

concluded with the apostolical benediction; the most part of the first sederunt was spent as usual in devotional exercises.

(Signed) Wm. WATT, Moderator.  
JOHN INGLIS, Clerk.

## News of the Church.

### Presbytery of Pictou.

The Presbytery of Pictou met in Knox's Church, Pictou, on the 9th inst., and was constituted by the Rev. A. J. Mowatt, Moderator.

Messrs. George Hattie, and Wm. McC Urquhart appeared as Commissioners from the congregation of Westville, with a memorial to the Presbytery, stating that their new church had been burned to ashes, and asking for their sympathy and assistance. The Presbytery agreed to express their deep sympathy with them in their loss, direct the commissioners to prepare a statement of facts to be published by the Clerk, in connection with the minutes of Presbytery, for general information, and to recommend their case for assistance to the favourable consideration of the members of our church.

The Merigomish congregation applied for a moderation in a call. The stipend promised is \$700.00, with a manse and glebe. Their application was granted, and the Rev. Wm. Maxwell appointed to preach in their church on the 28th inst., and moderate in a call to one to be their pastor.

The Presbytery then took up the call addressed to the Rev. Alexander Ross from the Embro congregation, London Presbytery, Ontario. After all the papers were read parties heard, Mr. Ross was called upon to give his decision. At the close of a long address he stated that he was unable to decide—that his feelings and inclinations were in favour of remaining, but that the arguments and reasons on the other side seemed to him to indicate that it was his duty to accept the call—that in this dilemma he felt that he could not do better than to leave the matter in the hands of the Presbytery, and that he would cheerfully abide by their decision. All the members of the Presbytery having spoken gave it as their individual opinion, that as the matter presented itself to them in its varied aspects, it was Mr. Ross' duty to remain. Mr. Ross then stated that he accepted the unanimous opinion of the members of Presbytery, as indicating to him the mind of the Head of the Church, and that he therefore declined the call accordingly.

The Presbytery then set the call aside,

and instructed their clerk to inform the London Presbytery to that effect.

Supplies were then arranged for the vacancies.

The Presbytery agreed to hold their next meeting in John Knox's Church, on Tuesday, February 11th, at 11 A. M., for ordinary business.

### THE WESTVILLE CHURCH.

To the Reverend the Presbytery of Pictou,—

BRETHREN,—On Sabbath evening, 29th December last, Carmel Church, Westville, was burnt to ashes. The building caught fire from the overheated stove-pipe, a short time after the dismissal of the congregation. No blame can be attached to any person. By prompt and vigorous efforts the greater part of the furniture was saved, but in a short time our beautiful church was levelled to the ground.

While gazing on the smouldering ruins we all felt simultaneously and insistently inclined to hold a meeting to deliberate upon the best course to be adopted by us under our trying circumstances. A numerous attended meeting was accordingly held on the evening of the 30th December, in the house of D. McIntosh, Elder, at which J. E. Jones, M. D., was appointed Chairman, and George Hattie, Secretary. After appropriate devotional exercises, the report of the Committee, in reference to the financial position of the congregation, was laid before the meeting, and we voluntarily agreed to liquidate the thirteen hundred dollars (\$1300.00) that still remain unpaid on the church, when the notes for the amount fall due,—viz. in five and eleven months from date. Resolved to proceed at once to build a new church, subscribed at the time considerably over one thousand dollars for this purpose, and appointed collectors to solicit further subscriptions and donations before the meeting of your Presbytery to take place on the 9th of January instant.

It was also resolved to memorialize your Reverend Presbytery to take our case into your serious and sympathetic consideration and devise what measures you may deem most likely to yield us the requisite assistance.

And now Brethren in terms of this resolution we approach you by this Memorial which will be presented to you by our Commissioners, Messrs. W. McCully Urquhart and George Hattie, and we respectfully ask you what can you do for us? Is it too much for us to expect you to bring our peculiar circumstances to the notice of the Church generally, and particularly before your respective congregations?

We are willing to do all we possibly can ourselves as individuals and as a congrega-