

against the Rev. John Home submitted their report, giving an account of their visit to St Stephen and embodying evidence taken in committee. The Clerk also reported that he had notified Mr. Home of this meeting, and asked him to submit a written defence as he had stated his intention of doing; and also to submit the names of any witnesses he wished to call in order that they might be duly cited. No reply to these communications had been received from Mr. Home. On motion, and after lengthened conference upon the subject in all its bearings, it was unanimously agreed "That in view of the information furnished in the Report of the Committee the Presbytery deem it inexpedient to further employ the Rev. John Home as a laborer, under the direction of this Presbytery." The Clerk was instructed to notify Mr. Home of this decision, and the Rev James Bennet was appointed to supply Woodstock and Richmond on Sabbath first. Mr. K. McKay was appointed to supply Mr. Bennet's pulpit on that day; and after next Sabbath to preach at St. Stephen until further notice. The Presbytery then adjourned and the meeting was closed with prayer.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTATION APPOINTED TO VISIT SALMON RIVER CONGREGATION.

The visitation of the Salmon River congregation was held on the evening of Wednesday, the 15th of August last. Your deputies were highly gratified to meet with such a large congregation on the occasion, the building being comfortably filled. After divine service the representatives of the congregation were asked to stand forward when the following presented themselves:—

Pastor—the Rev. James Salmon, M. D.
Ruling Elders—William Stewart, senr., and William Fowler.

Trustees—John Goldfinch, James Baird, A. J. Mersereau, N. Callaghan, Thomas Christy, John Fraser, and William Fowler.

The answers of the pastor to the questions of the formula were in general very satisfactory.

The Ruling Elders who were present answered the questions put to them not as fully as the Presbytery desires, but in such a spirit as left on the minds of the deputies a strong conviction that they feel their responsibility as office bearers and endeavour so far as they know to overtake their duties. The most obvious neglect was the failure to attend the higher church courts when appointed to do so.

Of the responses made by the Session such as deserve special notice are appended. Sabbath-school instruction is not strictly speaking under the surveillance of the Session. Contributions to the schemes of the

Church were reported as follows:—Foreign Mission \$23.12; Supplement Fund \$5.63; in all \$43.86. As to the state of religion the Session believe that there is an increase of spirituality; where the heads of households are members, family worship is almost universally observed, and in some cases where they are not members, and in general the young, are trained in the Catechisms, the membership are pure in their conduct, and a large proportion of the membership show activity in church work; none of the young have joined the church for the last two years, but the parents have spoken to the pastor in some cases about their sons and daughters joining, and some of the latter have been spoken to in private by the pastor, and at least one other member of Session; sixty were present at last communion; members absenting themselves from the Lord's Supper are always required to give a reason for their absence; 33 copies of the *Record* are taken, there being 61 contributing families, with some 8 that do not contribute but claim connexion.

The managers reported that \$300 annually had been promised their pastor, and there are practically no arrears. In some instances the people pay according to their means and very promptly, in some, neither the one nor the other. They believe that the congregation could pay \$500 per annum to the pastor, and not be burdened in any way. The salary is raised by subscription list, which is renewed at intervals of several years. Two pay as high as \$20 per annum, two \$16, and probably not less than five others, \$10 each. In some instances young people contribute as well as heads of families. They met three or four times in the year; the financial year ends nominally at the 1st April, but really at the 1st of September.

Your deputies then addressed all present on the state of things thus elicited. They advised the pastor to try the old-fashioned but exceedingly effective practice of catechetical diets in the several districts of the charge, and the Session as such to pay particular attention to Sabbath Schools and Prayer Meetings, each member being urged to have a district or cottage meeting in his own district. The duty and privilege of more liberal and more systematic giving to the support of the gospel was earnestly and affectionately enforced, attention being called to the fact that the contribution reported as given to the schemes of the Church did not nearly average a dollar per family per annum. In the latter item another anomaly was pointed out, that is that 9 of the 61 contributing families give \$122, more than a third of the whole, or to be more accurate, over six-fifths of the aggregate amount, leaving the remaining 52 to raise but \$178, or less than 3½ of an overage per family.