

## MEETING OF PRESBYTERY.

On the 27th August the quarterly meeting of Presbytery was held in St. Andrew's Church Pictou, Mr. McKichan, Moderator, pro tem. A letter was read from the Rev. P. Galbraith retiring Moderator, thanking the Presbytery for their uniform courtesy towards him; expressing regret that owing to illness and absence from the country during the last few months of his pastorate he was not able to discharge the duties of his office as he would have liked to have done; and asking the usual certificate which was granted.

The following appointments were made for the current quarter :

## PICTOU.

- Sept. 21, Mr. McKichan.
- Oct. 5, " Dunn.
- " 19, " Fitzpatrick.
- Nov. 2, " McMillan.
- " 16, " Stewart.
- " 30, " Fraser.

## NEW GLASGOW.

- Sept. 14, Mr. Dunn.
- " 28, " Fitzpatrick.
- Oct. 12, " McMillan.
- " 26, " Stewart.
- Nov. 9, " McKenzie.

These appointments to New Glasgow were made on the understanding that in the event of the arrival of the Rev. Geo. Murray, who received a call to New Glasgow they would be cancelled and transferred to Pictou instead.

## FISHER'S GRANT.

- Sept. 21, Mr. McKichan.
- " 28, " Fitzpatrick.
- Oct. 12, " McMillan.
- " 26, " Stewart.
- Nov. 30, " Fraser.

Messrs. McCunn and Fraser were appointed to dispense the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at River Inhabitants on the first Sabbath of October.

Mr. Fitzpatrick was appointed to preach at Gareloch, on the 14th Sept. at 4 p. m., and declare the church vacant. Mr. Stewart was appointed to preach at West Branch, East River, on the 21st Sept. at 4 p. m., and declare the church vacant.

The Presbytery adjourned to meet in St. Columba Church, West Branch, East River, on Wednesday, 10th Sept. at 11

a. m., for Presbyterian visitation and other business, Mr. McKichan to preach.

The question of the use of an organ in public worship in St. Andrew's Church, Pictou, was brought before the Presbytery by an appeal, against the decision of St. Andrew's Kirk Session. The session by a majority resolved to permit the use of instrumental music at the evening service. This decision was appealed against. The Presbytery instructed the Kirk Session to procure further information as to the sentiments of the members of the congregation. No decision can be given in the matter until the necessary information is laid before the Presbytery, in a regular manner according to the laws and usages of the Church of Scotland.

It would appear from information incidentally obtained that there is considerable opposition to the use of the organ in the congregation. Public opinion is divided on this as on other questions. St. Andrew's congregation, New Glasgow, has been using an organ since two or three years. In country congregations the general feeling is not in favour of its use. It is not likely however that the harmony of these congregations will be much disturbed by this question for some time to come. It would doubtless be better if congregations could settle this matter for themselves in a peaceable manner. Presbyteries are very reluctant to interfere on one side or the other; and when they are compelled to take the matter up very often do more harm than good. In Scotland by decision of the General Assembly presbyteries permit the use of an organ when the great majority of the people acquiesce in its introduction. No doubt the presbytery of Pictou will be guided by the law of the church at home on the matter. Indeed no other course is open to them so long as they retain their present connection. They are bound to obey the decisions of the General Assembly.

It is to be lamented that any congregation should be divided upon this question. Perhaps such divisions are unavoidable. The public taste in towns and villages seems to be growing in favour of instrumental music in public worship. Whether this is to be regarded as a cause of congratulation on the reverse each one will judge for himself.