

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

On the third day of April a large number of the members and adherents of the congregation of Mosa met in the church and sent for their pastor and his wife. On their arrival Mr. Donald McVicar, teacher, was appointed chairman. An address was read by Mr. Arch. McAlpine in the name of the congregation, expressing their kindly feelings and offering the present of a beautiful covered buggy and set of harness to Mr. McKinnon, and a well-filled purse to Mrs. McKinnon. The buggy was delivered by Mr. Arch. Munro, and the purse was handed over by Miss Jessie Munro. The address, beautifully written, was set in frame. Mr. McKinnon made a suitable reply for himself and his partner. He stated that these were not the only special tokens of kindness which he had received from the congregation. He appreciated the address and the valuable presents as tokens of the people's love and esteem, and as tokens of God's goodness to him and his, and he hoped that he would be long spared to use this buggy with its beautiful cover, a shade from the sun, and a shelter from the rain, in carrying on his ministry among them. Several others made short speeches. A committee distributed refreshments, and a pleasant hour was spent. Mr. Lewis and a choir of pupils whom he had been training during the winter, interspersed the proceedings with music. The meeting was closed with prayer and the benediction.

PRESBYTERY OF PETERBORO'.—This Presbytery met at Guelph on the 2nd of May. A letter was read from Mr. Craigie under call to Bobcaygeon and Dunsford, declaring his acceptance of the call. Messrs. Torrance, Carmichael and Bennett were appointed a committee to prescribe pieces of trial to Mr. Craigie prior to his ordination. It was agreed that the ordination of Mr. Craigie take place in Bobcaygeon, on Wednesday, the 23rd of May, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Mr. Ewing was appointed to preside, Mr. Bennett to preach, Mr. Clark to address the minister, and Mr. Bell the people. It was agreed to hear the trial discourses at a meeting of Presbytery to be held at Peterboro' on the previous day. On reconsideration the date of the next ordinary meeting of Presbytery was changed from the 26th of June, to the 3rd of July at 7 o'clock p.m. Presbytery agreed to take Mr. William Robertson on trial for license at the meeting in Norwood on the 3rd of July. The names of Messrs. Duncan and Cameron, ministers, and Dr. Taylor, elder, were added to the Committee on Visitation Meetings of Presbytery, of which Mr. Beattie is convener.—WM. BENNETT, *Pres. Clerk*.

SYNOD OF TORONTO AND KINGSTON.

The annual meeting of the Synod of Toronto and Kingston commenced on Tuesday week in Chalmers Church, Guelph. It was attended by about one hundred and eighty ministers. The opening sermon was preached by the retiring moderator, the Rev. A. A. Drummond, of Newcastle. He selected for his subject John xvii. 22, from which he preached an able, appropriate and suggestive sermon.

After the services the moderator opened the Synod with prayer, asking that the Divine Spirit might guide them in all their deliberations. The roll was then called, after which the Rev. James Cameron, Chatsworth, was unanimously elected moderator. Committees were then appointed, after which the Synod adjourned.

ON WEDNESDAY MORNING

The Synod met at ten o'clock. The first hour was spent in devotional exercises. The Committee on Bills and Overtures gave in their report, which was adopted, recommending the order of business. Committees were appointed to examine Presbytery records with instructions to report as the first business, on Thursday morning. A Committee was appointed on Elders' Commissions. This committee reported in a short time, recommending that the name of an elder who had been duly certified through the Presbytery, should be placed on the roll. Rev. John Smith was requested to prepare the report from the Committee on Temperance, the stated convener being necessarily absent through sickness.

Applications were presented from the Presbyteries of Kingston, Toronto and Saguenay for leave to take certain students, who had completed their curriculum on trials for license.

A petition was considered from Mr. Joshua Fraser praying to be relieved from the sentence of suspension under which he had been laid four years ago. It was agreed that the petition be not granted as he had not complied with the instructions given him by the General Assembly, and he was to be notified by the clerk that if he fail to do so by next meeting the Synod would direct that final action be taken in his case.

The report of the treasurer was submitted, giving a statement of receipts and expenditure for the year. The report was received and the treasurer thanked for his services.

The Presbytery of Whitby was directed to consult the General Assembly's Committee on the protection of church property in relation to an endowment farm in Pickering. The congregation of Highland Creek was separated from that of Scarboro' in the Presbytery of Toronto, to be united to that of Dunbarton in the Presbytery of Whitby, the united charge to be regarded as in the bounds of the latter Presbytery and under their oversight.

The next meeting was appointed to be held in St. Andrew's Church, Belleville, on the second Tuesday of April, 1884, at half-past seven o'clock in the evening. No report was forthcoming from the committee on the use of the Bible in public schools.

An overture from the Presbytery of Peterborough anent filling vacancies was considered, but on consideration was rejected. The minutes of General Assembly on the appeals of Rev. Dr. Barclay and Rev. A. Bell were read and their reception noted; also the answer of the Minister of Education to a resolution that had been forwarded to him on the insertion of lessons on temperance in the reading books used in our public schools. A communication was read from the Dominion Alliance. An invitation was presented from the President of the Agricultural College to members of the Synod to visit that institution, and the clerk was instructed to acknowledge the same and express thanks for the courtesy extended.

In the evening very extended and interesting reports were presented from the committees on the State of Religion, on Sabbath Schools, and Sabbath Observance. Thanks were given to the respective committees and especially to the conveners for these reports. Dr. Waters, of Newark, formerly of St. Mary's, and more lately of St. John, N.B., being in the house, was warmly received, and addressed, by request, a few words to the Synod before adjourning in the evening.

ON THURSDAY MORNING

The reports of the committees appointed to examine Presbytery records were given in and adopted, and each record ordered to be attested in terms of its report. The rest of the forenoon was occupied in considering a protest and appeal by Mr. Adam Spenser against the finding of the Presbytery of Whitby, requesting him to resign his present charge. The case reaches back for years, and was frequently before the Presbytery.

In the afternoon the Synod dismissed the appeal of Mr. Spenser against the finding of the Whitby Presbytery, advising him to demit his pastoral charge, at the same time affirming that this did not interfere with his claim for such an amount of arrears of salary as may be judged equitable. The Presbytery acquiesced in the decision, but Mr. Spenser appealed against it to the General Assembly, to meet in London in June next. Leave was granted to the Presbytery of Guelph to take Mr. Angus Robertson on public probationary trials for license.

Rev. John Smith, interim convener, read the report from the Committee on Temperance, which was received and its recommendations adopted. The various standing committees, as on the State of Religion, Sabbath Schools, Sabbath Observance, and Temperance, were appointed for the current year. Votes of thanks were passed to the friends in Guelph for the kind and hospitable manner in which they had received and entertained the Synod, the trustees of Chalmers Church for the use of their church, and the accommodation afforded them, to the different railway companies for the reduction on usual rates of travelling granted to those in attendance, and to the press for the full and accurate reports of the proceedings published. The moderator then declared the Synod adjourned, to meet in St. Andrew's Church, Belleville, on the second Tuesday of April, 1884, and closed with praise, prayer, and the benediction.

THE CONFERENCE AT GUELPH.

This gathering though associated with the meeting of the Synod, and arranged by its Committee on the State of Religion, was a voluntary undertaking, being held before the meeting of the Synod and not therefore, liable to be curtailed by any pressure of business. Though a first attempt to meet a felt want, and being to a great extent an experiment, it was regarded by all present as an unmingled success, and a valuable addition to the ordinary work of the Synod. The attendance at first was small, but gradually increased. The interest throughout was deep, and the sense of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit at times profound, especially the first evening when, after opening exercises under the leadership of Rev. Mr. Drummond, the subject of "The Source and Conditions Spiritual Power" was being discussed. In introducing it Mr. Torrance, Peterboro', said: the grand source was the Holy Ghost. For His presence as such the disciples were enjoined to wait before leaving Jerusalem on the great work of evangelization. "Ye shall receive power," was the Master's promise so gloriously fulfilled at Pentecost. The same truth applies to God's people in every age, as indicated by Paul's injunctions to the church at Ephesus as "Being filled with the Holy Ghost."

Mr. Parsons pointed out that all Christians had received the Holy Ghost, but were not all "filled with the Spirit." This baptism is a blessing to be specially sought and enjoyed by all who will. This is the normal condition of the Church; its present and ordinary deficiency is an abnormal condition.

Rev. Mr. Rodgers spoke of the importance of, and encouragement to faith as a great essential to this power. Along with this and before it must be consecration as a primary and fundamental condition.

Rev. Mr. Smith, Toronto, made a few pointed remarks as to our feeling the need of this power. The great blessing it was to any minister to have his people praying with him and for him for this priceless boon.

"Come Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove" having been sung with much feeling and fervour, and prayer offered by Mr. Roger, of Ashburn, the next subject was called for—"Religious Life and Intercourse in the Home" and was introduced by Rev. P. McF. McLeod, in the absence of Mr. McCrae. He regretted the worldly tone of home life in so many families, and very solemnly pleaded for more careful spiritual culture. Let home be filled with the atmosphere of a higher religion. Let the children have a part in the worship, choosing the hymns. Aid them in every possible way in the first steps, and in their onward course of joyful fellowship with Christ, and His people, and the reward will be rich both in the home and the Church.

Rev. Mr. Grant, of Orillia, followed, emphasizing the relation of our baptized youth to the Church as already within it and to be dealt with as such, not out side till they had gone astray and been then restored.

Rev. Geo. Milligan spoke a word of warning against errors in home training, and insisted on special prayer for the children individually with definiteness and expectancy. If our homes were what they should be the Sabbath school could be dispensed with. With brief remarks by others the conference closed.

Tuesday Morning.—Dr. McGuire occupied the chair, and after devotional exercises introduced Rev. R. N. Grant who spoke in a practical vein with clearness and piquancy on "Helps and Hindrances in the Congregation to Ministerial Success."

Rev. Mr. Smith spoke of the special work which each might do, especially inviting others to Christ and to the Church.

Rev. Mr. McLeod followed with a few timely suggestions.

Mr. Rodgers spoke of the hindrances caused by the social life and customs of the people, who sometimes made their party gatherings and meetings for young people even on the evening fixed for holding the prayer meeting.

Mr. Eastman referred to the encouragement ministers would receive if those of their hearers who had profited under their sermons, would inform them of the benefit they had received.

"Nearer my God to Thee" was sung, and prayer by Rev. J. C. Smith followed.

Rev. J. A. R. Dickson introduced "The Promoting of Life and Interest in the Prayer Meeting." Weak prayer meetings often arise from a low conception of their importance by minister and people. To remedy this the minister must give heed to himself—first of all to his