

The Presbytery having resumed the consideration of Mr. Chesnut's tendered resignation of Madoc charge, Mr. Gregg reported that, in accordance with Presbyterial appointment, he had visited Madoc and conferred with the congregation there, and that regulations had been adopted, having for their object the placing of financial matters on a better footing. Mr. Chesnut stated that, having found an improvement in these matters, and hoping for still better improvement, he was willing to withdraw his resignation, to which the Presbytery gladly consented.

The Presbytery adjourned to meet on the 10th May, when Mr. Chambers submitted his various trial pieces which were sustained, and he was examined on the prescribed subjects. His ordination was appointed to take place on the 23rd.

An extract from the minutes of the Presbytery of Hamilton was read to the effect that, a call from the congregation of St. Catharines, had been given to Rev. Robert F. Burns, Chalmers' Church, Kingston, and duly sustained. The call was laid on the table, and then placed in the hands of Mr. Burns. The Presbytery appointed Mr. Wilson to preach in Chalmers' Church, on next Sabbath, and to summon the congregation to appear by delegates for their interest before the Presbytery at a future meeting—the time of meeting to be fixed on the 23rd inst.

Mr. Gregg was appointed to dispense the sacrament of the Lord's Supper in Roslin.

WILLIAM GREGG, *Pres. Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF BROCKVILLE.

An adjourned meeting of this Presbytery was held in Brockville on the fourth ultimo. The Presbytery was principally occupied with matters relating to the missionary stations within the bounds; the vacant charges at Spencerville, and its connected portions, and Yonge and its adjuncts, requiring the particular attention of the Presbytery. Several Reports were given in to the Presbytery, in reference to appointments made at last meeting, and also regarding the sphere of labour assigned to the ordained missionary, Mr. Troup, and Mr. A. McDonald, catechist, who had been assigned to this Presbytery by the Home Mission Committee. Mr. Troup had been stationed in the meantime at Spencerville, and the other parts of the charge. Mr. McDonald had been stationed at Westport, and its allied stations, till further arrangements may be expedient.

Mr. McMurray was requested to take charge of Yonge Congregation and its branches (now destitute of gospel ordinances by the removal of Mr. Smart to a distant part of the Province) till next meeting, and give what services he could conveniently afford, and endeavour to get matters put into shape, so that either a missionary or fixed pastor may be appointed to the locality as soon as possible. Mr. Troup was appointed Moderator of the Session, at Spencerville, *pro tem.*

The Clerk was instructed to forward statistics relating to the missionary operations of the Presbytery, to the Convener of the Home Mission Committee, and also to remind the congregations at Spencerville—the Log and Front Churches—of the necessity of regularly contributing to the fund, for the payment of the Presbytery's missionaries.

Mr. Macdowall was allowed leave of absence from his congregation for a time, having stated to the Presbytery that the health of his family would compel him to visit his native land (Ireland) and remain there for some months. The Rev. James Cloland, a Presbyterian minister lately from Ireland, and in good ministerial standing, was accepted by the Presbytery to officiate for Mr. Macdowall in his absence. The Presbytery expressed its sympathy with their brother in the afflictions of his family.

JOHN McMURRAY, *Pres. Clerk.*

REPORT OF HOME MISSION COMMITTEE,

For the year ending 31st May, 1855

The Home Mission Committee, in submitting a brief statement of their work for the past year, desire to feel deeply grateful to the great Head of the Church for the measure of success vouchsafed to the Missionary operations of the Church, while they cannot but feel, at the same time, deeply concerned and pained on account of the great disproportion still existing between the spiritual destitution prevailing in many parts of the land, and the supply which your Committee have been enabled to afford. "The harvest is truly plenteous, but the labourers are few." Vast tracts of land are being rapidly settled, and other tracts are being prepared for settlement, but, alas! comparatively few under-shepherds can be found to go and look after the sheep in the wilderness. May the great Shepherd of the sheep dispose and qualify many to say, "here am I; send me." May we all, as professed stewards of the Lord, and labourers in his vineyard, feel more closely identified with his cause and work, and he led to be more faithful and zealous ourselves, and, at the same time, more alive to the importance of looking out pious and promising young men, who may, by God's blessing, be prepared to take part with us in the ministry.

The principal object of this Report will be to present a brief view of the extent of the field, and the measure in which we have been enabled to occupy it; and this may be best done by proceeding in order from Presbytery to Presbytery, and giving an abstract of the interesting Reports, which have been drawn out with no little care by the several Presbytery Clerks, or the Conveners of the Home Mission Committees.

We shall commence in the East with the

1. Presbytery of Montreal.

In this Presbytery there have been four pastoral settlements during the year, while two vacancies have occurred by translation; the minister in one of the instances, however, being removed from one congregation to another within the bounds of the Presbytery.

There are six vacant charges, viz: St. Gabriel street, Montreal; Marumtown and Williams-town; Inverness; Langwick; Vankieekhill; La-guerre and Dundee.

Besides these there are six stations, or groups of stations, viz: Farnham, Chateaugay Basin, St. Sylvester, Port Neuf, Longueil, Greyville, and Harrington.

Gaelic would be required at three of the above named pastoral charges and one station. It is not very easy to estimate the number of members and adherents; but the following may be an approximation, viz:—

Number connected with the vacant con-	
gregations	1,650
Number at stations	750
	—
	2,400

Some supply has been given to all the vacant charges, and to three of the stations. At present, five Missionaries are employed within the bounds of the Presbytery, viz:—Rev. Mr. Crombie, Messrs. Currie, Young, McDiarmid, and Scarth.

2. Presbytery of Perth.

Two settlements have taken place within the bounds of this Presbytery, viz:—at Dalhousie and Bristol. Two congregations have been organized—one in North Gower, and one in Cumberland. Elders have been appointed, and there is a strong probability that very soon they will be in a position to call and support ministers.

One new station has been opened, viz:—in Mansfield; but one is about to be opened in the important city of Ottawa, where there is room for missionary effort, and the likelihood that before long there may be two vigorous and well-sustained congregations. The Presbytery has had

comparatively little assistance from missionary labourers during great part of the past year; but the ministers of the Presbytery have endeavored to make up in some measure the deficiency, by devoting several Sabbaths, as well as week days, to the missionary work within their bounds. The settlements which have recently taken place, relieve the Presbytery in the meantime to a considerable extent; but the important country through which the Ottawa flows is being opened extensively for settlement on the same system which has been pursued in the western parts of Canada, and no doubt multitudes of settlers will be soon attracted to this important section of country. While then, on the one hand, the number of settled pastors has been increasing, the missionary field in this Presbytery is widening also.

In this Presbytery there are at present employed two students as missionaries, viz:—Messrs. Straith and Duncan.

3. Presbytery of Brockville.

In this Presbytery one pastoral charge has been left vacant by the resignation of Rev. J. Geggie, now settled in Dalhousie, within the bounds of the Presbytery of Perth.

The efficient agency within this Presbytery has also been diminished, by the removal of Rev. W. Smart, the father of the Presbytery, and indeed, it may be said, of the Presbyterian Church.

There are within the bounds of the Presbytery, including the stations formerly occupied by Mr. Geggie and those supplied by Mr. Smart, five stations or groups of stations, viz:—

Yonge, embracing 3 separate stations.	
Westport, " 4 " "	
Charleston, " 4 " "	
Bellamyville " 3 " "	
Spencerville, " 3 " "	

During the past winter, Rev. T. Chambers was labouring within the bounds of this Presbytery; and there are now in the field two labourers, viz, Rev. W. Troup and Mr. McDonald, student. With this measure of assistance, however, the stations are not by any means fully supplied.

4. Presbytery of Kingston.

One settlement has taken place within the bounds of the Presbytery, viz:—Pitcon—which has been filled up by the recent induction of Mr. Thomas Chambers, lately of Knox's College.

The united congregations of Melrose and Roslin are still vacant. These congregations, for some time rather languishing, are now rallying, and present a large, important, and inviting field of labour for a devoted minister.

There are two mission stations, viz:—Storring-ton and Ballinacinch—at both of which places there are substantial churches erected. In connexion with these there is the prospect of opening another station at Sydenham, a village sixteen miles from Kingston.

The supply of missionary labour has been somewhat limited for this Presbytery during the year. There were, however, at present, two labourers appointed at the late meeting of the H. M. C., viz:—Rev. Mr. McCaughey and Mr. Thom, student.

5. Presbytery of Colourg.

Within the bounds of this Presbytery there have been two pastoral settlements during the year, viz:—Rev. W. Blain, at North Cavan, formerly under the pastoral charge of Rev. J. M. Roger, and Rev. Mr. Bowie, at Norwood, which, with the connected stations, had been left vacant by the demission of the Rev. D. M. McAleese.

There is properly only one vacant congregation within the bounds, viz:—Trenton and Murray—at which places there is the prospect of a large and prosperous congregation. The Rev. Mr. Thompson, who was sent out as missionary to the Presbytery, has been labouring here for the last six months with success. He has received a cordial call, and in all probability will soon be settled as pastor.