

Montreal. The text was from Heb. ii, 3. "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" At the conclusion of the service the church at Melbourne was declared vacant. Intimation was also made that, if it please the Lord, the Rev. Robert McGill, of Montreal, will dispense the Sacrament here on the 4th. Sabbath of January. On the same evening the people at Windsor were addressed on the nature and duty of Prayer, and the sickly were twice visited in the house of their afflictions.

During the week a pastoral visitation was made to most of the families at Ely and the Gore. Our progress in this work of love was greatly impeded by the storm of snow, the roads in the back-woods not being yet traced out. In different parts of this settlement, so thriving and populous, five children were baptized. On the 2nd. Sabbath of the month, the people at Melbourne were addressed from Acts xviii, 21. "I must by all means keep this feast that cometh at Jerusalem." In the evening about eighty persons were addressed at the Gore School-house on the important duty of Self-examination with a view to their near approach unto God at His Holy Table. At the close of the service two children were baptized.

In the course of our visitations among this flock of the fold of Christ we had reason to deplore the want of pastoral superintendence as well as of other means of Religious improvement. We had, indeed, the high satisfaction to see some children who were instructed in the Bible and Catechisms of our Church by their parents. In the several stations, we estimated that the number, who were fit to attend a Sabbath School, might be upwards of a hundred. But, alas! we saw no active agency at work, that might direct the minds of the rising generation, or cheer the drooping hearts of the aged. Yet, all are hastening onwards to eternity. We fondly hope that those, who are blessed with the ordinary means of Grace on each successive Sabbath, may improve their day of salvation, and feel thankful for their mercies; in fine, that they would remember at the Throne of Grace the destitute portions of our Zion.

Three Rivers, 19th January, 1851.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

At our last meeting on the 14th of Jan., all the ministers, who are members of the Court, were present with one exception. The ministers, who were absent from our former meeting, being interrogated as to the cause of their non-attendance, made explanations which were declared satisfactory.

Mr. William Bell and Mr. Gibson reported that they had fulfilled the appointments made for them by the Presbytery. Mr. Macnee stated that he had preached according to appointment in London, but had been prevented by indisposition from preaching in Williams as directed.

On enquiry it was found that all the Congregations excepting two had made the Annual Collections for the College as enjoined by the Act of Synod.

A letter was read from the Colonial Committee, granting permission to the Congregation at Woodstock to withdraw their application to the Committee for a Minister, in order that they might send a Call to the Rev. John McLaurin, of Martintown, with whom they have been in communication.

A Memorial was read from the adherents of our Church in Woolwich, depicting in a striking manner their spiritual destitution, and earnestly requesting the advice and assistance of the Presbytery. They state that the Disruption in the Church not only caused a scarcity of ministers, but in many cases, and particularly in the case of Woolwich, placed it beyond the limited means of either party to pay an adequate salary to a fixed pastor; and ever since that unfortunate event there has been no stated clergyman of any denomination in this large, densely peopled, and otherwise flourishing district; in consequence whereof the Sabbath is desecrated to an enormous extent, the young and rising generation likely to perish for the lack of religious instruction, and the public, if not the private worship of God, all but neglected: That several Providential circumstances at the present time have encouraged your Memorialists to hope for a speedy amendment of such a state of things, and with a view to the realization of this hope they have resolved to become bound for and pay the sum of fifty pounds currency per annum in name of stipend to a suitable and acceptable minister, if permanently settled amongst them. Your Memorialists are fully aware that the yearly sum above mentioned is small; but, while it is all they could consider themselves justified in promising under their present circumstances, they humbly hope, nay, firmly believe that, if an efficient minister were permanently settled amongst them, their strength would soon be augmented by present adherents becoming members, waverers becoming steady adherents, and by many from other denominations, and from no denomination at all, joining their ranks, in proportion to which increase the congregation would be rendered able, as they are willing, to increase the salary, or otherwise to promote the comforts and improve the accommodation of their "pastor." The Presbytery directed the Clerk to assure the Memorialists of their deep sympathy with them, and in the meantime instructed Mr. Gibson, of Galt, to preach in Woolwich on two Sabbaths at an early date.

An application for a minister from Port Elgin, County of Bruce, was then taken up. The Presbytery felt deeply grieved that it was utterly out of their power to supply immediately the spiritual wants of our people in this interesting part of the Province; but resolved not to overlook their claims and to provide them as soon as possible with the Ordinances of Grace.

Messrs. Macnee, King, and Mowat were appointed to preach at Scarborough on the three first Sabbaths of the vacancy occasioned by Mr. George's temporary removal to King-ton to take charge of the Divinity Class in Queen's College. It is understood that the Brethren of the Toronto Presbytery are to provide the necessary supply for the remaining Sabbaths on which Mr. George is to be absent. This arrangement is in accordance with the injunction of the Synod at its last meeting.

The following appointments were then made: Mr. Mackid to preach in Williams and London, and dispense the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in the former place, Mr. William Bell in Woodstock, Mr. Gregor in Puslinch, Dr. Mair in London, Mr. George Bell in Fredericksburgh and Big Creek. It was left with these brethren to select whatever Sabbath might be most convenient for themselves, and to intimate the particular days to the people.

The following is an extract from the Report of Mr. F. P. Sim.

I officiated in Woodstock on the 26th of November, when I was very kindly received; and notwithstanding the very unfavourable weather there were present one hundred or more, wholly from the Town. When from an occasional preaching such a good attendance was effected on a day which was so disagreeable that the country people, of whom this congregation is chiefly composed, were prevented from being present, it can be clearly seen how numerous the congregation would be if there was a placed Minister over them. Here there is a large and commodious place of worship in excellent condition, and the people are anxious to have the Ordinances of Religion administered among them. If a Minister could be obtained suitable to their minds, he would in a very short time gather a congregation which would be among the largest within the bounds of your Presbytery.

Mr. G. Bell laid before the Presbytery the following notices of Missionary operations among the destitute Presbyterian Settlements in the County of Norfolk.

1. Dover For some time after I commenced furnishing regular supply to this place, the attendance was so small that I was about to abandon it, but, considering that we have a comfortable church there, and being earnestly solicited by a few adherents not to forsake them, I determined to give the place a better trial. For some time I have preached there on Sabbath once a month in the forenoon, and once a month in the evening, and the congregation has been steadily increasing. In August last I spent a few days in visiting, and found out many adhering families. There are also several adhering families about Jarvis, and could regular and frequent supply of sermon be given to these places, I have no doubt that a respectable congregation might be raised.

2. Fredericksburgh and Big Creek. To each of these places I have given one Sab-