His trial discourses are to be heard at the Presbytery meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of July. Rev. D. B. Whimster asked and received leave of absence for three months on account of sickness. Rev. Mr. McEachern also applied for three months' leave which was also granted. Rev. A. Henderson, of Hyde Park and Komoka tendered his resignation of the united charge. The Home Mission grants and arrangements were discussed at considerable length.

PRESBYTERY OF KINGSTON.—This Presbytery met by permission of Synod in St. James' Square Church, Toronto, on the 13th inst. There was read a letter from the Rev. Joshua Fraser intimating his intention not to prosecute his protest, etc., before the Synod. Mr. Turnbull and Professor Mowat resigned their commissions as members of the General Assembly and Messrs. Maclean and Chambers were appointed in their stead. The Rev. James Cormack, B.A., was appointed to labour in Clark's Mills, etc., until the 1st of May next. Rev. H. Gracey and Dr. Boulton were appointed to support certain overtures from the Presbytery to come before the Assembly. It was agreed to comply with the request of the Peterboro' Presbytery to re-transfer Blairton to their bounds. There was read a communication from the Rev. David Wishart, asking for leave of absence for four months on the ground of ill-health. The leave craved was granted, and sympathy expressed with him in his affliction. Further, the convener of the Presbytery's Home Mission Committee was requested to render Mr. Wishart all aid in his power in the matter of supplying his pulpit. The clerk gave notice that he intended to resign his official position at the next quarterly meeting.—THOMAS S. CHAMBERS, *Pres. Clerk*.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.—This court met at Hamilton on the 18th inst. Sixteen ministers and nine elders were present. Mr. Thos. McGuire was appointed Moderator for the next six months. Mr. Bruce reported that he had brought under notice of the Home Mission Committee the instruction of last Assembly regarding the deduction of twenty-five per cent. made from the grants in April 1879, but that nothing had been done by the Committee in the matter. It was resolved to defer further action meanwhile. He also reported that grants of \$150 each had been made to Dunnville, Port Dalhousie, and Port Colborne. A committee was appointed to superintend the studies of Mr. J. H. Simpson for this year. The remittant the Act for the admission of ministers from other Churches was approved *simpliciter*. The report to be made to the Assembly anent the special appeal in aid of the Home Mission fund is that the injunctions of the General Assembly had been attended to by almost every session with the pleasing result that the Presbytery's contributions, as a whole, appear to have been increased by one hundred per cent. over those of last year. Dr. James, Rev. James Gordon, M.A., and Mr. R. Millar, were appointed Commissioners in place of Messrs. Goldsmith, Fletcher, and A. J. McKenzie who found that they could not conveniently attend the Assembly. The Clerk reported that the call from Burlington had been accepted by Mr. Abraham. Mr. Abraham's trial discourses were heard, and he was duly examined, when the trials were

sustained and the ordination was appointed to take place at Burlington on Tuesday, June 1st prox., at two p.m. Mr. Frazer to preside, Mr. Munro to preach, Mr. Laidlaw to address the minister, and Mr. Goldsmith the people. Mr. James Craigie was examined and delivered his trial discourses. These having been sustained he was licensed to preach the Gospel. It was agreed to dispose of the petitions for severing the connection between Kilbride and Nelson and uniting the latter with Burlington at the meeting of Presbytery at Burlington on June 1st. Mr. Lyle gave notice that at next stated meeting he would call attention to the holding of evangelistic services within the bounds.—JOHN LAING, *Pres. Clerk*.

PRESBYTERY OF OWEN SOUND.—Presbytery met in Knox Church on the 4th day of May; all the ministers present except Mr. Stevenson. Mr. Cameron presented the report of the committee appointed to inquire into the relation of the Presbytery to the National Bible Society of Scotland. The report was received, and Mr. Cameron requested to continue the matter until satisfactorily concluded. Mr. McDiarmid reported that he had initiated steps to organize Crawford station, but the business was not yet settled. The Clerk was instructed to report that all the ministers had implemented the instructions of the General Assembly in reading the Moderator's letter on Home Missions and taking up collections. A circular was read from Paris Presbytery setting forth a scheme for payment of expenses of members attending the courts of the Church. The Presbytery endorsed the general principles of the scheme without committing itself to details. Mr. Arch. McGoun was appointed a delegate to Assembly in place of Mr. Thos. Ormiston, who was unable to attend. Mr. Somerville was appointed in place of Mr. E. B. Rogers, also unable to attend. Mr. Mordy read the report of the committee on Sabbath schools, which was received, and Mr. Mordy instructed to send an abstract of it to the convener of the Synod's Committee on Sabbath Schools. Messrs. Mordy, Cameron, and Somerville were appointed to prepare a scheme of Presbyterian Sabbath school examination and report at next meeting. Presbytery agreed to report to Assembly on remits sent down: 1. That retired ministers have their names retained on the Roll of Presbytery subject to the restrictions laid down by Assembly. 2. Approve of the principle of the Presbyterian University of Canada for conferring degrees in theology. The Presbytery would, at the same time, humbly recommend the General Assembly to take such steps as will bring Queen's University under the jurisdiction of the United Church, in such a way as that all the colleges may be affiliated therewith upon equal terms. 3. In reference to re-ordination of Romish priests joining the Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery "resolved that it is unscriptural and unwise for this Church to recognize the ordination of the Romish Church, and that therefore priests coming from that Church be re-ordained before they be allowed to exercise the ministerial office. 4. The interim act for the reception of ministers from other Churches was adopted. The Clerk was instructed to correspond with congregations in arrears of stipend with view of having such arrears paid.—Mr. Colter to correspond with those congregations who have failed to make contributions to the schemes of the Church.

PRESBYTERY OF GUELPH.—This Presbytery met on Tuesday, the 18th inst., in Guelph, the Rev. Mr. Ball, Moderator. A large amount of business was transacted, chiefly of a local character. A very full report was read by Mr. J. C. Smith from the committee to St. Andrew's Church, Galt. The substance of it was that that congregation had resolved to ask the sanction of the Presbytery to amalgamate with the Union Church on the two following conditions: 1. That the property now belonging to St. Andrew's Church, shall, when legally conveyed, be held as exempting the former from all pecuniary obligations in connection with the building and equipment of the new church edifice about to be erected, and to supersede the present structure known as "Union Church." 2. That the present name or designation of both congregations be dropped and that another name be chosen by the amalgamating bodies. To this proposal for union, on these conditions Union Church had agreed, and the session of that congregation had empowered their Moderator and representative elder to carry up their resolution and lay it before the Presbytery. After reading all the papers and hearing all parties on the matter, it was unanimously agreed that the report of

the committee be received, and that they be thanked for their diligence, and that the request for amalgamation be granted, the name of the church to be "The Central Presbyterian Church, Galt." A committee consisting of Mr. Torrance, Mr. Smith and Mr. C. Davidson was appointed to look after the church property of St. Andrew's Church, and if necessary to consult the General Assembly's Committee on this subject. The Presbytery then proceeded, in terms of their resolution at last meeting, to hold a conference on the State of Religion. The matter was introduced by a paper read by Mr. Torrance on the question "What can be done to promote greater cordiality of Christian intercourse in and among our congregations." A very interesting discussion was engaged in, and a very pleasant conference held, closing with a vote of thanks to Mr. Torrance for the paper he had prepared. The Presbytery next took up the report of the committee that had been appointed to consider the remit of the Assembly on the validity of Romish ordination. The report was read by Mr. Middlemiss, Convener, and was to the effect that the Presbytery is not prepared to assent to the principle that a priest of the Church of Rome cannot, as such, be a true minister of the New Testament, and that reordination is, in every case necessary to put him in that position, but that, if a priest leaving the Church of Rome, and desiring to become a minister of our Church, has doubts as to his warrant to preach the Gospel and to administer the sacraments, in virtue of his Romish ordination, there is no reason why his mind should not be relieved by being set apart to the work of the ministry in the Presbyterian Church, in the same way as our probationers are. Mr. Middlemiss moved, and Mr. J. C. Smith seconded the adoption of the report. A very long amendment, which want of space forbids us to give in full, was moved by Mr. Smellie, and seconded by Mr. Dickson, to the effect that we do not acknowledge Popish ordination at all, and consequently do not regard it as valid. The motion and amendment having been put to the house, twenty voted for the latter and ten for the former. From this decision Mr. Middlemiss, Mr. Torrance and Mr. J. C. Smith dissented. Reports were received from Committees appointed to examine Session Records, which had been produced. Mr. Smellie submitted a notice of motion regarding the mode of appointing Commissioners to the General Assembly. Leave was granted to Union Church, Galt, to change the site of their place of worship, as they had resolved on the erection of a new building in a more favourable position. Messrs. Mullan and Cameron had leave of absence from their congregations granted for three months each. A report was read from the committee appointed to consider the circular sent down by the Synod's Committee on Temperance. A very favourable opinion was expressed of the report, and a desire stated that it should be given some permanent form, although brethren expressed themselves somewhat adverse to one of its recommendations, and it was agreed to recommit it in the hope that a report may be brought in, in which all can agree. The Presbytery then took up the intimation of Mr. David Smyth, laid upon their table in November last, that it was his intention to resign the pastoral oversight of the First Church, Eramosa, within six months. A resolution was read from the session and one from the congregation, asking the Presbytery not to take action on that intimation. Mr. Smyth, and Mr. Dow the representative elder, were heard, from whose statements it appeared that the attendance on public worship was as good as when Mr. Smyth entered on his pastorate, that there was a considerable accession to the membership at the last communion, and that the books of the treasurer shewed that there would be an income for stipend of about \$700. After deliberation, it was agreed that the request of the session and congregation be granted, and that the Presbytery express their gratification that the difficulties which at one time seemed to necessitate the resignation of Mr. Smyth are apparently removed. A letter was read from Mr. Harry Knox, asking to be employed in the work of Christ. After full consideration it was agreed that a Committee, consisting of the ministers and representative elders in Guelph (Mr. Torrance, Convener), be appointed to meet and confer with Mr. Knox, and that he be requested to appear before the Presbytery at their next meeting.

PEOPLE do not lack strength, they lack will.—Hugo.