

PRESBYTERY OF COBOURG.

The Presbytery of Cobourg met in Peterboro', on the 30th January, 1855. The previous day being very severe, prevented the attendance of several members. Among other items of business, the following may be noticed:—Mr. Thompson's report of his labours at Norwood and Warsaw, was very satisfactory. Mr. McLeod reported that he had presided at the dispensation of the Lord's Supper, for the first time, in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Canada, at Trenton; that the season was felt to be refreshing to the souls of God's people, and that the prospects of that rising congregation are encouraging. May this people soon have a pastor of God's own choosing settled among them.

Rev. James Bowie, lately arrived from Scotland, was received as a probationer, and appointed to labour at Norwood and its connected stations, until the first of May.

The Presbytery accepted Mr. Bowie's services as the fulfilment of a promise made by the Home Mission Committee, at their last meeting, "that the Presbytery of Cobourg should have the first Missionary at their disposal."

Messrs. Andrews and McKenzie were appointed to hold a missionary meeting at Alwick, on Tuesday, 27th February, at 6 o'clock, P. M., and Messrs. Smith of Grafton, Thompson and Bowie, were appointed to perform a like duty at Percy, on the same evening. Collections to be made at both places for the schemes of the church.

The Clerk was instructed to send to each congregation a blank Financial Report to be filled up and returned by the last day of February. Ministers visiting the various stations are instructed to enquire how far these stations are doing their duty in assisting the Presbytery in supplying them with the labours of the Missionaries. Other matters of a mere local interest, occupied the attention of Presbytery for a considerable time.

J. W. SMITH, *Pres. Clerk.*

P. S. Deacons' Courts will please remember that the financial returns for the past half year, are also required to be in the hands of the Clerk before next meeting of Presbytery. The answers to the questions on the state of religion in the respective congregations, and to those ancient Sabbath schools, are to be sent to Rev. D. McLeod, by the last day of March. The attention of the Ministers of Presbytery is specially invited to the above intimations from the Presbytery.

PRESBYTERY OF BROCKVILLE.

The following are among the items of business before this Presbytery, at its last meeting, held in Prescott, on the 6th inst.:—

Committees were appointed for the examination of the Records of Session, to report at next meeting.

Reports were given regarding the collection for the Jewish and Foreign Missions. It appeared that in some of the congregations collections had also been taken for the Colonial Scheme of the Free Church of Scotland.

The Presbytery called for a statement from the Deacons' Courts, or managers, in the several congregations of the Presbytery, as required by resolution at last meeting, relative to the amount of stipend annually paid each congregation to its minister.

The accounts of the Treasurer of the Presbytery were audited by a committee and found correct. As there was no definite account of the sums realized for the Presbytery's Mission, by the collections taken at the meetings held up to this date, the Clerk was instructed to attend to this matter, and request that collectors return to the Treasurer all moneys on hand, before the first of March. Mr. Chambers, Missionary in the Presbytery, handed to the Treasurer the sum

of £9 17 10½, on account of subscriptions and collections from Bedford, Westport, and adjacent stations.

Mr. Geggie tendered the resignation of his pastoral charge to the Presbytery, accompanied by several reasons which induced him to take this step. The members of Presbytery regretted that Mr. Geggie, whom they so highly esteemed as a brother and fellow-laborer, should be compelled, for the reasons assigned, to offer his resignation. After solemn deliberation on the subject, the Presbytery agreed to loose Mr. Geggie from his charge, at the same time requesting that he would supply the congregations hitherto under his charge, until the second Sabbath in April. The Clerk was instructed to give Mr. Geggie a Presbyterial certificate. Mr. Boyd was appointed to preach at Spencerville, on the third Sabbath in April, and declare the congregation and its adjunct stations vacant.

Mr. Chambers was allowed leave of absence for two weeks, the Kingston Presbytery having made a request for his services for that space of time.

Mr. McMurray was appointed to visit Newboro', Bedford, &c., and administer the ordinances of Baptism and Lord's Supper, at the request of the Church, at those places; Mr. Chambers having stated that arrangements had been made for preaching at two of the stations, and also for the dispensation of the Lord's Supper, on the 11th instant, at Newboro'. The attention of the Presbytery was drawn to the subject of having steps taken in all the congregations and stations in the bounds, to raise funds for Knox's College at the earliest convenience.

A committee was appointed to prepare a report on the state of religion, and also to apply to the Home Mission Committee for a Missionary for the summer.

JONES McMURRAY, *Clerk.*

ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE SABBATH SCHOOL, IN CONNECTION WITH THE GEORGE STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TORONTO.

REV. AND DEAR SIR:—

It will no doubt be gratifying to many of your readers to know, that the Sabbath school in connection with this congregation, is still in existence, and doing well.

The annual meeting of this Sabbath school was held last evening, (Jan. 16th), the Rev. Dr. Willis in the chair.

After the opening exercises, the Rev. Dr. addressed the meeting in a few words, expressing his delight in seeing so many present—children, parents, and friends.

The report was then read by the superintendent.

It was moved by N. Gatchell, Esq., and seconded by Alexander McDonald, Esq., and carried unanimously, that the report be adopted.

The Rev. Mr. Marling supported the motion. After singing a few verses of a Psalm, the Rev. chairman called upon Mr. McMillan, student, to address the meeting on the subject of the duty of children to parents. His address was listened to with much attention.

Refreshments having been distributed, Mr. Strath next addressed the meeting, on the duty of children to their teachers and associates.

Mr. Scarth was next called upon to address the children, on the advantage which children in christian countries possess over those in heathen lands. Mr. Scarth brought forward a number of idols which had been worshipped in heathen lands, the sight of which excited much interest.

Mr. Johnston, city missionary, next addressed the children, who listened to his happy address with much interest. A collection was taken up, amounting to £4 15s., which with several private subscriptions received, makes the amount £7, to purchase Bibles, &c., for the use of the school.

After a short address by the Rev. chairman to the children, in his usual happy manner, the proceedings of the evening was closed by praise and prayer.

JOHN M. CAMPBELL, *Sup.*

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SABBATH SCHOOL, IN CONNECTION WITH THE SECOND FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TORONTO, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 1854.

The Teachers of this Sabbath School, in presenting their Report for the year now past, beg to state, that on account of many unfavourable changes having taken place during the past year, more especially in the Sabbath School, the report now submitted does not contain so much of the happy and interesting details, as such reports generally, are expected to do. Yet notwithstanding, the teachers would accord their gratitude to God, for that measure of success, which may have attended their unworthy labours, amid many imperfections, and much apathy in so honourable and glorious a work.

We have to acknowledge the gracious hand of our Heavenly Father, in leading and strengthening us, in our duties in making rough places smooth, and crooked paths straight, and we trust, that all of us feel and understand, that while Paul may plant, and Apollos water, it is God that giveth the increase. It is our duty to sow the seed in the spring time of youth; in the morning to sow the seed, and in the evening to withhold not our hand, looking for, and expecting that the Lord of the Harvest will prosper his own work in our hands. It is not for us in this advanced age of Gospel institutions, to bring forward arguments demonstrating the value of Sabbath Schools. Yet we feel called upon to express our regret at the apathy and indifference still existing on the part of parents and guardians to the spiritual wants of their children.

We need hardly say that Sabbath School teaching is a glorious work; those who have a heart in it feel it to be so. It has the seal of the Lord's approbation stamped upon it; it has, under him, been instrumental in raising many valuable men for the pulpit, and the mission-field. It has done much as an auxiliary to aid the gospel messenger in his arduous and honorable task. It has supplied with the sincere milk of the word many that must have perished for want of spiritual nourishment. What has the Sabbath School not done in connection with the preached gospel? And may we not look forward, with high hopes, for much which it will yet accomplish, while it wields the same spiritual weapon—the Bible—the sword of the spirit? We would, therefore, go forward in the work confiding in the promise of an ascended Saviour—King and Head over all things to his Church—who said "Lo! I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

We have also to acknowledge God's Fatherly care over us, during the past year, that, while the pestilence raged in our midst, cutting down its thousands, young and old, making many hearths desolate and many hearts sad, we have not missed one from among our small band, as its victim. While we rejoice at this manifestation of God's goodness in delivering from death, we have had to deplore the withdrawal of many of our teachers from the work; still, under all these, and other trying circumstances, we have good cause to rejoice in the goodness and mercy of God, to whom we would ascribe all the praise, honor and glory.

The attendance during the first six months of the past year was encouraging, viz., boys 52, girls 63—115; teachers 16—grand total 131. From July 16, to December, boys 35, girls 36—71; teachers 9—grand total 80; showing a falling off in pupils of 44, and in teachers of 7. We have much cause of thankfulness, when we