

August, in order to moderate in a call,—Rev. A. F. Kemp to preach and preside.

Next ordinary meeting was appointed to be held at Montreal, on 22d October. A Prebyterial visitation of the Cote Street Church to be conducted in the evening, the Moderator to preach and preside; and a similar visitation of St. Gabriel Street Church, on the following evening, Rev. John Crombie to preach and preside.

D. FRASER, *Pres. Clerk.*

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

This Committee met at Montreal on the 12th August. Rev. D. Fraser in the Chair.

The Convener laid on the table certain papers, transmitted from the Presbytery of Toronto, containing an extract from their Deliverance, in the case of Mr. Laing, and the documents on which their judgment was founded.

The Convener read a letter from Rev. George Stevenson, of date 15th July, acknowledging receipt of the call addressed to him by the Synod. After due consideration, it was agreed that the Convener should—

1st. Write to Rev. J. Scott, of London, C.W., now in Scotland, requesting him to attend to the case of the call to Mr. Stevenson, before the Free Presbytery of Stirling.

2nd. Write to Mr. Stevenson, to the effect, that this Committee, though deprived of the expected services of Mr. Laing, are in no wise discouraged in regard to the Mission, and desire that he should, when loosed from his present charge, proceed to Calcutta, taking passage for himself and Mrs. Stevenson, not later than 31st Sept., (the Treasurer was authorized to send a remittance by next mail.)

Further, it was agreed that the Convener's letter, while not fettering Mr. Stevenson's judgment, should make the following suggestions, for his guidance:—

1st. On arrival (D. V.) at Calcutta, to spend some time in that city, acquainting himself on the spot with the plans and operations of the Free Church; and other missions.

2nd. To make enquiries regarding a suitable station, comparatively or wholly unoccupied by Christian Missionaries, within a reasonable distance of Calcutta.

3rd. To employ much time, at first, in obtaining a familiarity with the language of the natives.

4th. To confer with the Missionaries of the Free Church in Canada; and to correspond with the Committee on this matter at an early day.

The meeting was opened and closed with prayer. D. F.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The Committee on Foreign Missions come before the Synod with a profound sense of the importance of the work for which they were appointed. It is their conviction that the Church is loudly called to take an active share in the propagation of the Gospel among the heathen. Great as are the demands upon the people connected with this Synod for the erection of Churches and support of Gospel ordinances among themselves, for Canadian Missions, and for the Theological College, the claims of the perishing world beyond, cannot and must not be treated with neglect.

Impressed with the necessity of seeking Divine guidance in every step towards a Foreign Mission, the Committee immediately after the last Synod rose, came to a resolution agreeing to spread this cause before the Lord in simultaneous prayer on every Saturday evening. It is the humble persuasion of the Committee that the favorable prospect of an efficient Mission, which now opens before the Church, is given in answer to prayer.

The work of the Committee has hitherto been

one solely of preparation and inquiry. No Missionary has yet gone forth from the Church to heathen shores. For two years a great purpose avowed by the Synod has remained unfulfilled. This has arisen from the difficulty experienced in finding laborers for this work who could be spared from the exigencies of our home field, and would command the confidence of all the brethren in so responsible an undertaking as the establishment of a Foreign Mission. To the search for such laborers the Committee have turned their careful attention during the past year.

They held correspondence with a Missionary formerly in India, now residing in the United States, and very highly recommended. But this brother while personally anxious to return to India, found himself precluded by the dealings of God with his family.

Correspondence was then opened with an esteemed Missionary Minister of the Free Church of Scotland. Two circumstances suggested his name. (1.) He is known to have left a strong bias to Foreign Missionary work for many years, and on one occasion would have gone abroad, had he not been hindered at the time by medical advice. (2.) He visited this country as a deputy from the Free Church, and possesses the high esteem of all who formed his acquaintance, or enjoyed the privilege of his ministry. The Committee tendered to this brother the offer of an appointment as a Missionary to India from this Church; and, after time for reflection and prayer, he has expressed his willingness to go for us to the work. It appeared doubtful to several members of the Committee whether sufficient power had been granted by the last Synod to conclude the arrangements; and the whole question of the appointment is now reserved for this Synod to determine. The name of the Missionary in view is at his own request not to be mentioned, until the Synod resolve that an appointment shall now be made. If the Synod so resolve, he is willing to accept their call, and go to India in their service.

Another ordained Minister, a member of this Synod, whose name if mentioned, would at once command the approval of the brethren, has also communicated to the Committee his willingness to go on this errand of salvation to those that are ready to perish. It is believed by the Committee that the two brethren in view, the one from Scotland, but no stranger to Canada, the other from Canada directly, would secure to the enterprise the immediate confidence of the Church at large, and by the blessing of God organize and conduct a judicious and zealous Foreign Mission.

A third name, that of one of the probationers of the Church is also before the Committee; but they do not ask the Synod to contemplate more in the present year, than the appointment of two ordained Ministers to found the mission. When the foundations through God's goodness are laid, the Church may reinforce the ranks of the laborers either from this country, or from among the native Preachers and Catechists already to be found in India, in connection with the Free Church or other Missions.

The present Report differs from that presented to last Synod in this important particular. Then there were no available missionaries at the service of the Church. Now the men appear to be ready, and men suitable for the work. The time also seems favorable. The only question that remains is this:—Is the Church ready to proceed heartily with the work? And this is a question which, not the Committee, but the present Synod must answer.

The subject of ways and means is one which the Committee have not neglected to consider. The collection made for Foreign Missions has been more liberal than that of any former year, amounting to £51 9s. 3d. Of this sum, £75 have been remitted to the Treasury of the Free Church of Scotland, at the express request of one of the contributing congregations. But there

still remains in the Treasury a balance of £575, which may either be invested as a safety fund for contingent expenses, or be drawn upon to defray the expenses of the outfit and passage of the ministers and their wives.

The expectation seems to be no more than reasonable, that when a definite mission is organized, the liberality of the congregations under this Synod will be moved in a much greater degree than could be looked for when a general and comparatively indefinite object was presented for their support.

Communications have been addressed to the Moderators of the Synods of New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, informing them of the views of the Synod of Canada towards a Foreign Mission, and suggesting that their Synods should combine with this in such an undertaking. No answer has yet been received, probably because the Synods mentioned have not yet met. But it is pleasing to know that in the Free Church of Nova Scotia a warm interest has recently been evinced in favor of a Foreign Mission.

D. FRASER, *Convener.*

REPORT OF SABBATH OBSERVANCE COMMITTEE.

The past year has been signalized by special efforts on the part both of the friends and the foes of the Sabbath. Two signal victories gained in the Parent Country should be noted with gratitude—the prevention of the opening of places of public amusement in London, and the removal of the bands from the gardens and parks. While the fact that the one measure was attempted, and the other partially and temporarily carried out, indicates that the enemies of the Sabbath will stick at nothing in order to accomplish their ends, the repeated defeats sustained by them as clearly indicate that the sentiments and sympathy of the general community were on the other side. The scene in the British Parliament, on occasion of the Walmley motion and the division upon it, reveals a certain measure of soundness on the question in the heart of our fatherland. Political Gallies who care for none of these things, marking with acute eye the direction of the tide of popular opinion have not had the hardihood to break it. Votes given in the face of their own strongly avowed private and personal views exhibit a consciousness on their part, that to act otherwise would be to forfeit the favour of their constituents and to lose their seat of power. These tendencies of progress at home are fitted to stimulate and encourage us, while from the tactics pursued on both sides there we may derive important practical lessons.

Your Committee are sorry that they cannot report any material progress on the Sabbath cause throughout our Province. On the contrary they have reason to fear, with the increased facilities of communication Sabbath desecration is proportionately on the increase.

The unsettled state of political affairs has operated seriously against the introduction of any Parliamentary measure on the subject. Other public questions have had such prominence given them, and the political arena has been the scene of such constant strife that the Sabbath question has been thrown into the shade. We still hope for its introduction before the close of the present session.

At the meeting of your Committee in Hamilton last fall, certain practical measures were resolved on. In the January No. of the Record a short address was published respecting simultaneous preaching on the subject. In the February No. another address was published enjoining to a renewal of effort and suggesting certain practical steps. In the March No. a notice was published pressing on Presbyteries, Sessions and Congregations the duty of memorializing government immediately for the abolition of Sabbath labor in the public departments and on the ca-