

Presbytery of Pictou.

The Presbytery of Pictou met on the 22nd ult., in Hopewell Church, for the visitation of the congregation, and was constituted by the Rev. Alexander Sutherland, Moderator, with whom were present the Revs. David Roy, George Walker, A. P. Miller, D. P. Blair, George Patterson, Jas. Thompson John Mackinnon, A. J. Mowatt, Alex. McL. Sinclair, Ministers, and Messrs. Donald Ross, George MacKay, and Alex. Munroe, ruling elders.

The Rev. John Sutherland preached from 2 Cor. iii. 6,—"Hath made us ministers of the spirit," with his usual earnestness and vigor. The Rev. George Patterson was appointed Clerk, pro. tem.

The Rev. Angus McGillivray, being present was invited to correspond and took his seat accordingly.

The Rev. Lauchlan MacDonald presented a certificate of being a Minister of the Free Church of Scotland from the Free Presbytery of Edinburgh, and having declared his readiness to sign the Formulas of our church, he was received as a minister of this church, and on invitation took his seat as a corresponding member of Presbytery.

The Presbytery then proceeded with the visitation of the congregation, when the usual questions of the Formula was put to the ministers, elders, session and managers, and satisfactorily answered. It appears that considerable attention is given to Sabbath Schools, Bible Classes and Prayer Meetings, and that the elders visit the families in their districts and pray with them. Besides contributing in an average degree to all the schemes of the church this congregation has paid its pastor during the last two years £192, and £184, being £42, and £34 respectively above the stipend promised. The Presbytery expressed itself as satisfied with the state of this congregation, highly commended it for its growing liberality in supporting the gospel, and strongly urged upon it the duty and necessity of pursuing this progressive career. During the last two years it has demonstrated its ability to exceed the stipulated stipend, a sum now found to be far too inadequate to meet the requirements of a minister's house. For it again to go back to this sum would be retrograding and disgraceful. The Presbytery sanguinely entertain the hope, knowing the liberal character of this congregation, its growth in numbers, the largely improved circumstances of the members, the large sums of money disbursed within its bounds in Railway construction, and its favourable position in being in the neighbourhood of extensive mining operations, and in enjoying all the advantages which a railway run-

ning through its whole length can afford, that the yearly amount paid to its pastor in the future will not be less than what it has fully demonstrated itself able to pay during the two past years. It was the conviction of the Presbytery that this congregation could with much greater ease pay £200 a year in its present circumstances, than it could £150 eight years ago, when its pastor was settled over it.

The congregation of Lochaber and Goshen applied for a moderation, which was granted, and the Rev. C. B. Pitblado appointed to preach in Lochaber Church on the 7th Nov. and moderate in a call to one to be their pastor.

Mr. Watt, probationer, having presented a commission from the Colonial Committee of the F. C. of Scotland appointing him to this Presbytery was received as a probationer into this church, and appointed to labour in Mr. Stewart's congregation, New Glasgow during the ensuing six months.

Commissioners from Earltown congregation being present, and having given the Presbytery the assurance that all the arrears due their former minister would be satisfactorily paid, their call to the Rev. Lauchlan McDonald was sustained and accepted by him.

The Presbytery then agreed to meet in Earltown Church on Tuesday the 9th Nov. at 11 A. M., for the induction of Mr. McDonald as pastor over that congregation, the Rev. A. McL. Sinclair to preach, the Moderator to preside, the Rev. Dr. Bayne to address the minister and the Rev. Mr. MacKinnon the people.

The Rev. Alex. Sutherland was appointed to preach there on the Fourth Sabbath of November, and serve the Edict.

The Presbytery having heard that the Rev. Dr. McCurdy, Chatham, has been for some time laid aside from active duty by bodily illness, and also subjected to some family affliction deeply sympathize with him appoint Mr. Mowatt during the first three Sabbaths of November to render him any assistance he may require.

Mr. John Franklin Forbes having presented a certificate of license from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, New Jersey, U.S., was received as a probationer in this church.

The Presbytery appointed to meet in Knox's Church, New Glasgow, on Tuesday, the 20th Nov. at 11 o'clock, a.m., for ordinary business.

The Presbytery of Pictou met in Earltown church on the 6th inst., for the induction of the Rev. Lauchlan Macdonald, as Minister of that Congregation, and was constituted by the Rev. Alex. Sutherland,