

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.—The ordinary meeting of this Presbytery was held on the 4th and 5th of February. Besides the Moderator, there were 31 ministers present, and 8 elders.

The following were the chief items of business.

A call was sustained from the congregation of West Gwillimbury and Bradford, in favour of Mr. P. Musgrave. Also a call from the congregation of Tecumseh, in favour of Mr. R. Moodie.

An application was received from Brampton 2nd, and Malton, for the appointment of one to moderate in a call; and to this work Mr. Alexander was appointed. A similar application was received from the congregation of Chinguacousy, and Mr. Pringle was appointed to preside and moderate, on Tuesday, the 18th of the month.

The tender of resignation by Mr. Mitchell, of his pastoral charge, was considered at some length. After a statement made by him there anent, and after the expression of opinions by three commissioners, Mr. M. was induced at one diet to withdraw his resignation. But at a subsequent diet, he produced, and read a letter from his medical adviser, counselling him, on the ground of his weak health, to retire from his present charge altogether; and in those circumstances he renewed the tender of his resignation. Whereupon the Presbytery reluctantly resolved to accept his resignation, and appointed Mr. Ewing to intimate the same to his congregation. It was also agreed to enter on the records of the Presbytery, their high appreciation of his personal and ministerial character, their deep sense of the ability and faithfulness with which he has discharged the duties of the ministry, and of the valuable counsel and aid which he has all along given in the deliberation and work of the Presbytery, their sincere regret at the cause of his resignation, and their earnest prayer that through the blessing of God, on recommended means, he may be speedily restored to wonted health, and be enabled to resume his work as a minister of the church.

A similar minute was passed, in connection with the resignation by Mr. Mitchell of the office of clerk, which, of course, was accepted by the Presbytery. And Mr. Monteath was appointed to fill up the vacancy; Mr. Wightman being also appointed to take his place as moderator, for the remaining part of the ecclesiastical year.

Mr. Topp was unanimously nominated as Moderator of the ensuing meeting of the Synod.

The Presbytery took up the Synod's remit, anent the use of Instrumental Music in Public Worship. Several reports were received and read from Kirk Sessions—all of them declaring, at least, by majorities, that instrumental music should not be sanctioned. It was then moved by Dr. Burns, and seconded by Mr. Lindsay:—The Presbytery, after due deliberation, find, that there is no evidence of instrumental music in the worship of the sanctuary, having been sanctioned by Christ, the apostles, or the primitive church; that its introduction into churches bears date from a period of great spiritual depression, superstition, and darkness; that the principles and practice of the Presbyterian churches in Great Britain have even been opposed to it; and, that its recognized introduction amongst us would, in all probability, give rise to division and schism; and on these grounds, independently of others that might be stated, the Presbytery decline to entertain the overture. It was moved, in amendment, by Mr. King, and seconded by Mr. Gregg:—The Presbytery, of Toronto, without affirming the desirableness of such a change, as is contemplated in the overture, in the mode of conducting public worship hitherto practised in the church, agrees to record as its deliverance on the matter remitted; 1st., that it does not find any valid ground in the nature of the change itself on which the permission to employ instrumental music as an aid in the service of praise should be refused to congregations desiring it; care being taken, however, by the Presbytery, of the bounds that there is a sufficient degree of unanimity on the question in the congregation so desiring; but, 2nd., that it would be inexpedient for the Synod, in the meantime, to proceed to enact a law granting the permission desired. It was moved in further amendment by Mr. Topp, and seconded by Professor