

News of the Church.

Presbytery of P. E. Island.

The Presbytery of P. E. Island met at Mount Stewart, on 19th August, for Presbyterial visitation, and after sermon by Rev. A. Cameron, was constituted with prayer. From the answers given to the questions asked on such occasions, it appeared that the pastor, Rev. Mr. Frame, is faithfully discharging his duty, and that his labors are crowned with much success—Bible-classes, Sabbath Schools, and prayer-meetings are kept up, and are well attended—the Bible-class by one hundred young people, and the Sabbath School by an equal number. The elders also seem to be faithful men, taking heed to themselves and the flock over which the Holy Ghost hath made them overseers. In financial matters, also, the congregation seems to be making creditable progress. Besides paying their pastor punctually, they have contributed last year to the schemes of the church, and other ecclesiastical purposes, over \$600. At the close of the visitation, Presbytery tendered the congregation such words of counsel and encouragement as they deemed needful; especially recommending the immediate adoption of the Sabbath offering system of raising all funds for church purposes, and also the increase of their pastor's salary at least to the *minimum* proposed by Synod.

On the following morning the Presbytery met for visitation at East St. Peter's, and after sermon, by the Moderator, was constituted. East St. Peter's is one section of Rev. Mr. Crawford's large and widely scattered congregation, which embraces Bay Fortune, Souris and Grand River. The pastor, filled with zeal for the Master's cause, is prosecuting his arduous work with great energy and with no little success. He is faithful in visiting the sick and afflicted, regular in the administration of ordinances, and gives as much attention to Bible-classes, prayer-meetings, &c., as, under the circumstances, could be expected. The elders also seem to be attentive to their duties. They visit the sick, watch over the interests of the congregation, and superintend and take part in prayer-meetings and Sabbath Schools. The congregation contributes liberally to all the schemes of the church. The average Sabbath attendance in the two churches at St. Peter's, is five hundred. The number of families is ninety—a large proportion of whom observe family worship. This section pays £100 of the pastor's salary, but they are both able and willing to do more if they receive a larger supply of preaching.

On taking a review of the whole, the Presbytery came to the following finding:

—While rejoicing to notice much progress in all the departments of the congregation, the Presbytery feel that the pastor's sphere of labor is entirely too large, urge them to take immediate steps to secure the whole of Mr. Crawford's time—to adopt the weekly offering system of raising all moneys for religious purposes, and to increase their pastor's salary at least to \$600, with a Manse. Rev. W. R. Frame and J. M. McLeod were appointed to meet with the congregation at an early day, and aid them in carrying out this resolution.

On the following morning, the Presbytery met at Bay Fortune, and after sermon, by Rev. W. R. Frame, was constituted. Here, we found the state of matters very much as at St. Peter's, with this difference, that being farther from the centre of the pastor's labor's, Bible-classes, prayer-meetings, Sabbath-schools, and the afflicted could not receive as much of his attention as their interests require, though, under the circumstances, Mr. Crawford is giving as much attention to the pastoral work of this section as the congregation or the Presbytery could reasonably expect. At Bay Fortune, there are 75 families, and 90 communicants. The average attendance on the Sabbath is about 300. They contribute to all the schemes of the church, and pay £60 towards the pastor's salary.

The Presbytery, on taking a general view of the answer given to the questions of the formula, agree to accord their gratification with the evidence of spiritual life and activity in this section of the congregation; they regret, however, owing to the extent of the pastor's labors, that Bible-classes, prayer-meetings, and Sabbath-schools are but little attended to. In view of the small amount of ordinances employed, the Presbytery earnestly urge this section of the congregation to take immediate steps to secure a larger proportion of a minister's labors amongst them, and in order to this, to adopt, without delay, the weekly offering system recommended by Synod. Rev. W. R. Frame and J. McLeod were appointed to meet with this section at an early day, and aid them in effecting the change recommended.

On the evening of 2nd, the Presbytery met at Souris, and after sermon by the Clerk, was constituted. There being neither elders nor managers in this section, the usual formula of questions was dispensed with. It appears, however, from information elicited from the pastor, and from others, that Mr. Crawford preaches here a'out once in three weeks—that there are nine Presbyterian families, and seven communicants—that last year they contributed to the schemes of the church, and paid £6 towards the minister's salary—that they are both able and willing to pay a much larger sum if they