Howick Council.

The council elect for the township of Howick met on Monday last, 16th inst, in the town hall, Gorrie, pursuant to statute, the clerk presiding. The members took the necessary oaths of office and qualification as follows: Reeve, B. S. Cook, Esq.; First Deputy Reeve, S. Ferguson, Esq.; Second Deputy Reeve, A. Graham, Esq.: Councillors, Messrs. A. Doig and J. J. Gregg. The reeve took the chair.

The minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

Moved by Mr. Graham, seconded by Mr. Gregg, that the council do now go into committee of the whole to regulate salaries and appoint officers, and that Mr. Ferguson take the chair.—Carried.

IN COMMITTEE.

Moved by Mr. Cook, seconded by Mr. Graham, that the clerk's salary be $200 and $30 for postage and stationery; said salary to include all perquisites that are usually accruing to the clerk, such as school rolls, returning officer's fees and all other such perquisites, except registration of births, marriages and deaths, and Board of Health fees, for which he shall be allowed; also voters' list court, if any.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Gregg, seconded by Mr. Doig, that the treasurer's salary be $90; the assessor $135; the collector for east division $62.50, west division $72.50; auditors $8 each and no extras to be paid.—Carried.

On motion the committee rose.

IN COUNCIL

The Reeve resumed the chair and the chairman of the committee reported progress.

Moved by Mr. Graham, seconded by Mr. Doig, that the report of the committee be adopted.—Carried.

Moved Graham, seconded by Mr. Ferguson, that Wm. Dane be clerk, James Perkins treasurer, Geo. Padfield assessor, Robt. Russell caretaker of hall at $10 for the year, and that the appointment of collectors be left over till fall.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Gregg, seconded by Mr. Doig that the Board of Health be composed of Thos. Goggin, W. G. Strong, Wm. Bride along with the reeve and clerk.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Gregg, seconded by Mr. Doig, that Mr. Hepinstall be auditor.—Carried.

The reeve appointed John Evans as auditor.

Moved by Mr. Doig, seconded by Mr. Ferguson, that the Orange Association of North Huron be granted the use of the township hall for their county meeting to be held the first Tuesday in February.—Carried.

Letter read from C. H. Willitts, solicitor for R. Vanstone, Esq., re road allowance on con. B not giving him a proper road to and from his place north and south, and notifying the council that he will take action for damages if not attended to.

Moved by Mr. Graham, seconded by Mr. Gregg, that the letter be laid over for further consideration.—Carried.

Letter read from Mr. John Knox's solicitor claiming $73 damages on account of government drain being stopped up.

Moved by Mr. Ferguson, seconded by Mr. Graham, that the matter be laid over for further consideration.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Graham, seconded by Mr. Gregg, that Mr. Russell, caretaker of the township hall, be handed over the keys on Monday, 23rd inst.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Ferguson, seconded by Mr. Graham, that $40 be paid to Mr. Geo. E. Dane, for damages in full to horse injured by breaking through bridge at lot 17, con. 10-11, Howick.—Carried.

Account of Lewis Bolton, Esq., P. L. S., $12, for surveying on E. E. Day's drain, presented and ordered paid, the award having been laid before the council.

Letter read from Alex. Barron and three others, re drain on the east end of the 9th con., and on motion of Messrs. Doig and Gregg it was laid over for further consideration.

Moved by Mr. Gregg, seconded by Mr. Doig, that Jas. Cattanach be remitted $2 dog tax, dog being killed before court of revision.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Gregg, seconded by Mr. Ferguson, that tenders be handed in before the February meeting for the township printing by the township printers, said tender to contain all printing and advertising required by the council.—Carried.

Accounts passed:

J. T. Wiggins, salary as collector	$62 50
Dr. Tuck, for attendance under Board of Health, disinfectants, placarding, etc.	7 00
T. Nash, bal., printing contract, 1892	35 00

On motion of Messrs. Graham and Gregg the council adjourned to meet at Brown's hotel, Fordwich, on the third Wednesday in February.

W. Dane, Clerk.

Barkwell's Bronchial Balsam will cure any cough, cold, bronchitis or asthma. For sale by N. McLaughlin, druggist, Gorrie.

Have You? What?

Why, paid your subscription to the Gazette for 1893.

Presbyterianism in Wroxeter.

The following interesting sketch of the rise and progress of the Presbyterian church in Wroxeter was given by Thos. Gibson, M. P. P., at the tea-meeting held in the new church on Monday, Jan. 1st.

"The remarks which I am about to make will be mostly of an historical nature and may be somewhat personal, but I will tell only "what I saw, and part of which I was." The traveller, when he reaches the summit of the past, can look back and trace his path; he will observe the windings and the turnings he has made, the spots, it may be rough and rugged, he has left far behind, his feelings must be of a mixed character, pleasant as he recalls the difficulties overcome; sorrowful as he recalls to memory those who started on the journey with him, but who have fallen out by the way. It will be thirty-seven years in the beginning of May, one forenoon as my brother Robert and I were logging a small patch just a little south of Mr. Malloy's house, for potatoes, the only spot out of the 1,200 acres in the immediate vicinity of Wroxeter where we could see the sky, except in the beaver meadow, and when looking through the branches of trees we saw the late John Wyllie, of Turnberry, come into the clearing. He soon told his errand, which was to consult how we could get a supply of gospel ordinances. He belonged to the Cameronians till he left Scotland, where he had to walk fifteen miles to his place of worship. After coming to this country he joined the Secession body. We, too, had been brought up in the Secession church but we felt it was of no use standing up for our particular Shibboleths so we agreed that on canvassing our neighborhood that we should stand by the majority, which we found belonged to the Free Kirk. Mr. Wyllie walked out to Berlin and attended the Presbytery and presented our petition, the prayer of which was granted, and sometime in the harvest of that year a John Rennie came and preached in our log houses for three Sabbaths. We got no more supply all that winter, but the London Presbytery, of the U. P. body, were, by way of Harpurhey, giving supply as far north as Morrisbank, meeting, generally, in the house of Mr. Hamilton, the father of Mrs. Geo. Moffat, to which we went as occasion offered. Seeing no likelihood of further supply from the Free Kirk we applied in the Spring of 1857 to the Presbytery of London. On the 8th of July of that year the Rev. Jno. A. Proudfoot, Clerk of that Presbytery, wrote stating that the Rev. Joseph Scott, afterwards of Chesterfield, would be with us two Sabbaths in August, to be followed at intervals by others. Mr. Rennie, on the 23rd of September, wrote us from Beechville to say that he was sorry that for twelve months we had been without a supply but that he would be with us late in October, that he was going by way of Blyth, where he was to dispense the sacrament and would be with us the Sabbath following. He came accordingly on a Friday afternoon. and shortly afterwards in came Mr. Greig, previously of Mount pleasant, near Brantford, and afterwards of Normanby. The latter said whoever preached on Sabbath he would. Mr. Rennie quietly acquiesced and went off to Mr. Wyllie's the next day. Mr. Rennie was subsequently placed at Ailsa Craig and is now in Algoma. Mr. Greig preached in our house in the forenoon and went east into Howick in the afternoon. He was followed by others, among them a Mr. Balmer, related to Professor Balmer, of the Secession, also minister of that denomination at Berwick upon the Tweed, and who was succeeded in both offices by the late Principal Cairns; Mr. Martin, also, and Mr. Milligan, afterwards of Chatham, in the spring of 1858. We applied for leave to give a call. On the 13th of April, the Rev. Mathew Barr, of Harpurhey, wrote to say that on the 28th of that month he was authorized to preach and preside in the moderation of a call at our place, which took place in conjunction with stations at Morrisbank, Bluevale, and Knox congregation at Ainleyville, in favor of Rev. W. C. Young, who was ordained in the fall of that year and whose first communion was held in the log house about twenty feet west of my present one, of which Mr. Young says in a letter of 24th Dec. last, "Your letter vividly calls to my recollection the first communion we, as a congregation, held in your house. It was one well calculated to solemnize the minds of any christian worshiper, being, as I believe it was, in its simplicity and surroundings, a nearly facsimile of what we could conceive it was when first instituted by our Lord, and observed by his apostles in the different countries and places where they organized churches." I wrote him to see if he had any record of the names, which he has not. It was a small company, possibly, with himself, eleven or twelve in number, of which four still survive. On the 27th of Jan., 1859, the first attempt was made for the erection of a place of worship, which was unsuccessful. The subscription list was signed by twelve persons, two of whom still belong to the congregation. Five dollars was promised in cash and the value of $54.00 more in sawlogs, shingles, sashes and hardware—$59 in all. The matter slept until the 28th of Sept., 1861. A meeting was held in the school house, (that house opposite Dr. Smale's, which, after the brick one was put up was converted into a dwelling house by the late Mr. Stokes) the late Robert McLauchlin, Elder, presiding. A plan and specifications made by Nathaniel Allan were submitted and approved of. A subscription list was opened and $321 subscribed, eight of the number giving $25 each. Of the nineteen whose names appeared on the list, seven survive. The list was further added to so as to make up $417. A contract was subsequently made with Mr. Allan to put up and plaster the building, 45x35 feet, for $600 which was erected in 1862. In the end of November of that year another contract was let to put in seats and pulpit for $144. The church when finished cost in all, with fittings, $830. At the invitation of Mr. Dickson, M. P., of Huron and Bruce at that time, the Wroxeter choir went out to Harpurhey and gave a concert in Knox's Hall in aid of the building fund, realizing $38.89 net; $95 more was realized at the opening and $200 was borrowed to complete payment. The church was opened on Feb. 1st, 1863, Mr. Young taking for his text, Psalms, 132 14. Rev. Mr. Irving, then of Ayr, assisted in the service, his text being Haggai, 2-7. The soiree was held on Tuesday, the 3rd, the speakers being Mr. Jackson, of the New Connection Methodists, Gorrie; Mr. Fowler, of Ainleyville; Mr. Barr, Harpurhey, and Mr. Irving. Mr. Young occupied the chair. It was computed that over one hundred went away, not being able to gain admission. On the 10th of June, 1862, a meeting was held, called by Mr. Young, of the elders and managers of all the stations at Mr. Wright's Corners for the purpose of taking the necessary steps to have another minister brought into the field. John Wylie, Elder, in the chair; Wm. Grant, postmaster of Ainleyville, Secretary. It was resolved that a petition to that effect should be sent to the Presbytery of Huron, (the U. P. and the Free Kirk having been united in 1861) and also that Bluevale and Wroxeter should continue together. The Presbytery decided that Ainleyville and Wroxeter should, so that Bluevale was set apart at that time along with Eadie's station, which still continues. The arrangement then made in Mr. Young,s charge continued until the 13th of August, 1865, when Mr. Ferguson, of Mellville church, Ainleyville, preached Wroxeter vacant, taking for his text Heb. 3 12. We received very little aid from the Home Mission Fund, at least during Mr. Young's time; if we did it would only be once. The Augmentation fund was not thought of in those days, the former standing for both. It is sometimes gratifying to have it to say that we received so little aid from either which are eleemosynary in their nature and like the most of such aids it is a question whether the good or ill predominates. Mr. Stewart spoke very disparagingly of the old church in which for thirty years we worshipped. It is in the recollection of several of us when it had even a more squalid look than now, when the painter's brush had not touched its outside and very little of its inside. We were contributing to these funds while a congregation not one hundred miles distant was being aided to the extent of $100 yearly and could expend more than that on painted windows. Possibly our Presbyteries would be the better of a few politicians to look after these matters. It will be said that such a case is the exception and is an abuse of the fund. It is only fair to say that the instance referred to did not happen in the jurisdiction of any present. The vacancy continued until the 25th of April, 1866, when the late Rev. Geo. Brown was inducted. The Rev. Matthew Barr presided and preached from 1 Cor. 1 23-24. The stipend promised was $500; Wroxeter contributing $450 and Fordwich, which at the time joined as a station, giving $80. In a short time the minimum salary was voluntarily reached, Fordwich giving ⅓ of that amount. A manse was built at Wroxeter in the latter part of 1868 at a cost of about $700, and which about six or seven years ago was renovated at a cost of as much more. Shortely after the manse was built the church was lengthened by about 20 feet, all of which was paid for some time ago, and that brings us down to modern times. This building speaks for itself. There were many meetings and discussions, many pros and cons to settle before the contract was let. The congregation is greatly indebted to the energetic and indefatiguable labors of the committee. It is very easy to find fault, to be wise after the event, to be critical with a possible spice of envy mixed with it, but they deserve the best thanks of us for their painstaking and conscientious labors. If we look back along the centuries we see that mankind has striven to erect edifices of a fitting character in which to worship. Dr. Cavan told us that Solomon's Temple was one of the most splendid ever built and for its size one of the most costly. The Hebrew exiles when they returned from the captivity to re-build it lifted up their voices and wept because its glory was not equal to that of the first. The Shecinah was not there, the ark nor the mercy-seat. With us the case is different so far as our surroundings are concerned, but the associations are wanting; the new house may never be to some of us what the old one has been. There is, as the poet says, a magic and a power in the ruined battlement for which the palace of the hour must wait till ages are its dower. There are associations which only time can give and without doubt time will give this building in the future. Our Covenanting and Puritan forefathers had an idea that a place of worship should be only somewhat better than a barn, but that idea has passed away. There is a fitness in religion as in everything else. When every one lived in log houses the building up on the hill, now desolate, was up to the times; now that a better class of houses prevail it is in keeping that our churches should be improved. Haggai, when stimulating his countrymen to re-build the temple, said: "Is it time for you, oh, ye! to dwell in ceiled houses and this house lie waste?" contains a sentiment applicable to all time. It is possible that on both sides of the Atlantic the other extreme is at present reached of grand, splendid churches and big debts. When I was within ten miles of home when in Scotland a year ago I remarked to the only other passenger in the railway compartment that Earlston was getting a grand church. He answered, I was just saying the same to an old farmer a short time ago and he indignantly replied "If we carry on as we are doing we will soon be back to where we were hundreds of years ago." I don't think any of us will have such a feeling about ours. To conclude, let us ever remember that the building is but a shell; true worship does not consist merely in rites or ceremonies, pomp or splendor; they that worship aright must worship in spirit and in truth, with the homage of the heart, with gratitude for mercies granted, sorrow for mistakes and sins committed, with a sincere desire to glorify Him in whose hand our breath is and who knows all our ways. I may say that including yesterday's offering there has been contributed in the way of money, not taking into account gratis labor in drawing material and excavation, $2,115, with two instalments on a subscription list of $4.000 to be paid when due. That peace and prosperity may ever remain within these walls is, I am sure, the desire of all, and I close by wishing you one and all a Happy New Year.

Dulmage,

1893 IS HERE TO STAY! The thermometer readings it is giving shows us that. Some long-haired individual predicted 1893 as an eventful year. The sum of the figures is 21, or three 7s, hence something will happen. Our hard freeze will count one. There was a man in the north part of the township who lied about the weather a few days ago. It has been cold, no doubt, and some hard records have been broken, but this individual stated that one day last Week in Toronto it was 100° below zero, that a train had frozen to the track from the water escaping from the tender, that pedestrians froze stiff on the streets and were stood up against the buildings like mummies.

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