

GUELPH PRESBYTERY.

This Presbytery met on the 19th March, and was under the moderatorship of Mr. Glassford, the stated Moderator, although able to be present, asking to be relieved from the duties of the chair for the day by reason of the state of his health.

Mr. Mullan reported the progress that had been made by the Committee on Systematic Benevolence. The Committee was instructed to proceed till their report was complete, and then send it on to the Assembly's Committee.

The greater part of the forenoon and part of the afternoon was spent in considering the demission by Mr. Morrow, of his charge of the congregation in Hespeler. Representatives were heard from the Session and congregation; petitions were read from members and adherents, asking that the demission be not accepted. Mr. Morrow declared that he still adhered to his purpose. After a full hearing of all parties interested and careful discussion, it was agreed that the resignation be accepted, to take effect at once. Mr. Strachan was appointed to declare the pulpit vacant on the 24th inst., Mr. Bradley to act as moderator of session during the vacancy, and the Clerk instructed to report the vacancy to the Assembly's Committee on Distribution for its proportion of supply by probationers.

Commissioners to the General Assembly, to meet in Montreal in June next, were appointed as follows:—Messrs. J. J. Monks, Glenallan; J. H. MacVicar, Fergus; J. C. Wilson, Aton; J. D. Edgar, Hawkesville; and W. G. Wilson, St. Andrew's Church, Guelph, ministers; and Messrs. J. Chalmers, Winterbourne; A. Mann, Aton; W. L. Winn, Alma; W. Cram, of Berlin; and John R. Naismith, Preston.

The Committee charged with preparing a programme for the Convention on Union, reported that the Convention had been held according to the programme, extending over the afternoon and evening of the preceding day, and that the following resolution had been carried unanimously: "Express appreciation of the results already obtained, and approval of a continuation of the negotiations in the direction of Union." The consideration of this was postponed till a future occasion.

Mr. J. C. Wilson submitted the report of the Sabbath School Committee, which was received and ordered to be transmitted to the proper quarter. It closed with the following recommendations, which were approved: (1) That in every congregation in which the Sabbath School has been closed for a part of the year, the minister and Sabbath School workers earnestly endeavor to keep the School open during the whole year. (2) That in every congregation the Home Department receive more serious consideration, particularly in schools closed for part of the season.

Dr. Dickson presented a very full report on Church Life and Work, to which the following recommendations were added: (1) That parents and Teachers be instructed to use every means possible to induce the children to attend Church services, as well as the Sabbath School. (2) That Ministers and Sessions take pains to cultivate the mid-week prayer meeting, by making it a delightful spiritual service, which will gather into it the representatives at least of all families of the congregation, (3) That times be set apart for seasons of special prayer for the congregation, by members of the Session, who are charged with the spiritual oversight of the members; and, also, that conferences be occasionally held, touching the best methods to adopt for their furtherance in the Divine Life.

Mr. W. G. Wilson, Convener of the Committee on Young People's Societies, presented and read his report on that department of Church work, which was adopted with this addition, that the Presbytery express the hope that the

efforts of the Presbyterian Union to raise \$250 for the support of the missionary at Banff, will be met with complete success.

Mr. Menzies addressed the Presbytery on French Evangelization, especially on the School at Pointe aux Trembles. His remarks were received with interest wishes for the success of his mission were expressed, and Mr. Mullan and Mr. MacVicar were appointed to co-operate with him while engaged in this district.

On motion of Dr. Dickson, an Overture was adopted and transmitted to the General Assembly, recommending a change in the order that has been followed of forming the Standing Committees of the Church, and the adoption of certain principles for the appointment and guidance of the Nomination Committee, including the following: (1) That no one be on more than one Committee unless there be an urgent necessity. (2) That on each Committee a change of 20 per cent. take place annually, that number retiring in regular rotation. (3) That the roll of each Committee appointed be marked so that those who do not attend be thereby ineligible for continuance on the Committee. Mr. MacVicar and Mr. J. C. Wilson were appointed to support the Overture on the floor of the Supreme Court.

Dr. Middlemiss' death was reported, as having occurred on the 11th inst., and a brief recognition of his scholarship, pulpit ability, usefulness as a pastor, theological attainments and influence in the Courts of the Church from the Session to the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly was adopted and recorded. In the year 1886 the Senate of Knox College recognizing his ability, influence and attainments in conferring upon him the honorary Degree of D.D.

Next meeting was appointed to be held in Chalmers' Church, Guelph, on Tuesday, the 21st May, at 10.30 o'clock, forenoon.

The following appointments for the summer of members of Knox College Students' Missionary Society have been made: To New Ontario—T. A. Symington, Round Lake; A. C. Stewart, Washington; J. McEwen, Southwold; P. F. Gardiner, Brethour; A. C. Cameron, Charlton; R. Duncanson, Katrine; W. A. Cameron, Temagami; G. R. Duncan, Barrie, Island; G. H. Best, Creighton Mine; G. A. McDonald, Goulais Bay; H. A. Bond, Sprague; W. L. Newton, Walford; McLeod, G. T. P.; E. A. Earchman, Markstay. To Alberta—W. Scott, Gladsy; F. C. Overend, Bankhead; A. H. Barker, South Content; W. D. McDonald, Three Hills; D. A. McDonald, Blairmore; J. Richardson, Hardisty; J. H. Martin, Ingleton; G. M. Dix, Athabasca Landing; R. M. Campbell, Belvidere; J. M. Mutch, Pembina. To Saskatchewan and Manitoba—C. McQuesten, G. W. McKay, Long Creek; W. J. Malcolm, Wilcox; A. D. Watson, Manitou Lake; C. A. Mustard, Eagle Lake; P. McLeod, Rose Lea; E. R. McLean, Horse Lake; H. McFarlane, Chering; C. V. McLean, Woody River; W. G. Rose, Foam Lake. The appointment to the one field in British Columbia has not yet been made. The volunteers selected will spend the summer at their respective fields, the theological students leaving in about a month, and those of the arts class about May 24.

In its report of recent anniversary services in Knox church, Midland, conducted by Rev. Dr. Grant, of Orillia, the Free Press says: "Both sermons were delivered with the speaker's old time power and forcefulness. In fact with the advance of years the Dr. appears to be growing in power and influence." The Argus says "Deep interest was manifested in the able discourses presented by Rev. Dr. Grant."

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

Cerebro spinal meningitis is still spreading in Scotland.

There are 20 attending the Gaelic class opened in Rothesay.

The Edinburgh Royal Asylum for the Insane has reached its hundredth year. Black snow has fallen in Christiania and other parts of Norway. The phenomenon is believed to be due to volcanic dust.

From all parts of the Borders numbers of people are setting forth for the colonies, the majority for Canada.

Arbroath folk propose erecting a memorial to the late Rev. Patrick Bell, LL.D., Carnyllie, inventor of the reaping machine.

The Rev. Dr. Blair, Dunblane, has intimated that he will resign his clerkship of the United Free Church at the ensuing General Assembly.

Forty-four divorce cases filed and disposed of and forty-four marriage licenses issued was the record of Denvar for the first nine days of March.

The new Principal of Glasgow University was at a "smoker" with the students on the 20th ult., and he said he was glad his first meeting with them was "in an atmosphere like that."

King Edward has great powers as a linguist. Three languages are, in particular, perfectly familiar to him—his own, of course, and French and German, which to him are almost mother-tongues.

The total consumption of spirits in the United Kingdom during the past year amounted to 39,302,480 proof gallons, as compared with 39,369,766 gallons in the previous year—a decrease of 67,286 gallons.

An Ayrshire minister acknowledges the local weakness for heckling to the extent of inviting his flock to send him written questions which they would like to have answered from the pulpit. He has been busy.

In 1850 Maine had no savings banks, but plenty of saloons. In 1900 she had more than \$66,000,000 on deposit in her savings banks. In population she ranks thirteenth, in savings she ranks seventh.

Broughton Place United Free Church, Edinburgh, have decided to call the Rev. J. M. Black, Forbes, to succeed the late Dr. John Smith. Mr. Black is a younger brother of the Rev. Hugh Black, now in America.

Glasgow University Library contains a very rare volume, namely, the Bible in rhyme, the work of an eccentric old divine named Zachary Boyd. This is in manuscript, and is said to be the only copy of its kind in the world.

Such seasons as are now blessing the continent have not been known in Australia for many years. All through the eastern half of the Commonwealth fine harvests are the order of the day, and vast stretches of country have been like wheat fields with the wealth of grass and herbage they have borne.

A new "prophetess" has arisen in Zion City following the death of Dowie. Mrs. G. L. Coleman, a wealthy member of the community, predicts a terrible calamity if some of Zion's people do not mend their ways. Her forebodings are based on a vision in which she says she was visited by an angel of the Lord.

Dr. James Gale, who has died at the age of 83 years, was well known as the blind scientist, and was playfully dubbed the "gunpowder tamer" by his present Majesty in 1865. Born at Crabtree, near Plymouth, he early developed a taste for science, but at fourteen his sight began to fail, and at seventeen he became totally blind. Yet at thirty he had acquired such degrees as to justify him in setting up in practice in London as a medical electrician. He succeeded in restoring to activity many persons who had lost the power of their limbs, and in this connection received from a patient the princely gift of £50,000.