

Proceedings of Presbyteries.

PRESBYTERY OF DURHAM—This Presbytery held their ordinary quarterly meeting at Durham on the 16th and 17th of January. Mr. Moffat, Moderator.

Mr. Macmillan reported, that, as appointed, he had moderated in a call in Carrick on the 26th December, and laid on the table a call, unanimously signed, in favor of Mr. William Blain, minister of the gospel, with promise of stipend of seven hundred dollars (\$700) a year, to be paid half-yearly in advance, and also of house rent or of a manse. Mr. Macmillan's diligence in the matter was approved of. Mr. Wm. Sutherland, ruling elder in Carrick, appeared as commissioner in support of the call. The call was sustained, and in order to expedite the matter, it was agreed to communicate by telegraph with Mr. Blain regarding his acceptance or non-acceptance thereof. At a future stage of the Presbytery's proceedings, intimation was received from Mr. Blain of his acceptance, and a meeting of Presbytery was appointed to be held in Carrick, in the church at Clifford, on the first Wednesday of February, at one o'clock, p.m., for his induction to the pastoral charge of Carrick congregation; Mr. Moffat to preach and preside on the occasion; Mr. Greig to address the minister, and Mr. Macmillan, the congregation. It was agreed that the Rev. John Scott, Huron, be requested to preach in Carrick on the last Sabbath in January, and serve the edict.

A petition on the table from Chesley Branch of Chesley, West Bentinck, and Hanover congregation, praying to be separated from Hanover, was taken up and parties called, when there appeared commissioners representing each of the stations. The commissioners having been heard, after full deliberation it was moved and carried: That the prayer of the petition from Chesley be granted; and further, considering the whole field, that Chesley be now constituted an independent congregation, and that West Bentinck and Hanover be united as mission stations. It was agreed that the distribution of preachers in the stations concerned be as hitherto for the rest of the quarter. Mr. Duff was appointed moderator of Chesley Kirk Session, and Mr. Moffat of that of Hanover.

There was read a circular-letter from Mr. McLaren, convener of the Foreign Mission Committee, setting forth the importance of a greater interest being excited throughout the Church in the work of foreign missions, and of an increase of contributions; that, with this view, they had agreed to send deputations to those Presbyteries where their services should be deemed desirable, and that, accordingly, the Rev. John Straith, Paisley, had been requested to visit this Presbytery. In connection with this matter, there was also read a letter from Mr. Straith, in which he stated that he had communicated to the committee the objections he entertains to the advocacy in this manner of any one of the schemes of the church to the exclusion of the others; but that his services were at the disposal of the committee, should he be allowed to plead the cause of the several schemes of the church, and of christian liberality generally, and that to this the committee had at once assented. And now that his services were at the disposal of the Presbytery, subject to the above condition, the recommendation of the committee was adopted, and Mr. Straith's services accepted, and arrangements made for the visitation of all the congregations accordingly.

A Home Mission report was given in by Mr. Macmillan, which was received and adopted, and thanks were given to Mr. Macmillan for his diligence. It was agreed to give a service to each of the stations, it being understood that the ministers giving such services should correspond with the mission agent on the subject.

A petition was read from Arthur, praying for the moderation of a call. Mr. Neil Macmillan, ruling elder, Mount Forest, appeared as commissioner in