

The Committee reported the following minute, which was adopted by the Presbytery:—"The Presbytery, in thus parting with their brother, Mr. Waters, agree to put on record the very high esteem in which Mr. Waters is held by them. By his talent for business, his abundant and efficient labours, his genial disposition and uniform kindness, he has endeared himself to the Presbytery, and they wish him every comfort and success in his intended sphere of labour.

Mr. Laing was appointed Moderator of the Kirk Session at Port Hope.

JOHN LAING, *Pres. Clerk, P.t.*

## Communications.

### THE LATE MR. JAMES LINDSAY, OF GANANOQUE.

The following history having some striking features about it, bearing too on the important subject of Church Membership, seems to be appropriate for insertion in the publication connected with our Church. It relates to the admission to the Membership of "St. Andrew's Church, Gananoque, of the C. P. Church," of a young man deaf and dumb from his birth, the circumstances connected with which are impressive and instructive.

James Lindsay, born deaf and dumb in Montrose, Scotland, came with his mother and family to Canada ten years ago. Another of the children, younger, God has seen fit to bring into the world under the same deprivation of hearing and speech. By a commendable parental faithfulness, and at some pecuniary sacrifice, his father gave him all the advantages of the education provided at the oldest of the two Edinburgh "Institutes for the Deaf and Dumb." The mental powers bestowed by the Creator were good, and James was from childhood of an amiable disposition. He pursued the calling of a merchant tailor in Gananoque for some years with success, and by his exemplary deportment he secured the esteem of all who knew him. Desirous to know his spiritual state, I had a good deal of personal intercourse with him, and communication with his mind by writing and by signs, interpreted to me, and I was much pleased with the intelligence, clearness and soundness of his religious views. But I was scarcely prepared for such a strong, luminous, and experimental elucidation of them as his letter to me, of date early in March, and which gave me no little pleasure to receive, contains. He thus writes: "Rev. Henry Gordon.—Sir, "As by the will of God I am deprived of the faculties of hearing and "speech, I would now address you a few lines, to say that I have a desire "to become a member of your Church. I have also a desire to have my "child baptized, and for these two reasons, I would in this letter try to "give my ideas in regard to these things in as simple a manner as I can.

"In the first place, I don't consider that to join the Church is to be an "effectual means of my salvation. In my idea, to join the Church is to make "a public profession of my belief that Jesus Christ has made a full and a "final atonement to Divine Justice for the sins of his people. And to "show that it is my belief, I would desire to obey the command that he "left with his disciples to show forth his death till he come again, for he "has given his command to do this in remembrance of Him. From God's "revealed word to men, I am led to know that my natural heart is evil, "and at enmity with God, and from my own experience I feel it to be "true, and I trust that I also feel the need that I have of Jesus Christ as "my Saviour, and feeling that I can do nothing for my own salvation,