

that a *Dayspring* Insurance Fund has been at length instituted. Our Assembly has voted £1500 out of its Reserve Fund, on this understanding, that as much more will be contributed by the other churches supporting the mission. We expect the other Australian Colonies (New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania and Queensland) to contribute £500. New Zealand is pretty sure to give £500, and we look to Scotland and Nova Scotia for the remaining £500.

The interest of money is going down fast enough in Australia now, and it will take £3000 to yield £180 a year of interest. With a fund of £3000 awaiting any contingency that may befall the vessel, we think that the interest may go to maintenance and thus lighten the burden of the vessel's support. We have also resolved to pay our missionaries henceforth at the rate £150 a year, together with all reasonable outlay on mission premises and mission work.

I have had letters from the islands down to the end of October. All the mission families were well and the good work getting on favourably. The *Dayspring* is expected at New Zealand next trip. She is not coming to Melbourne. It is more than probable that I shall go and meet her at Dunedin, in order to see after the interest of the Insurance Fund, and mission matters generally.

In my last note from Capt. Fraser, he seemed more disposed to abide by the *Dayspring*. Trusting that the Lord's work is progressing in your home field,

I am, my dear sir, ever yours,

D. MACDONALD

REV. P. G. MCGREGOR.

News of the Church

Presbytery of Pictou.

The Presbytery of Pictou met in Sherbrooke on the 20th January, for the visitation of the congregation and for ordinary business, and was constituted by the Rev. James Thompson, Moderator, with whom were present the Revs. John Campbell, James Bayne, D.D., George Patterson, John McKinnon, Alexander Ross, C. B. Pitblado, J. F. Forbes, and J. D. Murray, Ministers; and Messrs. John A. McDonald and John Fisher, Ruling Elders.

The Rev. Dr. Bayne preached from Matthew ix., 37, 38.

Commissions from the Kirk Sessions of Glenelg and Antigonish, appointing as their respective representative Elders at Synod and Presbyteries during the ensuing

year Messrs. John Fisher and Robert MacDonald, were read, sustained, and the names of these brethren added to the roll.

The Moderator then put the questions of the formula to the Minister, Elders, Session and Managers, which they satisfactorily answered. The Minister endeavours to perform all the duties of his office faithfully. The Elders are a body of pious and intelligent men who take a deep and active interest not only in the affairs of their own congregation, but in the general schemes of the Church. They hold prayer-meetings, teach in Sabbath Schools, and maintain faithful supervision over the moral and religious conduct of the whole congregation. There are three Sabbath Schools, twenty-four teachers, one hundred and seventy pupils, and four hundred volumes in the Sunday School library.

The managers reported that the financial affairs of the congregation were in a very satisfactory condition. The stipend paid the minister is \$800, and which is collected in weekly payments every Sabbath day in the laud. The whole amount contributed to the schemes of the Church during the past year was \$170, besides liberal contributions to various other religious objects not schemes of the Church. The members of Presbytery expressed themselves as highly satisfied with the state of this congregation. In proportion to the number of its members and its wealth, it is not behind, in the grace of Christian liberality, the most advanced congregation in the Synod.

In the evening the Presbytery held a very interesting religious conference and prayer meeting, which was largely attended by the people.

Commissioners appeared from Wine Harbour and Goldenville with petitions requesting the Presbytery to form these two places into one ministerial charge. They presented subscription lists amounting to over \$600, as their yearly stipend to a minister. They stated that a much larger sum could be got should they be formed into a congregation, and succeed in obtaining a suitable minister.

The Presbytery agreed to obtain for them a probationer, who should be stationed at Wine Harbour, and give a portion of his time to Goldenville.

The Presbytery met the next day at Glenelg Church, for the visitation of the congregation. All the members were present, as on the previous day, with the addition of the Rev. Mr. Watt, who preached from Hebrews iv., 14. After the sermon, the Moderator put the questions of the formula to the Minister, Elders, Session and Managers, and which all satisfactorily answered.