

Woodbridge congregation was organized by authority of Presbytery, on the 1st April, 1873, a little over two years and a half ago. The erection of such a building and the circumstances connected with it are most creditable to them.—COM.

LAST winter, Rev. Mr. Little, of Bowmanville, gave his congregation a course of lectures on the Reformation; tracing its course from its first beginnings, through its trying struggles, to its final triumph, and introducing graphic and most life-like sketches of the leading princes, statesmen, and divines who figured in the great revolution of the sixteenth century. This season he is delivering a course of lectures on the Confession of Faith, a subject wisely chosen at the present time, when not a few who arrogate to themselves the title, "advanced thinkers," are ready to remove the old landmarks as obsolete and unsuited to the enlightened liberality of the present age. In the present course he has already treated of the state of religious parties at the commencement of the civil war in England in the time of Charles the First, the occasion of the calling of the Westminster Assembly, with an account of some of its leading members; a general outline of the various creeds and confessions, and the occasions on which they were formulated; and, the definition of the term Church, given in the twenty-fifth chapter of the Confession. Lectures on such subjects as these are very useful. Our people are not sufficiently grounded in the knowledge of the doctrines and polity of our Church. And those ministers are rendering a very important service to the cause of truth, who take pains to show that those Bible doctrines, revived to new life by the illustrious fathers and confessors of the fifteenth century are still vigorous and potent as guiding principles in Christian life; and that these confessions—the work of the most learned and pious of former generations are still applicable to the present age.

THE fourth anniversary of the opening of Knox Church, Elora, was observed on the 23rd and 24th ult. The services, on Sabbath 23rd, were conducted by the Rev. J. James, D.D., of Knox Church, Hamilton, who preached two very able, eloquent and impressive sermons that will not be forgotten by them that heard them for many a day. On the Monday evening a successful tea-meeting was held, which was addressed by the Rev. E. Kershaw, Canada Methodist; the Revs. — Cameron, Palmerston; J. C. Smith, of Guelph; D. Smythe, of Eramosa; and J. James, D.D., of Hamilton. Considering the state of the roads, and the time—Christmas Eve—and the hard times, the audience was large. Had there been good sleighing, large as the church is, it would have been filled to its utmost capacity. All the speakers congratulated the pastor, the Rev. A. D. McDonald, and the congregation, on the noble effort made to remove the debt on the church. There is \$12,900, debt on the church, but by the pastor's personal canvass of the congregation, \$14,115 has been subscribed. This covers the entire debt, leaves a sufficient margin to make the scheme a success, and gives reason to entertain the hope that by this subscription, after the debt has been paid, there will be enough over to paint and fence the church. There is one principle involved in this scheme which is of great importance, and to which it is well to direct the attention of the Church generally. Congregations often involve themselves in heavy pecuniary obligations in church building, but they expect the public to pay the debt by attending tea-meetings, socials and so forth. But here, in the instance before us, the congregation make the effort themselves. They call in no outside influence. They try what they can do themselves, and the result is a decided success. In money matters, ministers should deal as little as possible, but there are times and circumstances, when the welfare of congregations and of the cause of religion demand of them exertion and application. And this case is an instance which goes to prove that if a minister is judicious and has sufficient tact and good nature, he may do a really good work by taking up the matter and working it out. We commend the principle, to the careful consideration of congregations generally.

PRESBYTERY OF BRUCE.—This Presbytery met at Walkerton on the 18th Dec. There were twelve ministers and four elders in attendance. Mr. Tolmie's term of Moderatorship, having expired, Mr. Cameron was appointed moderator for the ensuing six months. Dr. Bell and Mr. Tolmie addressed the court in the interests of Queen's and Knox Colleges. Messrs.

Blair, Millar, Bell and Duff, elders, were appointed a committee to devise the best manner of raising funds to meet the current expenses of the Colleges. The Committee in their report recommended the Presbytery to instruct its finance Committee to ascertain the amount required from this court and to levy the same on the several congregations of the bound, according to their strength. The report was received and its recommendation adopted, from this deliverance Mr. Bethune dissented. The Committee appointed at last meeting of Presbytery to enquire into the condition of St. Andrew's Church, Paisley, reported that the church property is still in the hands of the anti-unionists. That they had only two or three services in the church during the year. That the union party informed them that if they were to secure the services of an acceptable minister and receive aid from the Home Mission Committee for one year a self-sustaining charge could be gathered by holding meetings in the Town Hall. The report was received, the Committee thanked for their diligence, and it was resolved to wait for the further action of the congregation. There was read a communication from the Rev. John Fraser tendering his resignation of the pastoral charge of Knox Church, Kincardine, owing to ill health. The resignation was laid on the table and Mr. McQueen was appointed to preach and cite the congregation on Sabbath, the 13th day of January, to appear for their interests at a meeting of Presbytery to be held in Knox Church, Kincardine, on the first Tuesday of February at 2 o'clock p.m. A circular letter was read from the Foreign Mission Committee informing this court that Messrs. MacMillan of Mount Forest, and McLean of Blyth, were appointed to address the congregations of the bounds on the subject of Foreign Missions and asking that arrangements be made accordingly. On motion of Mr. Strath it was resolved, "That the Presbytery recognises the great importance of Foreign Missions and agrees to give them that pre-eminence which in its judgment they deserve, but inasmuch as arrangements for missionary meetings have been made at a previous meeting and cannot now be changed, the plan proposed by the Foreign Mission Committee, is in the circumstances impracticable. The Presbytery is therefore constrained respectfully to decline the offer contained in the circular now read." Messrs. Millar and Andrews were heard in relation to the Mission Stations of Riversdale and Enniskillen respectively asking for supply of preaching. It was agreed to obtain the services of a probationer to labor between these congregations. Agreeable to petitions from Salem Church, Elderslie and Chesley, the pastoral tie hitherto existing between Mr. Bethune and Salem Church was dissolved and his services confined to Chesley. Chesley promises to pay the same stipend as hitherto raised by both congregations, viz., \$700. Mr. Smith was appointed to preach and declare Salem Church vacant on as early a Sabbath in January as practicable, he was also appointed moderator of its session. A petition and complaint of Mr. Wm. McLaughlin was read complaining of an action of the session of Chesley in suspending him from the privileges of the Church. After hearing parties in the case it was resolved to sustain the action of the session of Chesley, complained of, notwithstanding certain irregularities in the proceedings in the case, and that Mr. McLaughlin be required to sign a paper apologising for his conduct before the Session, and withdrawing statements made by him which might imply charges against members of the Session, and that Mr. McLaughlin on subscribing such a paper receive certificate of membership. Mr. McLaughlin having signed the paper of apology received his certificate accordingly. There was read a call from Prince Arthur's Landing addressed to Mr. D. McKerracher, missionary, signed by sixty-nine members and adherents and accompanied by a promise of the congregation that his stipend should be \$500 per annum with manse. The call was sustained and ordered to be forwarded to Mr. McKerracher. The Rev. D. Cameron, minister, and Messrs. Blair and Millar, elders (Mr. Millar, convener), were appointed a Committee to visit all the supplemented congregations of the bounds, with the view if possible to reduce the rate of supplement for the next year and to report to next meeting of Presbytery.—A. G. FORBES, Pres. Clerk.

P. S.—Kirk Sessions are requested to forward answers to the questions on the state of religion to the Convener of the Committee, Rev. A. Sutherland,

Dingwall P.O., so as to enable the Committee to prepare their report for the next meeting of Presbytery. The remits of General Assembly are to be considered, and commissioners to the General Assembly appointed at next meeting of Presbytery.—A. G. F.

PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.—The Presbytery of London met on December 18th, Rev. Neil McKinnon, Moderator, in the chair. The minutes of last meeting were read and sustained. A petition from the congregation of Hyde Park was read and supported by Rev. D. McMillan. The Presbytery agreed to receive the petition, and to cite Hyde Park congregation to appear for its interests at the next meeting.—Rev. Mr. Henderson, of Hyde Park, to supply Komoka, as formerly. The committee appointed to enquire into the condition and relationship of church property in Zorra reported, and the report was received. The Rev. Mr. McPherson, of Stratford, appeared on behalf of the Stratford Presbytery. After a lengthy discussion in reference to the right of jurisdiction over the property, which the several Presbyteries claim, it was unanimously agreed to refer the matter for settlement to the Synod of Hamilton and London. A call was presented from the congregation of Aylmer and Springfield, addressed to Rev. Mr. McIntyre, promising a salary of \$700. The call was sustained, and ordered to be placed in Mr. McIntyre's hands. A call from the congregations of Mandaamin and Moore Line, addressed to Rev. Abraham Beamer, promising a manse and \$700, was presented. The moderator's conduct was approved, and the call sustained and ordered to be forwarded to Mr. Beamer. A committee, consisting of Rev. Messrs. Camelon, Thomson, Abraham, and Murray, was appointed to allocate the Foreign Missions Committee to address the various congregations throughout the Presbytery bounds. A letter from Rev. Mr. Gaid, addressed to the Presbytery, in reference to alleged arrears of stipend, was read, and it was unanimously agreed that the letter be allowed to lie on the table. Rev. Geo. Sutherland was granted permission to moderate in a call at Port Stanley. Rev. Mr. Camelon asked permission to moderate in a call for the congregation of Dorchester and Crumlin, and also for Belmont, which was granted. A report from the Committee of Presbytery appointed to meet with the congregations in Westminster, with the object of uniting them into one charge, was read by Rev. Mr. Camelon. The report was received and adopted, and the Presbytery agreed to declare the congregations of the third and eighth lines, Westminster, one charge, under the designation of North and South Westminster. The Presbytery resumed its sitting at 7.30 p.m., last night. A letter from Rev. Peter McDiarmid, of Bear Creek and Burns' Churches, was read, tendering the resignation of his charge on account of ill-health. The Presbytery agreed to accept his resignation, and expressed their sympathy with Mr. McDiarmid in the present circumstances. The resignation of Mr. Ferguson, of Alveston, Euphemia and Brooke, which had been laid upon the table at a previous meeting, was accepted, and Rev. Mr. McKinnon was instructed to preach to the congregations vacant on the second Sabbath of January next. Leave was granted the congregations of Point Edward, Lobo, English Settlement, and Proof Line, for moderations at an early date. The circumstances of Mrs. Scott, widow of the late Rev. Robert Scott, of Jane Street, New York, who, for fifteen years, labored in connection with the Canada Presbyterian Church, were brought before the Presbytery, and it was unanimously agreed to recommend her case to the consideration of the committee in connection with the Widows' Fund. A committee, consisting of Rev. Messrs. Murray, Frazer, Rennie, Goodwillie, Thompson, ministers; and Messrs. Cowan, Thompson, Nisbet, and Henderson, Rev. Mr. Murray, convener, was appointed to arrange for a Sabbath school convention. Rev. Mr. Thompson, of Sarnia, gave notice that at the next meeting of the Presbytery he would move for a division of the Presbytery. The Presbytery ordered all session records to be produced for examination at its next regular meeting. Mr. Farquhar McCrae, student of divinity, being present, read trial discourses for ordination. The discourses were approved, and Rev. Messrs. Thompson, Milloy, and Goodwillie were appointed a committee to examine Mr. McCrae in the various subjects appointed by the Assembly. His ordination was appointed to take place on the 3rd day of January, 1878, Mr. Goldie to preach, Mr. Wells to address the people, and Mr. Sage the Minister. The Treasurer's report was read and adopted, after which the Presbytery adjourned, to meet in the same place on the third Tuesday of March, 1878, at 2 o'clock p.m. The sederunt closed with the benediction.