

Presbytery of Kingston.—Mr. McQuin, Mr. Dickson, and Mr. Troup.

Presbytery of Brockville.—Mr. Lachlan.

Presbytery of Perth.—Mr. J. Y. Cameron, and Mr. Goulay.

Presbytery of Montreal.—Mr. Mackintosh, Mr. Fettes, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Alex. Cameron, Mr. McDiarmid, Mr. Swinton, and Mr. McLaren.

A letter from the Rev. Mr. Bonar, Convener of the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland, was read.

On motion of Mr. Gale, seconded by Dr. Burns, it was agreed that the Presbyteries in which Messrs. Fettes, Quin, James Cameron, Alexander Cameron, Mr. Crawford, and John Fraser, who are supported by the Free Church, have been labouring, be requested to forward to the Convener a report as to the efficiency and usefulness of these missionaries.

On motion, agreed that the several Presbyteries be requested to forward to the Convener of this Committee, full reports of all Home Missionary operations within their bounds, on or before the first day of June, including a statement of all moneys received and expended by them during the past year, for the support of these Missions; and that the Convener be instructed to write immediately to the Clerks of Presbyteries, urging them to attend to this duty.

It was agreed that the Convener be requested to communicate with Presbyteries respecting the suitable provision and comfortable accommodations for the young men employed as Catechists.

It was also, on motion, agreed that instructions to all our Missionaries be drawn up and circulated, under the direction of the Convener, and that the Rev. Mr. Rintoul be requested to draft the same. Adjourned to meet in the Divinity Hall of Knox's College, Toronto, on the third Wednesday of June, at Three o'clock.

Closed with prayer.

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

The Presbytery of Toronto met on the 16th ult., and again, according to adjournment, on the 19th.

The Clerk reported that the following students had been allotted to the Presbytery, by the Home Mission Committee, viz.: Mr. John Ross; Mr. Urc, Mr. Hudson, and Mr. McMillan, until Synod; Mr. Nisbet, Mr. Chesnut, Mr. Smith, Mr. James Black, Mr. Kennedy, and Mr. Kedev.

The Presbytery then proceeded to allocate the supply thus, viz.:

Streetsville.—Mr. Urc.

Acton and Nasagaweya.—Mr. Ross.

Vaughan and Burwick.—Mr. Black.

West Gwillimbury.—Mr. Smith.

King, occasional supply.—Messrs Black and Smith.

Brock and Reach.—Mr. Kennedy.

Tharah and Eldon.—Mr. Elder, Catechist.

Monro.—Mr. Chesnut.

Oakville.—Mr. Nisbet.

Barrie and Innisfil.—

Oro and Orillia.—Mr. McMillan.

Free Temple Church and East Toronto.—Mr. Kelsey.

Trasfalgar.—

A Committee was appointed to draw up a circular urging congregations to contribute to Presbytery's fund, and to pay up arrears for last year. Several members of Presbytery were appointed to visit congregations, and to make arrangements for the accommodations and support of Students employed as catechists for the current year; and to remonstrate with those who have neglected to make the necessary collections for the last year. Some other arrangements for supply were left to the Home Mission Committee of Presbytery.

The next ordinary meeting will be held in the Divinity Hall, Knox's College, Toronto, on the first Wednesday of June.

The meeting was then closed with prayer.

STATISTICAL RETURNS.

The following communication, and the schedule that accompanied it, have been forwarded to us for publication. We concur in the views of the Convener as he has expressed them. On account of the very unsatisfactory state of the returns, the schedule is so incomplete as to fail of accomplishing the end the Synod had in view in calling for them. We therefore decline publishing the schedule at present, and recommend Mr. Gray's letter to the consideration of all concerned. To enable congregations to comply with the injunction of Synod, in regard to answering the queries in the way indicated in the latter part of the letter, we again repeat them, from the *Record* of June, 1848. It is much to be regretted that the resolution of Synod, and the reiterated calls of the Convener of the Committee, have been disregarded. May we not hope that steps will at once be taken for making up and forwarding replies to the queries, so that a complete schedule may be made out, in order that the fullest information may be ready to submit to the Synod. We would also recommend to the Committee, in drawing up another schedule, to insert the name of every settled Congregation and Mission Station, whether they have reported or not; that it may be seen who do not respect the instructions of the Synod.

To the Editor of the *Missionary Record*.

NORVAL, 12th April, 1849.

DEAR SIR,—

I have not considered it necessary to call a meeting of the Synod's Committee on Statistics, for reasons which will appear in the following remarks, consequently I have no authorized report to make, but in the absence of such a report I would wish to offer a few observations on the accompanying schedule of returns from congregations, in answer to the queries issued by order of the Synod in June last.

The first thing that calls for notice is the lateness of the publication of the accompanying schedule. The cause for delay was this: At the meeting of Synod I received sixteen returns from as many congregations, and those sessions which had made no return, were enjoined to do so, and transmit to me, or to the Synod Clerk; but notwithstanding the injunction of the Synod—and although a notice afterwards appeared in the *Record*, calling the attention of ministers to the matter, only two returns have been received since, and one of these but a few days ago—I waited to the last, and at last am compelled to send you a fragment.

The next thing, and that which chiefly demands the serious consideration of every office-bearer in our Church, is the paucity of returns which have been given in. In June last there were forty eight ordained ministers in charge, besides missionaries, and quite a number of organized congregations without a pastor. Only eighteen of these ministers and congregations have complied with the injunction of the Synod, by making statistical reports, as will appear by the schedule.—No one can question the utility of having such returns made up regularly and completely. They will indicate, to a great extent, not only whether a minister is suitably supported, and other financial matters properly attended to, but whether a minister is faithful to his charge, and whether a Church is remiss and backsliding, or is making progress in spiritual things. These matters it is the right and the duty of the Synod to know; but they cannot be known through the neglect of so many, and so the beneficial design of the Synod is almost completely frustrated.

But independently of the importance of the matter, the Synod ordered all Kirk-sessions to furnish these returns, and no matter how unimportant the order may have appeared to any, all were in duty bound to comply with it,—the more trilling an injunction may be, the more clearly and certainly will it be a test of obedience to a constituted authority. It is for ministers to ask themselves how they can conscientiously exercise discipline? how they can expect order and subordination in the minor courts, while they neglect the authority of the supreme judicatory of the Church? And it remains for the Synod to say, whether such a state of things shall continue in a Church, supposed and said to be under Presbyterian Church government.

I would, in conclusion, humbly suggest another mode of conducting the business, which, if approved and adopted will, I think, obviate the difficulties which have hitherto defeated every attempt made to obtain satisfactory information of the state of our congregations. The list of queries will be published again, I suppose, in the next issue of the *Record*. Thus all concerned will be prepared, or may be prepared, before the next meeting of Synod, with the required information for the year just then passed. On the very first day of meeting, let a committee be appointed to receive the returns. One day will be sufficient to arrange these in a clear and concise tabular form, which, with the report of the committee, may be presented on the third day of the session at farthest, for the Synod's consideration.

Thus satisfactory—because complete and timely information would be obtained—needed admonitions and instructions would be given—and a deeper and intelligent interest would be taken by every member in the welfare of the whole body.

P. GRAY,

Convener of Committee on Statistics.

The following are the queries above referred to:—

1. What is the designation of your congregation?
2. How many Church Members in full communion?
3. How many adherents not in Church Fellowship?
4. What is the average Sabbath congregation?
5. How many Elders belonging to the congregation?
6. How many Deacons?
7. How many Diets of Public Worship in the week?
8. How many Prayer Meetings in the congregation?
9. By what numbers are the Prayer Meetings attended?
10. How frequent are your Pastoral Visitations?
11. How many Sabbath Schools connected with the congregation?
12. What are the numbers attending the Sabbath Schools?
13. Have you any Week Day School, and how is it attended and supported?
14. What is the stipend paid to your Minister for the last year closed, and at what date did it close?
15. What is the amount of stipend paid to your Minister since June, 1844?
16. From what sources do you draw the Minister's stipend?
17. What amount did the congregation contribute for Foreign Missions last year?
18. What amount for College Fund?
19. What amount for Bursary Fund?
20. What amount for Home Mission Fund?
21. What amount for Synod and Presbytery Funds?
22. What amounts for your Sabbath School and Libraries?
23. Is your Church free from Debt?
24. By what tenure is your Church Property held?