

collections are taken up at every Sabbath service, no matter how poor the people or how small the attendance; and the Board leave no means untried to cultivate among the people the grace of Christian liberality. It is encouraging to note that *all* the congregations under the care of the Board have done something during the year. Several have contributed a considerable amount, and there is good reason to believe that on the return of business prosperity some of them will ere long become self-sustaining.

CHURCH BUILDING.

During the year mission premises have been erected at St. Antoine Abbe, and at Grenville. At St. Hyacinthe a site has been purchased, and the contract let for the erection of a commodious brick church and school house, which, with the site, will cost upwards of \$4,200. There are now places of worship in the following fields under the care of the Board: Canning street, Montreal; St. John's (Russell Hall), Montreal; Dorchester street, Montreal; Quebec; Namur; Grenville; Joliette, New Glasgow; St. Antoine Abbe; Drysdale, Ste. Anne, Ill.; Danville; and Grand Falls, N.B.; thirteen in all, or including the one in course of erection at St. Hyacinthe, *fourteen*.

BRITISH AGENCY.

As stated in last year's Report, the Rev. R. Campbell, M.A., of St. Gabriel Church, Montreal, was then in Britain, having agreed, at the request of the Board, to devote five or six months in bringing the claims of the mission before the Christian people there. Mr. Campbell's visit proved most successful, not simply on account of its immediate financial result, (over \$5,000 having been collected by him) but also by reason of the interest incited in the work in many parts of Scotland and Ireland by means of his addresses. To Mr. Campbell the cordial thanks of the Board and of the Church are due for his valuable services. In November the Board accepted the offer of the Rev. Thomas Stevenson, a former minister of our Canadian Church, now resident in Scotland, to act as their agent in Great Britain.

As will be seen from the Financial Statement appended to the Report, Mr. Stevenson has already forwarded \$1,572.55 to the Treasurer.

FINANCES.

From the Financial Report of the Treasurer it will be observed that the receipts for the past year from all sources, including the balance on hand on 1st May 1877, amount to \$24,460.90, and the expenditure to \$23,657.42, leaving a balance in the treasury of \$803.48. The actual receipts of the year were \$23,459.48. Deducting the \$10,000 received from the estate of the late Mr. W. Hall, of Peterboro', in the year 1876-77, the revenue of the year just closed exceeded that of the preceding one by \$2,880.69. During the year \$561.36 were received by the Treasurer for building purposes. This is in addition to considerable sums contributed by the people themselves, in fields where churches have been built or are now in course of erection. The thanks of the Board are due to the Church of Scotland for the renewal of their annual grant of £200 *sterling*, and to the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland for a donation of £50 *sterling*. As indicative of the interest manifested by the young of the Church in the work of French Evangelization, contributions amounting to \$1,966.39 have, in the past year, been received from 155 Sabbath schools. To these schools, including their superintendents and teachers, the Board are much indebted, and would bespeak their continued interest, as also the co-operation of the other Sabbath schools throughout the Church. Among the receipts of the year is a bequest of \$1,000 from the late Mr. James Cerswell, of Tecumseth, Province of Ontario, received through the Rev. Dr. Fraser, of Bondhead. The Board express the hope that many of the other friends of the mission will remember it in a similar way, and that hereafter a considerable revenue will be derived from this source. The balance on hand on the 1st of May, when the books closed, has already been expended, leaving the Treasurer without funds to meet the salaries of missionaries, etc. The present expenditure of the Board exceeds \$2,000 per month.

CLOSE.

In summing up this imperfect review of the past year's work, the Board feel that there is much cause for devout gratitude to the great Head of the Church for the large measure of success achieved. Never at any former period has the work been more hopeful.

The power of the priests is evidently on the wane, while there is good reason to believe that many of the better class of them are restless and uneasy under the iron yoke of Rome, and are longing for the day of their deliverance. The people generally are much more accessible, the spirit of persecution is fast disappearing, and the missionaries and colporteurs of the Board enjoy, with few exceptions, perfect immunity in carrying on their work. It must not, however, be forgotten that there still remains very much of the land to be possessed. Nearly a million and a quarter of our French-speaking fellow-subjects are yet in spiritual darkness. Self-interest, the political, social, moral, and religious liberties of our children and the future weal of the Dominion, all demand that the most vigilant and unremitting effort be put forth for their evangelization.

The Board regret to report that at a meeting held on the 6th inst., Mr. Chiniquy, acting on the advice of his physician, asked leave of absence for a year on account of impaired health. It was agreed to lay the matter before the General Assembly.

The Board recommend that the Assembly re-affirm its finding of last year, viz., that all moneys contributed to the support of French Evangelization (including Rev. C. Chiniquy's work) be sent direct to the Treasurer, the Rev. R. H. Warden, 210 St. James Street, Montreal.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

D. H. MACVICAR, LL.D., *Chairman*.

ROBT. H. WARDEN, *Secretary*.

Montreal, 11th June, 1878.

Copies of the Report with a full Financial Statement may be obtained on application to the Secretary-Treasurer, Rev. R. H. Warden, 210 St. James street, Montreal.

PRESBYTERY OF STRATFORD.—This court met at Stratford on the 9th inst. The names of fifteen elders, commissioned to represent sessions, were put upon the roll of Presbytery. Mr. E. Wallace Waits was appointed Moderator for the ensuing year. Two circular letters were read intimating the intention of two Presbyteries to apply to General Assembly for permission to receive two ministers into the Church. The Clerk was instructed to communicate with Assembly's committee on the book of rules and forms as to the necessity of requiring that timely notice be given to Presbyteries in such cases. Messrs. McPherson, Mitchell, Waits and Samuel Robb were appointed to appear for Presbytery before Commission of General Assembly in Knox Church, Stratford, on Thursday next, in relation to the Presbyterial connection of petitioners at Brooksdale. Commissioners to General Assembly reported their attendance thereat. The committee appointed to take steps with a view to the organization of a second congregation at St. Mary's reported their procedure, and their action was sustained. The names of sixty-two persons were handed in, and Presbytery declared them a second congregation. Four persons were also declared duly elected as elders for the congregation, and Messrs. McPherson, Hislop, and Alex. Robertson were appointed to ordain and induct them into office, Mr. Hislop thereafter to act as *ad interim* Moderator of Session. A call from Milverton and North Mornington, addressed to Mr. Kay, of Grindstone City, Michigan, was presented, and commissioners heard in support and explanation. It was signed by 109 members out of 255, together with forty adherents. It was agreed to remit the call to the congregation for a further expression of their mind thereon, and the Clerk was instructed to communicate with the Presbytery of Saginaw as to Mr. Kay's ecclesiastical standing. Permission was given to the congregation of Hibbert to sell their manse property. Leave of absence from his congregation was granted to Mr. Peter Scott for three months. The decision of General Assembly confirming the decision of Presbytery enjoining Mr. J. J. Cameron to cease from maintaining stated meetings at Shakespeare was read in the terms following.—Dismiss the complaint and appeal (of Mr. Cameron), and confirm the judgment of the Presbytery. The Evangelistic committee were instructed to prepare a programme for a conference on the state of religion, to be submitted at next meeting, with a view to its being carried out at the meeting to be held in the fall. The matter of Mr. Cameron's services at New Hamburg was taken up, and extract minutes of his ordination and induction were read. After discussion it was agreed to lay over the matter till next meeting, and cite parties interested to appear

thereat. Presbytery adjourned to meet for ordinary business in Knox Church, Stratford, at half past nine o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, the 6th of August next.

J. F.

PRESBYTERY OF GUELPH. The Presbytery of Guelph held their usual bi-monthly meeting in Chalmers' Church, Guelph, on Tuesday, 9th inst. After Elders' Commissions had been produced, and the minutes of last meeting sustained, the Presbytery proceeded to elect a Moderator for the ensuing year, when Dr Wardrop was chosen to the position, Mr. Bentley's term of office having expired. In absence from home at present of the Moderator elect, Mr. Smellie occupied the chair. A cordial vote of thanks was tendered to the retiring Moderator for the able and courteous manner in which he had discharged the duties of the office. The ministers and ruling elders in Elora were appointed a committee to prepare a scheme of missionary sermons and meetings, and report. Commissioners to the General Assembly at its late meeting in Hamilton, who were present, reported their diligence in performing the duties assigned them. The Presbytery, according to one of their standing orders, revised the list of mission stations in the bounds, when it appeared the only ones were Elmira and Hawkesville, Eden Mills, Drayton, and Preston (German). The committee appointed to visit Elmira and Hawkesville stated that they had visited these places, and given them all the encouragement they could under their present difficulties. The Finance Committee gave in their report, and auditors were appointed to examine the books of the treasurer. These afterwards reported that they had found the books correct—vouchers for the payments made, and gave an account of the state of each of the funds. In cases of congregations in arrears to any of them the Clerk was instructed to write, applying for payment. The Finance and German Mission Committees were re-appointed. By authority of the General Assembly Mr. Hamilton was taken on trial for license, and having finished these to the satisfaction of the Presbytery, and given satisfactory replies to the questions of the formula, he was duly licensed to preach the gospel wherever he may be orderly called. Extract minutes of Synod were read on the application of the Presbytery for judgment or advice in the matter of the difficulties existing in St. John's Church, Garafraxa, and in the protest and complaint taken against the Presbytery of Toronto in organizing a congregation at Ballinacree. Mr. Edward Reeve applied for a discharge as a minister of the Presbyterian Church in Canada on the ground of changes of doctrinal views which he had undergone. A committee was appointed to confer with him and report at next meeting. The committee appointed for the purpose gave in their report recommending a few changes in the standing order under which the Presbytery has been acting; their report was received, and the changes proposed were approved, with the addition that Session records be produced in Presbytery for examination at the meeting in March. Mr. Torrance and Mr. Charles Davidson were entrusted with the application made by Mr. Andrew Scott, Toronto, for certain moneys coming to the late Mr. Dryburgh from the Home Mission Fund. Session records which had been laid on the table in the forenoon were reported on by the committee in each case. The reports were received and the records ordered to be attested accordingly. The Presbytery took up the petition of certain parties belonging to St. John's Church, Garafraxa, praying for supply of preaching. After due consideration it was moved by Mr. J. C. Smith, seconded by Mr. A. D. McDonald, that the prayer of the petition be granted. It was moved in amendment by Mr. Ball, seconded by Mr. D. B. Cameron, that the prayer of the petition be not granted. On being put to the vote the motion carried over the amendment by seventeen to eight. From this decision eight craved leave to dissent, and protested for leave to complain to the Synod. It was subsequently carried by a vote of ten to seven that supply of preaching be granted forthwith. The committee to whom had been referred the constitution of St. Andrew's Church, Guelph, for examination, reported, recommending certain changes, and the Presbytery approved of the recommendation. Leave was granted to this congregation to raise seven thousand dollars, including present liabilities on their church property. It was decided by a majority that the next meeting be held in Knox Church, Guelph, on the third Tuesday of September at ten o'clock forenoon. Some other matters not of general interest were transacted, and the Presbytery then closed its proceedings.