

News of the Church.

Presbytery of Pictou.

The Presbytery of Pictou met on the 24th February in John Knox's Church, New Glasgow. The Rev. George Roddieck preached from James ii. 24. The questions of the formula were generally answered in a satisfactory manner. The pastor, though he has suffered much from failing health, still perseveres in discharging all the duties of his office. The answers of the elders indicated close attention to the duties of their office, while the statements of the managers showed, that though the stipend is not such as is deemed adequate for the support of the ministry in a respectable manner, commendable degree of liberality is manifested by the congregation in supporting the ordinances of religion.

The Presbytery again met in Primitive Church on the same evening for the same object. The result of the examination was most favourable. The Presbytery found reason particularly to commend the liberality displayed by the congregation, their whole contributions for religious purposes having amounted to over £400 during the past year.

On the following day a similar visitation was held in James Church. The Presbytery were pleased with the state of the congregation in general, but felt it their duty to record in their minutes, their opinion, that the stipend paid to the minister was in the circumstances of the congregation entirely too low.

The intervals between the visitation were employed in transacting other business.—We subjoin the most important items.—Messrs. Duncan McKay and John Matheson appeared as delegates from the adherents of our Church at the Albion Mines, requesting the advice of Presbytery regarding the erection of a place of worship there. The commissioners stated that subscription lists had commenced on which there were already about \$1000, and gave their reasons for the movement. The brethren from New Glasgow were heard on the subject, and expressed their concurrence in the contemplated erection, whereupon the Presbytery agreed unanimously to express their cordial approval of the measure on the terms proposed, viz., that the parties in the meantime retain their connexion with their respective congregations.

Commissioners appeared from Little Harbour requesting supply of preaching half the time for the ensuing year.

The Rev. A. McGillivray intimated that he felt it his duty to make known to the Presbytery, that in the present state of his

health he was unable to undertake the pastoral visitation of his congregation, especially in winter. The Presbytery agreed to express their sympathy with Mr. McGillivray in his affliction, and their entire approval of his relinquishing in his present circumstances that portion of pastoral labour.

The Presbytery will meet again for Presbyterial visitation on Monday 23rd March, in Salem Church, Green Hill, sermon by the Rev. David Roy, and on the following day at West Branch, sermon by Rev. John Stewart.

Presbytery of Halifax.

This reverend court met at Kentville on the 4th and 5th ultimo. There were present the Rev. John L. Murdoch, John McLeod, Wm. Forlong, Wm. Murray, H. D. Steele, and D. S. Gordon, ministers, and Messrs. Chas. Robson, Archd. Smith, John Burgess, Stephen Burgess and Elias Tupper, ruling elders.

The Rev. John McLeod preached the opening sermon in absence of the Moderator. The Rev. John L. Murdoch was appointed Moderator pro tempore.

The whole of the Wednesday sittings—which continued till after midnight—were occupied in hearing the case between the Rev. Wm. Forlong and Henry B. Webster, Esq., ruling elder of the congregation of South Cornwallis.

After much discussion the Presbytery agreed to the following deliverance on the case: "After fully hearing both parties and their witnesses this Presbytery do find that the Rev. Mr. Forlong and Mr. Webster are censurable to some extent in their conduct toward each other, inasmuch as the former violated Presbyterian rule in demanding of Mr. Webster to resign his office of Elder, and on the other hand that Mr. Webster acted disorderly in having brought forward the subject of the Circuit at the close of the public prayer-meeting, instead of going privately to Mr. Forlong himself for an explanation—that a most unhappy state of feeling manifestly exists between Rev. Mr. Forlong and Mr. Webster, with little or no prospect of immediate reconciliation, a circumstance which this Court greatly regrets—that inasmuch as both parties have declared that they cannot co-operate in Session, and with a view to the Church's advancement and welfare, this Presbytery recommends that if a reconciliation cannot be effected Mr. Webster retire from his position as a ruling Elder in the congregation of South Cornwallis: it being understood that such a course on the part of Mr. Webster will not at all affect his standing as an Elder of the Church."

The resignation of Mr John S. Newcomb was not accepted. The Presbytery expressed disapproval of Elders resigning their of-