

**PRESBYTERY OF GLENGARRY.**—This Presbytery held its regular meeting in Knox Church, Lancaster, on Tuesday, 8th inst. Rev. D. McLaren, Moderator; Rev. John Matheson, Clerk *pro tem*. The following are the chief items of business transacted: A call from St. Luke's Church, Finch and Crisler, was presented in favour of the Rev. Dr. Lamont. Strong opposition to the call was offered by a large part of the Crisler congregation, for reasons given. After all parties had been heard the Presbytery decided not to sustain the call on account of the opposition offered, and the small number of signatures attached to it. It was set aside accordingly, and Rev. J. J. Cameron was authorized to moderate in another call when the people are prepared for it. Reports were given in and accepted regarding the several vacancies in the Presbytery. Mr. McLeod, Student Missionary at Currie Hill, gave a verbal report of his labours there for the summer. On motion of Dr. MacNish, seconded by Mr. Hastie, the report was accepted, and the Presbytery expressed its great satisfaction with Mr. McLeod's earnest and successful work. Further, it agreed to the request of the people to be supplied from Montreal College during the winter months, under Mr. McLeod's direction. Rev. J. J. Cameron read a minute anent the resignation and removal to Manitoba of Rev. A. Matheson of Lunenburg. It expressed the Presbytery's high regard for Mr. Matheson as a Christian gentleman, its appreciation of his long and faithful services, its sincere sympathy with him in his present illness, and its hope and prayer that he may yet be spared to do further service for the Master. The question of having a conference on some department of Church work at each regular meeting of Presbytery was brought up by Rev. N. McLennan. After discussion it was unanimously agreed, on motion of Rev. R. McLeod, seconded by Rev. J. J. Cameron, that a committee be appointed to arrange for such a public conference at every regular meeting of the Court, said committee to consist of Revs. Malcolm McLennan (Convener), R. McLeod and James Hastie, and Mr. Elder. Mrs. Fraser, President of the Glengarry Presbyterian of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, read an able and interesting report for the past year. It showed that this organization was doing most efficient work. After several members had spoken in strong terms of commendation of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, the following resolution was passed on motion of Rev. R. McLeod, seconded by Rev. James Hastie: The Presbytery receives with pleasure the report of the Glengarry Presbyterian Society, as now presented by Mrs. Fraser; records its thanksgiving to God for the zeal, labour of love and success which characterize the work done by the members of this society in past years, and assures them that henceforth they can count on our sympathy and support in their efforts to further Christ's cause. The sum raised by the Glengarry Presbyterial last year was \$1,425. There was laid on the table a charge in writing by Rev. J. Fraser, of Lancaster, against his pastor, the Rev. J. A. G. Calder, of slander. After all parties had been heard, the Presbytery proceeded to judgment, when the following decision was unanimously arrived at, on motion of Rev. J. Hastie, seconded by Rev. D. D. McLennan: The Presbytery having investigated fully and carefully the charge brought by A. J. Fraser against the Rev. J. A. G. Calder, find that not a tittle of evidence was adduced in support of this very serious charge, therefore the Presbytery declares its judgment to be this: "That the Rev. Mr. Calder has been unjustly accused by A. J. Fraser, and the case is dismissed." Further on motion of Rev. D. McLennan, the Presbytery ordered a censure to be entered on its minutes of Mr. Fraser for his false accusation against Mr. Calder. A circular was read from Dr. Cochran in regard to the need of contributions for Home Missions and Augmentation. After some minor matters were transacted, the Presbytery adjourned to meet at Maxville on the second Tuesday of December next at 11:30 a.m.

**PRESBYTERY OF WINNIPEG.**—This Presbytery met on September 8. There were present Rev. John Hogg, Moderator, twelve other ministers and three elders. A communication from the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew, in regard to the method of electing commissioners to the General Assembly, was read, discussed and ordered to be answered by the Clerk. Mr. John Stewart, Clerk of the Session of the Meadow Lea congregation, presented a request to the effect that a Moderator of Session be appointed to take the place of Rev. Mr. McFarlane, who has removed from the neighbourhood, and suggesting the appointment of Rev. A. B. Baird. The request was granted, and Mr. Baird was appointed Moderator of the Session of Meadow Lea and Poplar Point. A letter was read from Mr. J. B. Davies, of Norman, conveying a resolution of the congregation of Norman, in which they asked to have services continued throughout the winter with the aid of the Home Mission Committee, and recommended Mr. J. L. Small, a student, for appointment as missionary. Mr. Davies, who was present, was heard in support of the request, and after discussion it was referred to the Home Mission Committee for favourable consideration. Rev. Alexander Matheson, who has recently returned to the Province of Manitoba on account of ill health, presented his certificate of Presbyterial standing, and his name was, on motion placed on the list of ministers without charge residing within the bounds of the Presbytery. Mr. Matheson is a native of the Province, and was formerly minister of Springfield and of Selkirk. For a number of years he has been minister of the congregations of Lunenburg and Avonmore, in the Presbytery of Glengarry, which charge he has recently demitted. Rev. Mr. Baird reported that he had on the 23rd of August conducted communion services at Meadow Lea, McDiarmid's School-house and Poplar Point. Some sixty communicants took part in the services, of whom fifteen were added to the roll of these Churches for the first time, four by certificate and the others on profession of faith. The ordinance of baptism was administered in eleven cases, four of these being adults. A hand-

some church, with stone foundation and tower, neatly painted and well furnished, has recently been opened at Meadow Lea. The cost of building has been entirely provided for. A new church was erected last summer at Poplar Point, and this has been completely paid for. Communion services were dispensed last Sabbath at Beausejour and Tyndall, when sixteen communicants received the sacrament, one being added to the roll on profession of faith. Rev. Mr. Baird reported that, in accordance with instructions of the Presbytery, he had, on the 2nd ult., moderated in a call in Augustine Church, Winnipeg, as a result of which Rev. Charles W. Gordon, B.A., of Banff, had unanimously been invited to become pastor of that congregation. The call was unanimous and hearty and was signed by fifty-five members and ten adherents. It was accompanied by a guarantee of stipend to the amount of \$1,200. Chief Justice Taylor and Mr. Alexander McMicken had been appointed to support the call before the Presbytery. Chief Justice Taylor spoke of the unanimity of the congregation in desiring to secure Mr. Gordon as their minister. The call had been signed with great willingness by every available member of the Church; and the congregation was confident of its future growth if it succeeded in securing as desirable a pastor as Mr. Gordon. Ald. McMicken concurred in what had been said by the Chief Justice. He said that the congregation was anxious to avoid the losses which were liable to occur during a vacancy, and hoped that the Presbytery would do all it could to assist the congregation in securing the services of Mr. Gordon. On motion of Rev. Joseph Hogg, seconded by Rev. J. A. F. Sutherland, the call was sustained and ordered to be transmitted to Mr. Gordon. Mr. Baird, on the suggestion of Professor Hart, read the reasons which had been prepared by the Session urging the transference of Rev. Mr. Gordon from Banff to Augustine Church, Winnipeg. These were approved and adopted by the Presbytery; and it was agreed to ask Rev. Dr. Robertson, Superintendent of Missions, to represent the Presbytery of Winnipeg, and urge the acceptance of the call by Mr. Gordon. Rev. James Douglas reported that the committee on the examination of students had received and examined sermons presented by the following students: Messrs. A. E. Driscoll, J. N. Maclean, A. C. Manson, Hugh McLellan, Alfred P. Robb, Jas. Fleming, J. L. Small, W. H. Fraser, F. Forster, T. D. Acheson, J. B. Ferguson, T. L. Kiernan and W. J. Small. The committee recommended, as a result of their examination, that these students be certified to their respective classes in college. It was agreed that the students who have not yet sent exercises receive a second notification. The General Assembly having instructed the Presbytery to induct Rev. A. B. Baird into office as a professor in Manitoba College, it was agreed that the induction should take place in Knox Church on Tuesday, the 3rd of November, at eight p.m.; that the Moderator should preside, that Rev. James Douglas should address the professor-elect, and that the Presbytery should ask the Moderator and ex-Moderator of the Synod, Rev. James Farquharson, B.A., of Pilot Mound, and Rev. D. Stalker, B.A., of Gladstone, to be present and deliver addresses. A minute of the Synod was read, instructing the Presbytery to take into its consideration the following recommendations of the Synod's Committee on Systematic Benevolence: That the Synod records its gratitude to God for inclinations of the people's hearts to increase the benefactions according as God hath prospered them. That the principles of systematic giving be emphasized and commended to pastors and people for to practice. That for general congregational purposes the weekly envelope system is commended as most efficient where the circumstances of a congregation admit of its introduction. That for the Schemes of the Church individual pledges to pay a fixed amount per month is found most efficient. And that every congregation be encouraged to get at least such an amount pledged as will equal five cents per week for each of its members. That giving for the furtherance of the Gospel and the support of ordinances be regarded as a joyful act of worship on a plane with prayer and praise. It was agreed that these recommendations be sent to the Sessions, and in mission fields where there are no Sessions, to boards of management, with instructions to give them consideration and to report to the Presbytery by November 1. The General Assembly's remit on the subject of summer sessions was taken up, and the following motion was moved and seconded: In regard to the first remit, viz.: as to the whole question of a summer session, the Presbytery of Winnipeg, in view of the great demand for labourers for winter supply, and considering also that no other feasible scheme for meeting the want has been presented, approves of a summer session. As to some scheme for carrying this out, the Presbytery would suggest that embodied in what was called the "minority report" at the last meeting of the General Assembly. In regard to the second remit (recommendation II., clauses 3, 4, 5, 6), which may be shortly spoken of as the scheme for the establishment of a training school for catechists, the Presbytery of Winnipeg disapproves. 1. Because if begun by one college it would lead to the other colleges establishing these schools, and this will entail an expenditure of several thousands of dollars annually upon the Church. 2. Because the present preparatory classes in the several colleges sufficiently meet the case of students imperfectly prepared. 3. Because it would tend to establish an inferior grade of labourers in the Church, and would lead to the permanency of a class of labourers not in harmony with the views of Presbyterians as to an educated ministry. The tone of the discussion as far as it went was unanimous in favour of the motion, but it being felt that ample time should be allowed for deliberation upon the subject, it was resolved to postpone decision till the next meeting of Presbytery. Rev. J. A. F. Sutherland and the Session of Selkirk were authorized to organize the congregation of Clondeboyce, and to make arrangement for the ordination and induction of elders. The Presbytery resolved to hold its next meeting in the same place on Tuesday, November 3, at three p.m.



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### OBITUARY.

REV. ALEXANDER STEELE.

Mr. Steele was born in the parish of Dunkeld, Perthshire, Scotland, in January, 1803. In his boyhood he received such education as was furnished in the Assembly and parish schools of Scotland. In these schools the most renowned Scotchmen of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries received the first impulse of their literary career. After attending for some time the parish school of Dunkeld, he enjoyed the further privilege of studying at the Grammar School of Perth—a seminary at the time renowned for its classical and mathematical training, under the principalship of Mr. Moncur, "the ablest of the students of John Hunter, of St. Andrews, and a born teacher."

Being dependent to a great extent on his own resources, Mr. Steele engaged in teaching some district schools and afterwards entered and studied at St. Andrews University, where he in due time graduated. During his course at St. Andrews he was a fellow student of Alexander Duff, the afterwards noted missionary of India.

In due time he was appointed to teach the Assembly school at Burchhead, County of Elgin, where he remained for a period of twelve years, previous to, and partly concurrent with, which period he continued his studies in theology and finished his divinity course and was licensed to preach the Gospel.

While engaged still in teaching the school at Burchhead, he frequently supplied the pulpits of brethren in and around Elgin. In 1835, "The Ten Years' Conflict" of the Church of Scotland with the Court of Session and the British Parliament came to a crisis and the Disruption of the Church became an historic fact. As Mr. Steele was a sympathizer with the non-intrusion party in the struggle, and identified himself fully with the Free Church, his services in Burchhead Assembly school were dispensed with, and this formed an element in determining his course in coming to America. He laboured for the greater part of a year in the mission field of Nova Scotia, and came to Western Canada in 1844, where he laboured as pioneer missionary for some time. He was afterwards duly called and ordained as pastor over the Free Church congregation of Dartington, embracing what is now the town of Bowmanville. For nearly four years he laboured assiduously and faithfully in what was then a new and difficult field; but he laboured not in vain; the seed sown was watered by the dew of the Spirit, and brought forth in due time its appropriate fruit.

It has been the writer's privilege to meet with some who in their youth enjoyed those ministrations and who declared they never forgot them. Providential circumstances and advancing years led him in due time to give up the active duties of the ministry and come to reside on his own farm in West Elgin.

Mr. Steele was elected an elder in Fingai congregation in 1859 and faithfully discharged the duties of the office till the infirmities of age and sickness prevented him from doing so. Two years before his death he was rendered helpless by a stroke of paralysis, from which he never entirely recovered but at certain intervals his mental vigour seemed to remain unimpaired. At such times he would discuss matters with something of his wonted mental grasp and shrewdness. The mortal body, however, in due time succumbed, and he fell asleep in Jesus in the fall of 1890.

Mr. Steele was a man of fine physique, possessed naturally of superior mental endowments, which on being cultivated raised him above the rank of ordinary ministers. Yet though an able critic and capable of understanding and enjoying truths far above the grasp of ordinary minds, still we have known him to enjoy with unusual delight the simplest practical truth when clearly and feelingly presented.

To the congregation in which he was an honoured office bearer, he was much attached and felt deep interest in its prosperity, and was always ready by his influence and example to lead its members and adherents to do more and more for the cause of Christ at home and abroad. To his minister he was uniformly considerate and kind, aiding and cheering him by his influence and counsel, and often in cases of emergency taking his place in the pulpit to the delight and edification of many. His career on earth is now over—his influence and example we were privileged to enjoy that we thereby may be led to serve more devotedly the Master he honoured and loved so well.

"Help Lord, for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men."

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