

services were cheerfully accepted, and he was appointed to that work for three weeks. The clerk was instructed to correspond with ministers in the bounds belonging to the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland; and to ask them to confer with them regarding the boundaries of the Synod and Presbytery at the consummation of the union.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.—This Presbytery met in McNab Street Church, Hamilton, on the 12th and 13th of January. There was a large attendance of ministers, and the eldership was fairly represented. The Rev. Mr. Fletcher was moderator. Mr. Black reported a call to Rev. James Gourlay, probationer, from Binbrook and Saltfleet. The call was unanimously signed, and was most harmonious. The stipend promised is \$700.00, and a manse. Mr. Hancock resigned a portion of his extensive charge, consisting of the congregations of Port Colborne, Crowland, and Welland, which are now put upon the list of vacancies, and chose as his future charge the congregations of Port Robinson and North Pelham. A considerable part of the time of the Presbytery was most profitably taken up with the consideration of fields in the bounds which Presbyterianism has not at all, or but partially, cultivated. These places are Port Rowen and St. Williams; Delhi and Windham Centre; Hagersville; North Cayuga and South Canboro; Marshville and Wainfleet Centre; and Merriton, between St. Catharines and Thorold. The Presbytery have adopted means to ascertain the wants and prospects of these places, with a view of working them to the extent of our power. The comparative weakness of our church in the rural places of the old Niagara District is not creditable to us; and it is now sought to place our standard, if possible, in some, if not all, the above-named districts. The statistics of the congregations in the bounds were considered. There is room for congratulation that the promised stipend is paid, or more than paid, with only an exception or two; yet some of the congregations had to be noted as either contributing too little, or nothing at all, to some of the schemes of the church. The clerk was instructed to write to the sessions of their congregations, and urge greater faithfulness. Conferences on the state of religion were held, under the auspices of the Presbytery, on the evenings of the days during which the sittings continued. "The Christian Life: its Progress and Hindrances," introduced by Messrs. Murray, Craigie, and Laing respectively, and prosecuted by others, were the matters discussed on Tuesday evening. The evening of Wednesday was taken up with the consideration of Christian work, evangelistic meetings, and lay co-operation, introduced by Messrs. McLeod, Black, and McCall, and followed up by both ministers, elders, and others. These meetings were felt to be refreshing, by those that were present; but the smallness of the attendance was a matter of regret.

JOHN PORTEOUS, *Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF DURHAM.—This Presbytery held its ordinary quarterly meeting at Durham, on the 22nd and 23rd December. The Presbytery having gone into committee, and associated with them the elders and other office bearers from the several congregations, of whom there was a large number present, were engaged in conference on the subject of the state of religion during a long sederunt. Mr. Duff introduced the subject of "The nature and need of a true revival of religion among us;" Mr. Macmillan that of "The best means of promoting the same," and Mr. Moffat that of, "The need of, and the best means of promoting, a greater efficiency on the part of our ruling elders." On the Moderator again taking the chair, it was moved that Messrs. Duff, Macmillan and Moffat be requested to publish their respective addresses in some religious periodical, and agreed to. It was also resolved that the Presbytery express their gratitude at the hearty response made to the invitation given to all the elders and office bearers to be present at the conference