

# Church News.

## In Canada.

### Presbytery of Toronto.

THE Presbytery met on Tuesday, August 1st. The Moderator, Rev. James A. Grant, presided, and a fair number of guests were present. A communication from the Rev. G. H. C. Macgregor, of Aberdeen, was read, stating that he had decided to remain in his present charge, and that he could not accept the call addressed to him by the St. James' Square congregation. The Secretary of the Assembly's Committee on the distribution of probationers, wrote to say that the committee had decided the ministers desiring to be placed on the probationers list must be recommended by the Presbytery in whose bounds they have last been labouring, and that no applicant can be received from a Presbytery that does not report all vacancies. It was felt that this bore heavily on the probationers, and a committee was appointed to consider the matter and prepare a resolution expressing the mind of the Presbytery, presenting it at the next meeting. Dr. Gregg presented the following resolution of sympathy with the Rev. W. Meikle in his recent bereavement. "The Presbytery having been informed of the death of Mrs. Meikle, wife of the Rev. W. Meikle, after a long protracted sickness, which she bore with exemplary Christian resignation, agree to record the expression of their deep sympathy with their esteemed co-presbyter in his bereavement." The resolution was unanimously adopted, and a copy ordered to be transmitted to the Rev. W. Meikle. A call from Fort Massey congregation, Halifax, addressed to Rev. A. Gaudier, B.D., of Brampton, was laid upon the table, and the Clerk was instructed to cite the session and congregation to appear at the next meeting of the Presbytery to be held on Tuesday, Sept. 5th. next.—R. C. Timm, Clerk.

### Presbytery of Barrie.

THE Presbytery of Barrie met at Barrie on Tuesday, July 25th, Mr. I. A. Ross in the chair. There were present eighteen ministers and three elders. A call from Sundridge and Bloomfield to Mr. W. R. M. Baird was brought forward, but not proceeded with as intimation was received of Mr. Baird's intention to decline. The representative of the congregations stated that they were not discouraged but prepared to call another minister. Leave was given to Mr. Findlay to moderate again when desired. The resignation of the charge of Guthrie church, Mitchell Square and Oro Station, was tendered by Mr. John Hunter, who is on a visit to Scotland. It was agreed to cite the congregations for their interest at next meeting of the Presbytery. After undergoing public trials and examination for license Mr. W. R. Johnston was licensed and thereafter had placed in his hand a call to the charge of Penetanguishene and Wyebridge, which he accepted. It was arranged that the Presbytery meet at Penetanguishene on the 8th of August, at 2:30 p.m., for trials for ordination, and if these be sustained, at 3 o'clock for his induction; Mr. James to preside, Mr. W. A. Wylie to preach, Dr. McCrae to address the minister, and Mr. Galloway the people. Mr. Cochrane's resignation of the charge of Townline and Ivy, tendered on 30th of May was accepted as he adhered to it. Mr. W. J. Hewitt was appointed Moderator of the sessions of these congregations during the vacancy and instructed to declare the pulpit vacant on 6th of August. The Presbytery parts with Mr. Cochrane regretfully, and passed a resolution relative to his faithful work in the charge for seventeen years, the pleasant intercourse had with him, and expressing the hope that another field of labour may be opened to him. A commission consisting of Messrs. J. M. D. Duncan, B.A., Burnett, Carswell and Ross, ministers, W. Goodfellow and F. Rogerson, elders, was appointed to deal with difficulties existing in the congregation of Black Bank. Mr. W. Burns, of Toronto, was present, and invited

to sit with the Presbytery. He addressed the Court in the interest of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, and was questioned by brethren on the working of the fund. The results were satisfactory; a resolution was passed that the Presbytery would do whatever lies in its power to further interest in the fund, and a committee for this purpose was formed. A call from the congregations of Elmvale and Knox church as to Mr. J. P. McQuarrie, of Nelson, Presbytery of Hamilton, was sustained, and the clerk was directed to send it and relative papers to that Presbytery. It was enjoined on Moderators of sessions of vacant congregations that they take half of the pulpit supply through the committee on distribution of probationers. Standing committees were appointed as follows:—Home Mission Committee—Mr. A. Moodie, (Con.), Messrs. D. D. McLeod, J. R. S. Burnett, A. McDonald, A. Findlay, D. James, J. MacD. Duncan, J. Gray, D.D., R. N. Grant, D.D., and elders from Barrie and Orillia; State of Religion—Mr. F. Smith and M. Goodfellow, elder; Sabbath Schools—Messrs. J. R. S. Burnett, W. J. Hewitt and John Duff, elder; Temperance—Messrs. J. K. Henry, H. Knox and Mr. McLeod, elder; Finance—Mr. J. D. Leishman, and Mr. J. A. Mather, elder; Statistics—Messrs. J. Caswell, F. Smith and W. Goodfellow, elder; Sabbath Observance—Dr. Clarke and elder from Gravenhurst; Systematic Benevolence—R. N. Grant, D.D., J. Gray, D.D., and elder from Orillia; Examination of Students—Messrs. D. D. McLeod, J. MacD. Duncan, J. R. S. Burnett, J. D. Leishman, A. McDonald, A. B. Dobson, R. N. Grant, D.D., J. A. Ross, J. Gray, D.D., and R. J. Fraser, elder; Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund—J. MacD. Duncan, D. James, D.D. McLeod and J. A. Mather, elder; French Evangelization—Messrs. D. James, R. N. Grant, D.D., and elder from Midland. Next meeting of Presbytery at Barrie, Oct. 3rd, at 10.30 a.m. R. Moodie, Clerk.

### Prof. Campbell's Case.

AN adjourned meeting of the Montreal Presbytery was held on Tuesday of last week in the Convocation Hall of the Presbyterian College. In the absence of the Moderator, the Rev. E. Scott presided. Among those present were the Rev. Dr. MacVicar, Dr. Coussirat, J. Nichols, Dr. Scrimger, Prof. Ross, J. Myles Crombie, James Fraser, A. J. Mowatt, F. M. Dewey, W. D. Reid, J. MacGillivray, Dr. Muir, J. M. Boyd, W. Forlong, Dr. Paterson, James Paterson, R. P. Duclos, W. Paul, etc., etc.

The Rev. Messrs. Gordon, of Sarnia; Anderson, of London; J. H. MacVicar, of Honan, and E. M. Hill and T. S. McWilliams, of this city, being present, were invited to sit in the court as corresponding members.

The Rev. Mr. Dewey reported that he had moderated in a call to a minister for St. Cuthbert's church, St. Lambert, and stated that it was unanimously in favor of the Rev. Norman Watson. It was signed by twenty-seven members and twenty adherents. This stipend promised is \$500, which, with \$300 to be asked for from the Augmentation Fund, will make a total of \$800. Messrs. McLeod and Raphael were present and spoke in the interests of the congregation. The call was sustained, and as Mr. Watson was present, it was placed in his hands, and he was asked to declare his mind concerning it. After some moments' consideration he accepted the call, and the induction was appointed to take place on the evening of Tuesday, August 15.

The next matter was that for which the meeting to-day was specially held, viz., the consideration of the "relevancy" of the "libel" to be served upon the Rev. Prof. Campbell, LL.D.

In this connection a letter was read from the Rev. Dr. Robert Campbell, convener of the committee which drew up the draft. The letter expressed regret that the writer could not be present, and suggested some alterations in the wording and arrangement of the libel, as printed in the Presbytery

minutes. That draft, as it left the committee, is as follows:

LIBEL, AGREED UPON GENERALLY, JULY 11, 1893.

Dr. John Campbell, Professor of Church History and Apologetics in the Presbyterian College, Montreal, and under the care of the Presbytery of Montreal:

You are indicted and accused at the instance of the said Presbytery:

That albeit to hold and to teach—

I. That disbelief in the entire inerrancy of the inspired revelation of the Old Testament;

II. That God does not smite either in the way of punishment or discipline, and that He has nothing to do with the judging or punishing of the wicked, is contrary to the Word of God and the Standards of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

There was a general feeling in the Presbytery that some alteration should be made in the two counts, at the head of the document. It had been, confessedly, drawn up in a very crude form, owing to the want of time.

The Rev. C. B. Ross, of Lachine, moved in amendment to the first count: "Many of the writers of Scriptures, and especially of Old Testament Scriptures, hold such erroneous views of the Divine character as to preclude the possibility of their being inspired by God."

Dr. MacVicar pointed out that Dr. Campbell, while holding the doctrine of the inspiration of the Scriptures, he, nevertheless, held that God allowed the writers to err.

Dr. Scrimger also read an amendment which many seemed to prefer to that of Mr. Ross.

The Rev. Prof. Ross said that he preferred the amendment suggested by Dr. Robert Campbell, and moved accordingly. It reads: "You hold and teach a view of Holy Scriptures which impugns and discredits them as the supreme and infallible source of religious truth."

After some discussion Dr. Scrimger and the Rev. C. B. Ross, with the consent of the court, withdraw their amendments, and the motion of the Rev. Prof. Ross was carried and became the judgment of the Presbytery upon the first count in the "libel."

The second count was then considered, and after discussion was amended to read as follows:

"A view of God which sets him forth as one who does not smite either in the way of punishment or discipline, and who has nothing to do with the judging or punishing of the wicked."

This finally decided the form as it will be served upon Prof. Campbell.

The reasons appended to the libel were then considered. These were made a little more definite in some cases, and a number of additional passages of Scripture were then added. Also, several additional questions from Prof. Campbell's lecture, upon which the present action is being taken.

A committee was then appointed to embody all the suggestions made, and to bring in a clean copy. The committee was composed of the Rev. Dr. Paterson, Dr. Scrimger, Jas. Patterson and John MacGillivray.

Dr. John Campbell, professor of Church history and apologetics in the Presbyterian College, Montreal, and under the care of the Presbytery of Montreal, you are indicted and accused at the instance of the said Presbytery, that albeit to hold and teach (1) a view of the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures which impugns and discredits them as the supreme and infallible source of religious truth, and (2) a view of God which sets him forth as one who does not smite either in the way of punishment or discipline, and who has nothing to do with the judging or punishing of the wicked, is contrary to the Word of God and the standards of the Presbyterian Church in Canada; since (1.) according to the Word of God (1) Jesus Christ uniformly spoke with approval of the Scriptures that were then written, and appealed to them as authoritative on religious questions (Luke xvi., 31; Matt. v., 17-19); (2) the Apostle Paul referred to those Scriptures as the oracles of God (Rom. iii., 2), and said that they were given by inspiration of God; and were profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness, able to make men wise unto salvation, and perfect (II. Tim. iii., 16-17), and claimed that the word which he preached was in truth the Word of God, which effectually worked in those that believed (I. Thess. ii., 13). (3) The Apostle Peter declared (II. Peter i., 11, that the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. The Apostle James says: Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord