

support of the same. As it appeared that certain irregularities had been fallen into in connection with this matter, after full deliberation it was moved by Mr. Duff, and carried, as follows. That the petition from Arthur lie on the table, and that the clerk be instructed to inform the people there of the irregularities connected with said petition, and of the need of the action of a Kirk Session in order to the regular transmission of such a document.

A circular from Mr. McTavish, convener of the Committee on the State of Religion, was taken up, when the following motion was agreed to: That as congregations and sessions have not yet reported on the state of religion, further action be delayed till the next ordinary meeting, and sessions be reminded of their duty to consider this important matter at an early date, and report to the clerk, that the subject may be fully considered at the ensuing meeting.

A letter was read from Rev. J. Straith, Paisley, notifying this Presbytery that he intends to move an overture to the next General Assembly, to constitute a Presbytery of Bruce, to be composed of congregations and ministers within the county, or such other limits as the Assembly may appoint. It was agreed that said letter lie on the table till next ordinary meeting. It was agreed that remits from General Assembly be taken up at next ordinary meeting; also that session books be then produced. Next ordinary meeting was appointed to be held at Durham, on first Tuesday of March, at 11 o'clock.

WM. PARK, *Pres. Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF STRATFORD.—This Presbytery met at St. Mary's, on the 6th Feb., Rev. Allan Findlay, moderator. Out of fifteen ministers, eleven were present, together with six elders. A call from the congregation of Hibbert, to Mr. Peter Scott, was sustained. Mr. Scott, by telegram, intimated his acceptance of it, and his trials for ordination were appointed to be heard on the 20th inst. The congregation were instructed through their commissioners to report before Mr. Scott's ordination, that they had considered and decided in regard to the rule of paying their minister's salary quarterly or half-yearly in advance. Mr. Mitchell, as convener of the committee appointed to make arrangements for the expected delegates from the Foreign Mission Committee, reported that no such delegates had or might be expected to come forward. His conduct in making arrangements was sustained, and it was agreed to notify the Convener of the Foreign Mission Committee of the fact now stated. Deputations to missionary meetings reported. Mr. A. Y. Hartly delivered a lecture on Rom. v.: 1, 2, which was approved, and Mr. H. encouraged to proceed in his studies. He was further instructed to deliver at next ordinary meeting of Presbytery a lecture on Heb i: 1, 3. The records of the Session of Elma Centre, were examined and attested, and records not produced as yet, were again ordered for next meeting. Dr. Waters reported that he had communicated with the Convener of the Committee on the Fund for Aged and Infirm Ministers as instructed, but had, as yet, received no reply, and he was instructed further to prosecute the application. The principle of appointing alternates to commissioners to the Assembly, was approved. Mr. Hamilton read an essay on the benefits which may arise from Presbyterian conferences on subjects connected with the gospel ministry, and the Presbytery had conference on that subject. On motion of Mr. McPherson, seconded by Dr. Waters, a vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. Hamilton for his excellent essay. It was agreed to have a conference on difficulties in ministerial work, at next ordinary meeting, in the evening, Mr. McPherson to introduce the subject. The Assembly's remit on instrumental music was taken up, when it was moved by Dr. Waters, seconded by Mr. Drummond, that, whereas many earnest and devoted members of this Church are of opinion, that the service of praise in the sanctuary would be assisted by instrumental music; and, whereas, instrumental music is a matter of detail which may safely be left to the decision of Kirk-Sessions and congrega-