

Burgess and E. Grant—appeared before the Presbytery with their trials for license. Their exercises were heard and cordially sustained, and they were licensed to preach the everlasting gospel. Reports of Probationers were received and the necessary appointments made.

The Mahone Bay section of Rev. W. Duff's congregation was disjoined from Lunenburg and erected into a separate charge. Papers from Clyde River and Barrington, asking for an increased supplement to that congregation, were *simpliciter* referred to the Synod's Committee on supplements.

The Presbytery adjourned to meet in Prince Street Church, Pictou, on Tuesday, the 22nd of June, at 3 P. M.

### Presbytery of Victoria and Richmond.

This Presbytery met since their return from the meeting of Synod on nine different occasions. Six of the meetings held were principally for Presbyterial visitation, and the Presbytery were glad to observe, that with regard to the duty of attending the means of grace, as well as the attention given to the Word on the occasion of public worship, the interest in all the congregations visited, as appeared from statements of Sessions, continues to be encouraging—inducing the hope that the good seed sown shall yet yield in many instances abundant, precious fruit.

They were gratified too to find, that although the distress and poverty which were felt by most of the congregations during the spring and summer of the past year had seriously interfered with some in the payment of stipend, yet one congregation, that of Middle River and Lake Ainslie, shows a marked improvement in the spirit of liberality towards its minister. This may be easily accounted for by the fact that the people exerted themselves in the matter more than they had ever done before.

The congregation of Whycomah, which has happily enjoyed for the past year the valuable services of Rev. Murdoch Stewart, as Pastor, was visited on the 3rd March, and from information then gathered, the Presbytery were pleased to minute in reference to that worthy servant of Christ, the following statements, viz.: "The Presbytery were gratified to find that notwithstanding the disadvantage under which Mr. Stewart, by the delicate state of his health, was placed at his settlement here, yet he has been enabled not only faithfully to preach the gospel from Sabbath to Sabbath but has been in all his other extensive pastoral duties also most indefatigable."

The Presbytery are happy to see that the congregation value its privileges and

trust this will continue to be manifested not only in its readiness to acknowledge as at present the worth of these, but demonstrate from time to time its sincerity by satisfactory yearly returns.

Both sections of Baddeck congregation were visited on the 12th of January last. In respect to these, in a religious and moral aspect, it may be said they are on the whole encouraging, but in the payment of stipend it is to be regretted that there was last year a large deficiency. This, in a great measure may be attributed to the "distress" which from time to time prevailed, but from the sympathy shown, and praiseworthy efforts put forth by the congregation to remedy this state of things, there is good ground to hope these efforts will not prove altogether fruitless.

The congregations of Mabou and Plaister Cove have not yet been visited. The former of these, however, the Presbytery appointed to visit next week, and from the satisfactory yearly return lately transmitted to the clerk of Presbytery, it may be anticipated that this congregation, in proportion to its numbers, will be prepared as usual to give a satisfactory account of itself.

In reference to Plaister Cove and River Dennis, the two main sections of Rev. Mr. Forbes's charge, which are twenty miles apart, it may be affirmed, though that zealous and devoted minister's constitution and health were vigorous, as in days of yore, the fatigue and disadvantage of having so far to travel were enough to tire both to the utmost; but when, in addition to this, as may be seen from the statistical return of last year as well as previous years, the salary paid by the congregation is utterly inadequate,—Mr. Forbes, in impaired health, induced very much by his earnestness and unsparing exertions to fulfil the duties which for many years, in a very trying sphere, he has faithfully performed, is entitled to no small measure of the sympathy of our church. His congregation it is true, some of them according to their means amongst the most liberal in our church, sustained in the burning of its church very serious loss, and the resources of both sections have been for a few years past no doubt taxed heavily in the effort to make their new churches fit as a place of worship, but this shows all the more convincingly the minister's claims to sympathy and support.

There are one vacant charge, West Bay, and four preaching stations within the bounds of this Presbytery, viz.: Little Narrows, Malagawatch, West St. Peter's, and Margaree, all of which the Presbytery would like to supply, but owing to the fewness of their number, the difficulty of travelling such distances at the seasons when they could be more easily spared from their own charges, they are able to give