

Reports of Presbyteries.

THE PRESBYTERY OF COBOURG.

At Darlington, the 1st day of July, 1845, the Presbytery of Cobourg met and was constituted aedernit.—Rev. John M. Rogers, moderator,—Messrs. James Douglass, Thomas Alexander, and Wm. Reid, Ministers.

The minutes of last meeting having been read, the Presbytery proceeded to choose a Moderator for the ensuing year, when Mr. Douglass was unanimously chosen and took the chair.

Thereafter Mr. Alexander Steele delivered with approbation discourses on the subjects which had been previously prescribed, and was afterwards examined in Theology, Clerical History and Philosophy, as well as in the Greek and Hebrew languages. The Presbytery having taken a conjoint view of the trials of Mr. Steele, and being highly satisfied therewith, appointed his ordination to take place the following day at 11 o'clock, A. M.: and farther appointed Mr. Douglass to preach and preside—Mr. Roger to address the minister, and Mr. Reid the people.

On the next day the Presbytery again met, and directed the church officer to intimate at the church door that the Presbyteries were sitting, and ready to hear any objection to the doctrine or life of Mr. Steele, and that if no objections were offered, they would proceed to the ordination of Mr. Steele. None having appeared with objections, Mr. Douglass, the moderator, proceeded to the pulpit, and having preached from 2 Corinthians, vi. 3.—“Giving no offence in any thing, &c.” he put to Mr. Steele the questions appointed to be put to ministers previous to ordination, and Mr. Steele having given satisfactory answers, he was, by solemn prayer and imposition of the hands of the Presbytery, set apart for the holy ministry.—Mr. Steele having received the right hand of fellowship from the brethren of the Presbytery, Mr. Roger addressed the minister, and Mr. Reid the people on their respective duties, Mr. Alexander concluded public worship with praise and prayer. After the blessing was pronounced, Mr. Steele subscribed the formula, and his name was added to the roll.

The presbytery afterwards appointed its next meeting, to take place at Cobourg on Monday 27th August, and this meeting was then closed with prayer.

During the services of the day the church was completely filled, and the congregation seemed to take a deep interest in the solemn proceedings.—There is every reason to hope that the settlement of an active, prudent and pious minister, as Mr. Steele has proved himself to be, will, through the Divine blessing, be the means of gathering together a large congregation, and diffusing the blessings of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PRESCOTT.

July 15, 1845.

The Presbytery of Kingston met according to adjournment.

The Moderator constituted by prayer.

The roll called and marked.

Members present—Henry Gordon, Robt. Boyd, Wm. Smart, Alex'r McLean, Ministers—Robert Campbell, Elder.

The Presbytery proceeded to consider the call from the congregation at Picton, in favor of the Rev. Wm. Hamilton; and after much and serious deliberation, the call was sustained and accepted by Mr. Hamilton. The Moderator was requested to intimate this to the congregation, and to give them such instructions as he might deem necessary;—also to inform the Synod's Committee of Missions, of Mr. Hamilton's having accepted the call from Picton, and to suggest to them the propriety of relinquishing their claim upon him as a Missionary of the Committee.

Mr. Rogers was appointed to serve the edict on the 27th of July, and to induct Mr. Hamilton on the 5th of August; the Moderator to endeavor to secure the assistance of the Rev. M. Y. Stark on the occasion.

The Presbytery took into their consideration the application of the Rev. Wm. Lochead for admission, and being fully satisfied with regard to his personal piety, soundness in the faith, ministerial gifts, efficiency, prudence and propriety of deport-

ment, by private conference, documentary evidence, (including regular dismission, &c.), and hearing him preach,) unanimously agreed that he ought to be received into connection with the Presbyterian Church of Canada with as little delay as possible; and with this view they instructed the Moderator to communicate this, and report to the Presbyteries and College Council, and to urge upon them the propriety of giving an immediate deliverance.

Adjourned till half past six o'clock for public worship.

Half past six o'clock. After sermon by the Rev. Mr. Lochead, from Matth. ix, 13, the Presbytery opened by prayer.

Present as formerly.

It was agreed that the Moderator be appointed to visit the vacant congregations in the Bathurst and Dalhousie Districts, and when necessary, to organize congregations, giving them such counsel and instruction as their circumstances may require.

The Presbytery next proceeded to the consideration of the call from the congregation at Bytown, in favor of the Rev. Thomas Wardrope. The call having been presented, it was sustained, and Mr. Wardrope signified his intention to accept of the same. Mr. Wardrope having delivered, as one of the pieces of trial previous to ordination, a sermon from Ephesians i, 18, it was sustained and highly approved.

Adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at eight o'clock.

Eight o'clock, Wednesday morning. The Presbytery proceeded to deliberate with regard to Mr. Wardrope's ordination at Bytown. It was agreed that the ordination should take place on Wednesday, August 13 at 11 o'clock, A. M.—that the Rev. Dr. Burns be requested to preach and preside—that in the event of his not being able to accede to this request, the Moderator should discharge these duties,—that the Rev. Mr. Smart should give the charge to the Minister, and the Rev. Alexander McLean the charge to the congregation.

It was agreed that the Rev. Henry Gordon should serve the edict on the 20th of July, and give such advice and instructions to the congregation as might be necessary.

The Presbytery having previously examined Mr. Wardrope in the various branches of literature and theology, and having been fully satisfied with regard to his attainment in regard to these branches, required him to deliver at the next meeting of Presbytery, as his concluding piece of trial, a lecture from Romans v, 1—5.

Concluded with prayer and the benediction.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

A special meeting of this Presbytery was held at Hamilton on the 9th ult., the Rev. Geo. Cheyne of Saltfleet and Binbrook, Moderator in the chair. Nine members were present. After devotional exercises, the Presbytery took up the case of the Rev. W. J. Johnson, under the remit of the Synod, and having had further conference with Mr. Johnston and received satisfactory testimony regarding his ministerial experience in his former field of labor, he was called upon to preach before the Presbytery. He did so accordingly, and the Presbytery having heard Mr. Johnston's discourse, agreed to record their satisfaction therewith; and in terms of the Synod's deliverance, he was admitted as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, and referred convener of the Presbytery's own Mission Committee for appointment.

The case of Mr. David McKenzie, of Woodstock, was next taken up. After conferring at great length with Mr. McKenzie in private, the Presbytery unanimously resolved to refer the whole case to the Commission for advice. The Moderator and Clerk were appointed to state the case to the Commission, and to lay before them extracts of the Presbytery's minutes and all documents in their possession respecting the same; and in consideration of the peculiar nature of the case, the Clerk was instructed to address a circular to the other Presbyteries, intimating this reference to the Commission.

Mr. W. Bethune, Probationer of the Free Church of Scotland, who was recommended to the Synod in October last, appeared and intimated that his residence being now within the bounds of this Presbytery, he desired to place himself under their

superintendence. He was referred to the Home Mission Committee of the Presbytery, who were authorized to receive his Presbyterial certificate from the Presbytery of Montreal, and if it were found satisfactory, to give him appointments.

Leave of absence for a season was granted to the Rev. D. McMullen, of Williams, on account of bad health,—and he having offered to undertake in the meantime such missionary labor within the bounds of the Presbytery of Toronto, as his strength might enable him to perform. It was resolved to apply to that Presbytery for the services of one of the Catechists within their bounds, for Williams, during Mr. McMullen's absence.

An application addressed to the Presbytery, on behalf of various members and adherents of the Church at St. Thomas, intimating their desire to call the Rev. W. J. Johnston to become their Pastor, was then taken up, and arrangements were made for the visitation of that charge, and authority was given to the visitors to moderate in a call, if they should deem it expedient to do so.

The Presbytery had under consideration the subject of the cheap publication scheme of the Free Church of Scotland, and resolved to use means to promote a more general circulation of the books issued under that scheme. The Presbytery appointed Mr. D. McLellan, Hamilton, agent for the scheme within their bounds for the ensuing year, and recommended that subscribers forward their names and subscription money to him.

PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL.

A *pro re rata* meeting of this Presbytery was lately held in St. Gabriel Church, Montreal.—The amended constitution of that Church was submitted to the Presbytery, and after deliberation approved of. The whole matter, however, will be brought under the consideration of the Commission. The Presbytery having met specially for the object referred to, no business was taken up.

Home Missions.

CORRESPONDENCE OF MISSIONARIES.

The following communication from Mr. Robert Wallace—a candidate for License before the Presbytery of Toronto, and employed by that Presbytery in the meantime to supply the extensive destitution within their bounds—reached us too late to be inserted in the July Record: We have received some further reports from Catechists in the Presbyteries of Toronto and Hamilton, but as they do not contain anything beyond a detail of their ordinary labors, of which we have already given a specimen, we do not insert them:—

I should have written you ere this time, but not having much to communicate, I delayed till I should return from a tour towards Lake Simcoe. It was agreed that Mr. McKinnon and I should exchange for two weeks; accordingly I went to West Gwillimbury, where I addressed the congregation in the Scotch settlement on the 1st instant: thence I proceeded to Bradford where we had Public Worship at 3 P. M. On Monday I had two appointments—at Coulson's settlement (four miles north of Bradford), and Innisfil (6 miles further north). I visited some of the families. I again met with the people in Bradford on Friday evening. The rest of the week was occupied in visiting as many families as I could. This work was both pleasant and instructive to me. The children in Gwillimbury were generally well acquainted with their Catechism, and their progress in Scripture knowledge does credit both to their parents and their teacher, Mr. McKay. The Shorter Catechism is taught in his school on the Saturday, as in Scotland, the settlement being almost exclusively Presbyterian. The people are erecting a new Church, which will soon be in fit condition to accommodate them on Sabbath. They take a deep interest in the recent revival in our Church, and come forward more liberally than ever to support religion. This is Mr. McKinnon's principal station south of the Lake. There are but few of our people in Innisfil, and the Presbyterians of Coulson's settlement could attend Bradford Church,