

tion to this matter the following resolutions were unanimously adopted: (1st.) That the Presbytery is unable to form an intelligent judgment upon it, there being nothing to indicate what the functions and duties of such an agent might be. (2nd.) That the Presbytery is of opinion that the Church should, as much as possible, avoid the appointment of agents to promote any one of her schemes, such agents being expensive, and tending to give more prominence to one scheme over others. (3rd.) This Presbytery is satisfied that the different schemes of the Church may be administered most efficiently and with the least expense by means of a Committee, presided over by an efficient Convener. 3rd. The consideration of the remittance the Book of Forms was deferred to the next meeting, to be taken up as the first item of business at the morning sederunt of the second day, and members of Presbytery were enjoined to order themselves accordingly. 4th. The status of retired ministers. It was decided by a majority to approve of the following motion: That the names of ministers retiring from the active duties of the ministry by permission of the General Assembly, on the ground of old age or infirmity, be retained on the roll of the Presbytery to which they belonged immediately previous to retirement, but be not subject to transference to another Presbytery. 5th. The status of ordained missionaries. On this question the following motion was unanimously adopted: That when ordained missionaries are employed for the period of at least one year in particular mission districts with the sanction of the Assembly's Home Mission Committee, their names shall be placed on the Roll of Presbyteries during the period referred to. It was found on inquiry that all the congregations had contributed during the past ecclesiastical year to the Home Mission Fund, and that the spirit of the requirement of the Missionary Associations was being acted upon. A report from the Kingston Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was read by Principal Grant. It is intended to change the name to that of "The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society for the Presbytery of Kingston," and to undertake the support in whole or in part of Miss Forrester, one of our female missionaries in India. The Presbytery expressed approval of the object the Association has in view, and recommended the formation of auxiliaries in the various congregations within the bounds, with the hope that such auxiliaries shall be organized before the next regular meeting of Presbytery. Mr. Smith, Convener of the Presbytery's Home Mission Committee, read a report respecting the state of matters in the several mission fields, and recommended a scheme for the supply of the stations for the ensuing three months. The plan proposed was sanctioned. It consists chiefly in each of the settled ministers giving a day's supply. All Kirk Sessions that have not produced their records as required were enjoined to do so at the next meeting. The Clerk was instructed to notify the officials of Mill Point congregation that Mr. Craig's term of service there as ordained missionary will soon expire. Mr. McCuaig intimated that Mr. Peter Pollock, a member of his congregation, was attending Queen's College, Kingston, with a view to the ministry. Arrangements were made for a conference with him. The first hour of the evening sederunt of the next meeting is to be spent in a conference of the propriety of holding evangelistic services, the subject to be introduced by Mr. Smith. Next meeting to be in Chalmers' Church, Kingston, on Tuesday, March 26th, 1878, at three o'clock p.m.—THOMAS S. CHAMBERS, *Pres. Clerk*.

**PRESBYTERY OF GUELPH.**—The Presbytery of Guelph met in Knox Church, Acton, according to appointment, on the second Tuesday of January. The names of members present were put upon record. The minutes of former meetings were read and sustained. Commission to ruling elders to represent them were read from the Kirk Sessions of First Church, Eramosa; Erin, and East Puslinch. It was agreed that the consideration of remits from the General Assembly be deferred till next meeting. A committee composed of Mr. Torrance, convener, Mr. J. C. Smith, and Mr. Thomas McCrae was appointed to consider the Remit on Ecclesiastical Procedure, and report. A claim from the congregation of Rockwood for help from the Home Mission Fund was presented, and the Presbytery directed the matter to be submitted to the Committee, with a full statement of the facts, some of which have now come to the knowledge of the Presbytery for the first time. A reference for advice from

the Kirk Session of Knox Church, Acton, and a question from the Session at Erin of the same character were under consideration for some time, and the mind of the Presbytery ascertained. A minute was read from the Presbytery of Toronto, to the effect that they had proceeded to organize a congregation at Ballinfad. After lengthened deliberation the following motion was unanimously adopted, "That this Presbytery having read the minute of the Presbytery of Toronto, express their regret that said Presbytery had proceeded with what appears to them undue haste in determining to organize a congregation at Ballinfad, they would call attention to the fact that while that congregation has been organized within the bounds of the Presbytery, yet the members of whom it is to be composed at the commencement are taken almost exclusively from congregations within the bounds of the Presbytery of Guelph; they would protest against the action of the Presbytery of Toronto as unfriendly, and an infringement upon their rights, and complain to the Synod." It was agreed to grant the application from certain persons at Drayton for preaching, and arrangements were made for regular Sabbath supply till next meeting in March. Considerable time was spent on the state of the several funds under charge of the Presbytery. Mr. Smellie reported from the committee appointed to make arrangements for a conference on the State of Religion, containing certain recommendations, which were adopted. Reports from ministers appointed to preach missionary sermons and of delegates appointed to hold missionary meetings were given in by those present, and received. Mr. J. C. Smith addressed the Presbytery on the subject of Knox and Queen's Colleges. The Presbytery expressed their satisfaction with the statements made, the importance of the subject, and the duty of exhorting congregations to a more liberal support of these institutions. Several matters of minor importance were considered, which spare forbids noticing. The next meeting was fixed to be held in Chalmers' Church, Guelph, on the second Tuesday of March, at 10 o'clock a.m. In the evening the Presbytery met as a Sabbath School Conference. An excellent and appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev. J. C. Smith, who took for the ground of his remarks Deut. vi. 7, and Mark x. 13. After public worship, Messrs. D. Smyth, H. H. McPherson, and Robert Simpson were appointed a Committee on Resolutions. It was agreed that the subject appointed to be taken up at four o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, be omitted from the programme. The Conference then adjourned to meet next morning at ten o'clock. The Conference opened on Wednesday morning at ten o'clock. After devotional services, Mr. A. Campbell read a very elaborate and careful report on the Sabbath Schools in the bounds compiled from the returns he had received. From these it appeared that twenty-one schools had sent in replies to the circulars issued, giving 2,699 names on the rolls as pupils; 273 teachers, of whom 247 were communicants. Of the schools sixteen were kept open during the whole year, and five between six and eight months. Total number of volumes in libraries, 8,030. Hymns and Psalms are used in all the schools. Nearly all contribute to missions, the sum contributed for these purposes being \$630.36. All the schools report the use of the Shorter Catechism. A lengthened conversation took place upon the report—especially upon the point whether attendance on the Bible class should be returned as part of the Sabbath School, or omitted. Ultimately the matter was referred to the Committee on Resolutions for their consideration. At eleven o'clock the subject "The relation of parents to the Sabbath School, and the duty of bringing up their children in the fear of God," was introduced by the Rev. Dr. McKay, of Duff's Church, East Puslinch, in an interesting paper. Some remarks on the same subject were made by Mr. Alexander Cranston. After giving an hour, the time allotted to the discussion of this point, the next subject was taken up, namely, "Duties of Superintendents and Sabbath School Teachers," which was introduced by the Rev. J. C. Smith, followed by Mr. D. Smyth, who had to take the place of Mr. J. K. Smith of Galt, who was unable to attend, and Mr. Charles Davidson. Remarks from delegates present occupied the time till the hour of adjournment at one o'clock. In the afternoon the Conference resumed at three o'clock by singing, reading the Scriptures, and prayer. The children then joined in a hymn, after which addresses were delivered to them by Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Mullan, and Mr. Mc

Crae, interspersed with singing. The whole audience sang two verses of the hymn "Shall we gather at the river." Mr. Bell then gave an address on "The use of the Shorter Catechism, Psalms and Hymns in Sabbath Schools." The Committee on Resolutions gave in their report, recommending: 1. That in their view Bible classes, if held and conducted at the same time, should be regarded as part of the Sabbath School, and embraced in Sabbath School Returns, it being understood that the same order is observed with them as to entering names on roll, and keeping a record of attendance that is followed with the ordinary Sabbath School classes. 2. That parents should be carefully instructed, and earnestly exhorted to bring up their children in the fear of the Lord, and to regard the Sabbath School not as a substitute, but as merely a help to them in their duty and efforts. 3. That Superintendents realize the importance and responsibility of the position they occupy; that they make themselves familiar with the lessons taught, and take the entire oversight of the school, encouraging teachers, and inciting them, by word and example, to prayerfulness, diligence, and energy in the discharge of their duties; and that teachers should do what in them lies to know and understand the lessons appointed, and by prayer, example and precept, seek the salvation of the children under their charge, studying well their dispositions and habits, and visiting them in their own homes, and freely conversing with them as well as their parents, on their spiritual and eternal welfare. 4. The Committee are decidedly of opinion that the Shorter Catechism should be used in all our Sabbath Schools by the children capable of learning it, and especially with Proofs in the more advanced classes, and they would recommend that the exercises of every Sabbath day be either opened or closed with singing a portion of one of the Psalms of David. 5. That the cordial thanks of the Conference are due to Mr. J. C. Smith for the able, appropriate, and earnest sermon with which he opened the Conference. Votes of thanks were given to the friends in Acton for their hospitality, and to the choir for their services, after which the proceedings were closed with the doxology and the Apostolic benediction.

#### OBITUARY.

Many readers of THE PRESBYTERIAN will hear with regret of the death of Mr. Hugh McKay, of Sydenham Township, Ontario. He emigrated to this country from Caithness in 1841, and settled on the 10th line of Sydenham, where he resided till the time of his death. As he was a man of more than ordinary attainments, and full of love to God and zeal for the cause of Christ, his death will leave a blank in the community which will be hard to fill. Although for many years an intense sufferer, his place in church was seldom vacant, and often when the state of the roads was such that a horse could not go on them, he would rise early and walk five miles to church rather than deny himself the pleasure of meeting God's people in the sanctuary. For many years he conducted Sabbath school, which he made so attractive by his extensive knowledge and aptitude for teaching, and his intense love for the young, and large-heartedness, that it was largely attended. During his last illness, which lasted four months, he was never heard to complain, and all who visited him came away refreshed and assured that he was drawing comfort from the true source. In the congregation to which he belonged, and which he was largely instrumental in organizing, he will be sadly missed. The Sabbath after his death, when his name was mentioned by the pastor, there were few dry eyes in the church. Every one felt he had lost a friend. To the poor his hand was always open, and none applied in vain. He was not a Christian in words only, but in deeds. By none outside of his own family will he be so much missed as by his pastor, Rev. Alex. MacLennan, and family. His visits were always looked forward to with pleasure and dwelt upon afterwards with profit. During the last few years he seemed to derive the greatest pleasure from witnessing the prosperity of the Church, and no debt did he feel so keenly as the minister's stipend. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness."

Although a man of strong convictions, his views were not contracted; but this is not to be wondered at when he made the Bible his chief study, and found great pleasure in the company of God's people. He leaves an affectionate wife and three interesting sons and one daughter, who give strong evidence that they have benefited much by the instruction and wisdom and good example of their late father.—R. F. MACL.