

lican, their pastor. The matter was brought before the Guelph Presbytery, by whom, after some deliberation, Mr. Millican was advised to consider whether it would not be better to end the difficulty by resigning. This he said he could not conscientiously do. The case was referred by the Presbytery to last Synod for advice or judgment, when on motion of Rev. Dr. Robb, it was decided that the reference should be sustained, and the circumstances did not warrant any step being taken which would separate Mr. Millican from his congregation. Last July the Presbytery of Guelph took up a petition which had been presented to them some time before, and in which the dissatisfied part of the congregation asked for a supply of preaching to be granted them, promising to pay \$230 for it for six months. A motion was carried to grant the supply, from which decision the persons named above with some others, dissented, and carried their dissent and complaint before the Synod.

Mr. J. C. Smith, on the part of the Presbytery of Guelph, objected *in limine* that the Presbytery having violated no law of the Church, in granting supply of preaching at Douglas, no complaint could be made against the Presbytery on account of its action in the case. Mr. J. Middlemiss was heard on this point on behalf of the dissentients.

The moderator ruled against the objection *in limine* of Mr. Smith.

The reasons and allegations set forth by the complainants, both in the printed paper laid before the Synod, and by Revs. James Middlemiss and W. S. Ball, who spoke in support of the complaint, may be thus summarized:—They held that the action of the Presbytery was calculated to perpetuate the division which had been made in the congregation, and that it tended to force Mr. Millican to resign his charge, thus contravening the deliverance of the Synod mentioned above. They also maintained that the petition from the disaffected part of the congregation had been before the Synod since an amendment had been proposed by Prof. McLaren, voted upon, and lost, to the effect that the petition should be referred to the Presbytery for them to take action upon it. The complainants regarded the action of the Presbytery as precipitate, inasmuch as they had proceeded to the consideration of this petition at the very first meeting afterwards. They also held that the action of the Presbytery showed disrespect towards the Synod, and implied a want of that consideration for the position, difficulties, and convictions of Mr. Millican to which he was entitled.

The case of the Presbytery was supported by the Rev. J. C. Smith and Mr. Thomas McCrae. They averred that the petition upon which the Presbytery took action was not before the Synod, and that in granting a supply of preaching to the petitioners they were not acting in contravention of the Synod's finding on the matter. They pointed out that to leave the petitioners without preaching would be to allow them to join with other denominations. As the petitioners had already left St. John's Church, the Presbytery had not taken any step towards separating Mr. Millican from his congregation. Mr. Millican had also stated before the Synod that, since the petitioners left, his congregation had made satisfactory progress, and was in a good financial position. The petitioners, on the other hand, had stated that if supply were granted to them they would be able to pay for it without outside assistance. These statements the Presbytery had accepted as sufficient answer to the assertion that there was not room enough for two congregations in Douglas.

When both parties had been heard the hour for adjournment had arrived, and on motion of Principal Grant the Synod adjourned to meet again at 2.15 p.m., and proceed to the consideration of the case.

#### AFTERNOON SEDERUNT.

The Synod resumed at 2.15 p.m., and took up the dissent and complaint against the action of the Guelph Presbytery.

Rev. Principal Grant moved, seconded by Mr. A. Stevenson, That the dissent and complaint be dismissed, and the action of the Presbytery sustained. He thought it was generally understood that there was not room for two congregations at Douglas, and that those who petitioned for a supply of preaching would not unite again with the congregation. The Presbytery having those facts in view, had to decide between acting as they had done and allowing the petitioners to drift off into other denominations.

Rev. Dr. Gregg moved, seconded by the Rev. J. Macmillan, That the Synod sustain the complaint, but inasmuch as the steps taken by the Presbytery cannot well be retraced, the Synod declines for the present to take further action in the matter.

After some further discussion the motion of Dr. Grant was carried, and the dissent dismissed.

#### TREASURER'S AND AUDITOR'S REPORTS.

The Treasurer, Mr. James Brown, gave in his report, after the reading of the report on the State of Religion.

It stated that the receipts for the year had been, including balance of \$86.67 from last year, \$408.52, that the assessment for 1878-9 had been fully paid by each Presbytery, except a small balance by one, through a misunderstanding; that all the past arrears due by three Presbyteries had been paid; that all claims against the Fund had been settled up till the 1st of May instant; that there was a balance in his hands of \$15.02, and in those of the clerk of the Synod of \$4.16.

It was agreed that the report be received, and that thanks be tendered to the Treasurer for his services during the past year.

The Auditors, owing to circumstances beyond their control, were unable to give a complete report, but on their recommendation a Finance Committee, consisting of the Clerk of Synod and Messrs. A. MacMurchy and W. Alexander, were appointed to strike the assessment for the current year, and to advise with the Treasurer.

#### SABBATH SCHOOL WORK.

Rev. J. M. Cameron presented the report of the Committee on Sabbath School Work, which was received for consideration. It stated that in almost all Sunday Schools from which returns had been received the International Series of Lessons was used. Most schools were kept open

during the entire year, and some for only a few months. With regard to hymnology, a great diversity of practice was noticed, and a similar diversity seemed to exist in the use of lesson helps.

This report showed great pains and care in its preparation, and closed with twelve recommendations, which were considered *seriatim* by the Synod, and the following adopted, viz.:

To modify and improve the International Lessons by adding questions from the Short Catechism and verses from the Psalms to be committed to memory, and by proofs from Scripture for the leading doctrines of our Church: to supply teachers with the Westminster series of helps; to have, if possible, a teachers' weekly meeting, and, if practicable, the teachers to be communicants; to have appointments of teachers made or ratified by the session; to form a yearly normal class in each congregation; to get a scheme of normal class lessons recommended or prepared by the General Assembly, and to overture the Assembly to appoint a committee to carry out such recommendations in this report as require the action of the Supreme Court.

The consideration of these recommendations occupied the remainder of the afternoon sederunt, without the completion of the matter.

Principal Grant asked and obtained permission to withdraw his overture anent the schemes of the church, as there was not time to deal with it further.

During the evening sederunt, the Synod disposed of the recommendations of the Committee on Sabbath Schools, and ordered the report to be transmitted to the General Assembly's Committee on Sabbath Schools.

The same Committee were reappointed for the ensuing year.

#### SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

The report of the Committee on Sabbath Observance was submitted by Rev. J. C. Smith in the absence of the Convener, Mr. A. Wilson. After some general remarks upon the nature of the Sabbath and the benefits to be derived from observing it religiously, the report went on to say that there was generally a satisfactory amount of respect paid to the day throughout the country. The amount of traffic and business on Sunday was stated to be decreasing. Regret was expressed that the arrival and departure of passenger and freight boats at Toronto and elsewhere was still continued, and that mails were still taken on and left at points along the G. T. R. on Sundays. A general recommendation was made in the report and adopted by the Synod, to the effect that better observance of the Lord's day should be earnestly pressed on the attention of the people from the pulpit.

The Committee on Sabbath Observance was also reappointed.

It was moved by Mr. R. Torrance, seconded by Dr. Wardrope, and agreed to,—That the report be received and its recommendation adopted; that thanks be given to the Committee for their services; that the Synod express their gratification at hearing of instances of improvement in Sabbath Observance, and, on the other hand, their regret at the extent to which that day is still profaned, re-appoint the Committee, with instructions to continue to use their efforts to secure a still more extensive observance of God's day, and that the Report be transmitted to the General Assembly's Committee on Sabbath Observance.

The recommendation adopted is as follows:—That all pastors and missionaries within the bounds of the Synod be earnestly requested to present from the pulpit to those to whom they minister, at some suitable time of the year, the nature and obligations of the Sabbath, and to urge upon them its proper observance.

#### TEMPERANCE.

The report of the Committee on Temperance was next presented by Rev. J. B. Mullan. It noted a general improvement with regard to intemperance, but found cause for regret in the yet existing prevalence of this vice. It suggested that more vigorous efforts be put forth on the part of the Church, and to this end recommended that a series of questions be issued by the General Assembly in order to allow of gathering more definite information with regard to intemperance.

On motion of Mr. H. H. Macpherson, M.A., duly seconded, it was resolved,—That the Report be received, thanks tendered to the Committee, and especially to the Convener, that the Report be transmitted to the General Assembly's Committee on the State of Religion for their consideration, and that the Committee be re-appointed.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

A petition was presented on behalf of Mrs. Marples, widow of the late Rev. John Marples, asking that she be aided from some fund of the Church available for such a use. It was decided that the Synod had not power to entertain the petition.

An application was received from the Presbytery of Barrie for leave to admit Wm. Fitzsimmons, B.A., to trial for license. The leave was granted.

An overture from the Presbytery of Barrie for transmission to the General Assembly was next considered. The overture is as follows:—Whereas it is desirable to minimize the charge upon congregations for expenses of the Church Courts, and whereas, it appears from the accounts of the Assembly that there is a large annual expense in the printing and distribution of Assembly Minutes, and whereas, it has been customary to distribute copies of said minutes so as to put them without charge into the hands of all the elders and ministers of the Church who are members of sessions; and whereas, it does not appear necessary to order so large a distribution, it is humbly overtured to the Venerable the General Assembly that one copy only of the minutes of Assembly be supplied to such Synod, Presbytery, and Session of the Church, to become the property of these Courts respectively, and that remaining copies be supplied to parties wishing them, at a price to be fixed by the Assembly, or that the Assembly may adopt such other measures as may in its judgment secure the lessening of its expenses. Mr. R. Moodie, a commissioner from the Presbytery in support of

this overture, waived his right to address the Synod. It was unanimously agreed to transmit the overture.

It was moved by Rev. Mr. Young, seconded by Rev. Mr. Chambers,—That the thanks of the Synod be given to the minister and officers of St. Andrew's Church for the arrangements made to accommodate the Synod, to the Christian friends in the city for their generous hospitality to the members, and to the several railroad companies for their kindness in granting a reduction of fares to members travelling over their respective lines.

The Synod was then closed with devotional exercises, the Moderator leading in prayer. He formally announced that the Synod would next meet in the St. James' Square Church, Toronto, on the second Tuesday of next May, at 7.30 p.m.

THE Baptists of Liverpool, Eng., supply sittings in their churches for some 18,400 persons.

THE Bishop of Manchester recently stated that the British working classes received annually £450,000,000 and spent £100,000,000 in drink and tobacco.

HATS for gentlemen at popular prices. Correct styles ready. Fine silk hats, \$3.25. Coxwell, hatter, 146 Yonge street, four doors north of Temperance street.

REV. DR. DEAN of Bangkok, Siam, writes to the "Baptist Missionary Magazine" of a heathen idol in human form in a temple there, 177 feet long, covered with gold from his crown to his toes, each of which is three feet long. There are hundreds of other temples in that city alone with their mammoth costly images and daily service. Heathen idolatry costs money, which is freely given.

A REFORMER named Makrakis has risen in the Greek Church at Athens, and is just now causing considerable commotion. He disavows the authority of bishops and synods, and rejects the worship of saints and all fasts. The schools which he had opened with his own means have been closed by order of the Government, and several sympathizing clergymen sent to distant monasteries. It is thought the movement has made too much headway for suppression.

### Births, Marriages and Deaths.

NOT EXCEEDING FOUR LINES 25 CENTS.

#### DIED.

In Mount Forest, at 3.50 a.m., on Wednesday, 30th April, Isabella Margaret, eldest daughter of the Rev. John Macmillan, aged 15 years and 6 months.

The Mount Forest "Examiner" refers to the above announcement in the following terms:—"We regret to announce this week the death of Miss Isabella Margaret Macmillan, the eldest daughter of the Rev. John Macmillan, the esteemed pastor of Knox Church, Mount Forest. About two months ago the deceased suffered from a slight attack of rheumatic fever, from which she recovered. Some four weeks ago, however, she was taken ill with the same disease, which attacked the heart at the commencement—a most unusual case—and notwithstanding unremitting care on the part of her family and physicians, she died at an early hour on Wednesday morning last. The disease was singularly painful and trying in its character; but she bore her burden with great patience, and accepting with Christian resignation the fiat of the Supreme Ruler, her spirit passed peacefully to its long home. Though she was but young in years her mind was exceedingly active and apt at study, and gave promise of more than average vigour. She had become a source of much comfort and pleasant companionship to her parents, to whom her loss will prove a sore trial. We give expression to the universal sentiment in tendering them our sincere sympathy in their sad affliction. . . . The funeral on Friday morning last was largely attended—Knox Church being well-filled with an interested and sympathetic congregation. Among those in attendance were the teachers and pupils of the High School, in which the deceased had also been a student. The services were conducted by Rev. Jno. Baikie, of Harriston, assisted by Rev. Messrs. Fraser and Buggin, of this place; Young, of Clifford, and Campbell, of Harriston. Several appropriate pieces of music were given by the choir. Altogether the services were of the most impressive character. The services at the grave were also performed by Rev. Mr. Baikie—a very large concourse being present."

#### MEETINGS OF PRESBYTERY.

PETERBOROUGH.—At Millbrook, on the second Tuesday of July, at 11 o'clock a.m.

HURON.—In Knox Church, Goderich, on the second Tuesday of July, at 11 o'clock a.m.

KINGSTON.—At Picton, on Tuesday, 8th July, at 10 a.m.

STRATFORD.—In St. Andrew's Church, Stratford, on the first Tuesday in July, at 9.30 a.m.

QUEBEC.—In Richmond, on the third Wednesday in July, at 10 a.m.

LINDSAY.—At Woodville, on Tuesday, 27th May, at 11 a.m.

OTTAWA.—The next meeting of this Presbytery is to be in Bank street Church, Ottawa, on Tuesday 5th August.

PARIS.—In Knox Church, Woodstock, on Wednesday the 28th of May at 2 p.m.

TORONTO.—On the first Tuesday of June, at 11 a.m.

HAMILTON.—A special meeting will be held at Beamsville, on Tuesday, June 3rd, at 11 o'clock a.m., to dispose of the case from Georgina and North Gwillimbury, and of the report on the St. Andrew's Church property.

MONTREAL.—In St. Paul's Church, Montreal, on Tuesday, the 8th of July, at 11 a.m.