

## PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

This Presbytery met on the 31st October and the 1st of November, and was attended by fifteen ministers and two elders. Several brethren from other Presbyteries were also present. A considerable amount of business was before the court. The following is a summary of the principal items:—

The report of committee appointed to visit Brock and Roach was given in; whereupon it was on motion agreed, that the report be received; that Dr. Burns and Mr. McTavish be appointed to dispense the Communion there on the third Sabbath of January; record the intention of the Presbytery to comply, as far as possible, with the request of the congregations, as indicated in the report; and that Dr. Burns, (Convener,) Messrs. McTavish, Gray and Laing, be a committee to inquire into the pecuniary difficulty.

Mr. Laing gave in report of Committee on Schemes of Missionary Meetings, which, with some modifications, was received and adopted. The same committee was instructed to prepare a brief statement of our Home Mission operations within the Presbytery, and also of receipts and expenditure of moneys for the present year.

A circular was read from the clerk of Hamilton Presbytery, intimating that that Presbytery had obtained satisfactory evidence of the good character and standing of the Rev. Thomas G. Hodgkins, a minister from the Presbyterian Church of the United States, Old School; and being fully satisfied with his views in wishing to connect himself with this Church, and having heard him preach, had resolved to apply to the Synod for leave to receive him as a minister of the Church.

The Presbytery agreed to approve of Mr. Hodgkins' admission, so far as his character and qualifications are known to them.

The Rev. William McKee and Rev. James Hume, ordained ministers, designated as missionaries to Canada, presented satisfactory testimonials, and were received as ordained missionaries of this Church.

Dr. Burns made a statement to the effect, that in consequence of certain proceedings, in the matter of receiving objections to two of the elders-elect in his congregation, viz:—Messrs. G. A. Pyper, and J. M. Campbell, both of his elders, viz:—Messrs. J. McMurrich and J. Shaw had given in their resignation, and therefore that now he had no session. He therefore requested the Presbytery to appoint assessors to form a session until elders may be ordained, or appoint a Presbyterial visitation of his congregation.

There were produced and read an unfinished scroll minute of session on the case; also a paper containing reasons of Messrs. McMurrich and Shaw's resignation. After some conversation it was ruled, that as the resignation of Messrs. McMurrich and Shaw had not been accepted, Mr. McMurrich, who was present, be recognised as a member of Presbytery.

Dr. Burns and Mr. McMurrich were heard on this case. On the call of the Presbytery, Dr. Burns laid upon the table the foresaid papers, which were ordered to be kept in *retentis*.

Whereupon, after deliberation, it was moved by Mr. Gray, seconded by Mr. McLachlan, and unanimously agreed to, as follows:—

The Presbytery having taken the matter into consideration, and having found that an unhappy state of feeling exists between the office-bearers of Knox's congregation, resolve to appoint a Presbyterial visitation, for the purpose of fully investigating the matters referred to in the documents submitted to this court, and do therefore appoint a meeting of Presbytery for that purpose, to be held in Knox's Church, Toronto, on the first Wednesday of December, at six o'clock, p. m., due notice of such meeting being given for two Sabbaths from the pulpit of Knox's Church—the Moderator to preach at the opening of the

meeting—the Presbytery to meet the same day at eleven o'clock, for general business.

The Whitty case was resumed. Mr. Laing gave in report of his visit, in terms of his appointment.

Mr. Findlay being asked to state his mind, indicated his conviction, that he could not expect to be comfortable in his present position, but left the matter in the hands of the Presbytery. After due deliberation, it was moved by Mr. McLachlan, seconded by Mr. Meldrum.

That the Presbytery having received the report on the Whitty case, considered fully the circumstances, and deeming it most for edification to the Church, as well as tending to the comfort and usefulness of Mr. Findlay, accept his resignation, and appoint Mr. Wightman to preach at Whitty, on Sabbath, the 4th of November, and declare the congregation vacant.—At the same time declare it strictly according to Presbyterian order, for the Presbytery in special cases to send a member to preside at congregational meetings for ecclesiastical purposes, in room of moderator of session.

Dr. Burns begged it to be noticed, that although he would not oppose the above resolution, (as to the accepting of Mr. Findlay's resignation,) still he could not concur therein.

Mr. Gray submitted a revised scheme of Presbyterial visitations, whereupon it was agreed to approve of the report generally, and resolve to act on its recommendation in the meantime, in so far as the Presbytery in each particular instance may see fit.

Mr. McKee was appointed to supply Cooke's Church, Toronto, two Sabbaths; Mr. Geikie to supply Markham two Sabbaths. Mr. Findlay was appointed to supply Brock and Reach, during the month of November; Boston and Milton the first and second Sabbaths of December, and Caledon East and Mono on the remaining Sabbaths of December.

It was agreed that Caledon West, Ern, and Nottawasaga, be supplied, partially at least, by members of Presbytery, their pulpits being supplied by students.

T. WIGHTMAN, Pres. Clerk.

## HOME MISSION COMMITTEE.

The Committee met at Toronto on the 31st day of October. Present—Rev. W. Reid, Convener, Rev. T. Lowry, Rev. Dr. Burns, Rev. D. McLeod, Rev. W. Gregg, Rev. J. Scott, Rev. W. King, Rev. J. Ross, Rev. R. Irvine, Rev. D. McKuar, Ministers; and Mr. W. Begg, Elder.

The list of Preachers, on the list having been adjusted, and several communications from Presbyteries in regard to their claims having been heard, the Committee made the following distribution of Missionaries, viz:—

1. To the Presbytery of Montreal—Rev. Messrs. Grant, McMeekin, Tait, and Mr. Crawford after the month of January.

2. To the Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa—Rev. Messrs. Melville and McKee.

3. To the Presbytery of Kingston—Rev. Mr. Hume.

4. To the Presbytery of Cobourg—The Rev. Mr. Beattie.

4. To the Presbytery of Toronto—Rev. Mr. Geikie,—Rev. P. Craigie, for three months after his arrival—Rev. P. Currie, three months after 1st February—Rev. Mr. Findlay, until 1st January, and Rev. Mr. Troup, for two months after 1st March.

6. To the Presbytery of Hamilton—Rev. Messrs. Middlemiss and Hodgkins, Rev. P. Currie, until 1st February—Rev. Mr. Craigie, for three months after 1st February, and Rev. Mr. Findlay, for two months after 1st January.

7. To the Presbytery of London—Rev. Messrs. Rennie and Gould—Rev. Mr. Troup, for four months—Rev. Mr. Crawford, for three months—

Mr. Milloy—Rev. J. Findlay, for two months after 1st March.

The Convener called the attention of the Committee to the subject of the Red River Mission. After a lengthened conversation on the subject, it was deferred until another meeting, the Convener being instructed to correspond with Rev. John Black.

## MEETING OF BUILDING COMMITTEE OF KNOX'S COLLEGE.

The Building Committee met in Knox's Church, on Thursday, 1st November, on the call of the Moderator of Synod; present, the Moderator, Rev. Dr. Burns, Rev. Professor Young, Rev. R. Irvine, Rev. D. McLeod, Rev. W. Reid, Messrs. Spreull, Clark, Begg, Lutz, and Wilson, together with several other members of Synod.

The meeting having been opened with prayer, the moderator explained the circumstances which had led him to call the Committee together.—The Committee unanimously approved of what Mr. Lowry had done, and requested him to act as Convener until next meeting of Synod.—Several communications with reference to the deeding of the College property, were read.—S. Spreull brought forward the following Scheme with the view of its being discussed, and opinions elicited on the subject:—

## SCHEME PROPOSED FOR THE HOLDING AND MANAGEMENT OF KNOX'S COLLEGE PROPERTY.

The Deed to be in three Trustees to hold the property of Knox's College, Toronto, for the training of young men for the ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

Subject to twenty managers lay members of the Church, five to be quorum, who shall have the entire management of the Property, Buildings, Endowment, and generally of all Funds for behoof of the Institution.

These twenty managers to be elected by members of the Church at any meeting of the Congregations, at least eight days notice of meeting be given; and lists thereof made to the Trustees between 1st January, and 1st May.

The Trustees or parties appointed by them shall scrutinize the lists—and the twenty having the greatest number of votes shall serve as managers one year from 1st June.

Cases of equality of votes to be decided by ballot. Vacancies by declining to act, deaths, or resignations, to be replaced by the parties in rotation having next highest number of votes.

All eligible for re-election, and Trustees eligible for managers;—managers may make By-Laws for their own regulation and guidance, which shall only be altered within the year by a larger number than present when made.

Managers may appoint a Treasurer and Secretary. Any Congregations not making Returns, shall not invalidate the election.

The Synod to have the entire power in any manner they choose to make all rules (Session or by Committee) for internal management and discipline, and Professors, Committee or Students, shall not be under any control of managers.

Reports to be made periodically to the Synod and the Congregations.

If thought desirable, clauses allowing change of name, amalgamation with other bodies, and in case of disruption, an equitable division, by sale, donation or otherwise.

(The number twenty might perhaps be increased—say twenty-five or thirty; a larger number than this would be cumbersome, but the quorum should be small for every day work—with the extending ease in communications by rail, &c., the fear of centralization will be done away.)

After lengthened discussion, it was moved and