

showing much interest in the cause. The result of the work, however, is indicated in a most interesting manner by a meeting which was held lately. On Sabbath, the 21st of December last, a congregation was organized and the communion dispensed to eleven communicants, eight on profession of faith, one by certificate, and two old members of the original congregation. The Session appointed by the Presbytery, consisting of Rev. G. Bruce, of St. Catharines, and Messrs. McCalla and Beamer, decided to consider the congregation as one newly organized, but to admit the two just mentioned, in compliance with their earnest desire, as representatives of the old and otherwise long since dead congregation. This it was especially that seemed to touch such a deep chord in the memory of some of those who were present. Mr. Bruce in speaking of this circumstance said, that it had no doubt seemed as if the old root were dead in this ground long ago, but that at the breath of the Spirit it shewed signs of life. And indeed the words of Job sprang to one's lips, as the tears in response to the simple allusion, manifested the tenderness of heart of many in the congregation, "Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground, yet through the scent of water it will bud and bring forth boughs like a plant." Two adults were baptized at the same time, and a very earnest spirit pervades the community.

PEMBINA of yore—for "via Pembina" was, a score of years ago, the direction of all letters intended to reach the Red River Settlement—was a half-breed village, and subsequently became an asylum for refugees from justice from the older parts of the United States and from the British side as well. Travellers through Pembina a few years ago would meet such worthies as Potter, Stutzman, and the like, but the advance of civilization and the efforts of philanthropy are changing all that. Pembina County, in Dakota, of which Pembina village is now the business depot, is thirty or forty miles square and is said to contain from 3,000 to 4,000 inhabitants, a large number of whom are Canadians. The village of Pembina has, on account of this influx, improved greatly in business facilities and general features. There has hitherto been no Protestant church in Pembina, but the Rev. John Scott, whose name has become a household word in the Red River settlements at the boundary, has succeeded in winning the confidence of the people of Pembina to such an extent that they liberally assisted him in erecting a church building in their village, 50x36, and very creditable in appearance. The church was opened for public worship on Sabbath, 28th Dec., the Rev. Mr. Stevens, of Fargo, D. T., officiating in the morning, and Rev. Prof. Bryce, of Winnipeg, in the evening. On Monday evening the customary tea meeting was held, and after the usual refreshments the rev. gentlemen above mentioned, and several of the residents of Pembina, gave addresses, while the Emerson Presbyterian choir rendered a number of selections exceedingly well. The financial condition of the enterprise was then laid before the people, and was somewhat as follows: Cash receipts in Pembina, \$250; subscriptions, considered equivalent to cash, \$250; Presbyterian Board of Church Election, New York, \$400; disposable assets, \$100; total assets, \$1,000; cost of building to date, \$1,250, leaving a debt of \$250. Upon hearing this it was determined to clear off the debt by subscriptions payable in six months. Before the meeting closed, more than \$290 were subscribed and received—clearing off the debt completely. The amount was largely taken up by the young men of Pembina. A standing vote of thanks was given to Rev. Mr. Scott, and the people seemed to feel very grateful for the assistance and countenance rendered them by their British cousins.

PRESBYTERY OF STRATFORD.—This Presbytery met at Stratford, on the 20th ult. After disposing of several matters of no general importance the Presbytery took up the Assembly's remit on "Theological Degrees," when it was unanimously agreed in terms following: "The Presbytery, having considered the proposed act for establishing 'The Presbyterian University of Canada,' decline to sanction the principles of said act: 1. Because a University with only one faculty is an anomaly. 2. Because such a University is entirely unnecessary in the interests of theological education in the Church. 3. Because if it could be shewn that the proposed University would exert a beneficial influence, the circumstances of the

Church are such at the present time as to make any outlay for this purpose highly inexpedient. 4. Because, in the opinion of this Presbytery, such a University would be in danger of becoming a means of injury to the spiritual life of the Church by occasioning an unseemly rivalry between it and the existing University at Kingston. At the same time this Presbytery has every sympathy with those who consider it unjust that one Theological Hall should possess the power of granting degrees while the rest enjoy no such privileges, and they would suggest that steps should now be taken to bring the Theological Hall of Kingston into the same relation to the Church at large as the others, and that all degrees in Divinity should be granted by a senate composed of all the Professors of Theology in the Church." The Assembly's remit on "The reception of ministers from other Churches," was approved. Messrs. Hamilton and McLeod were appointed to visit Tavistock and New Hamburg, and take steps at their discretion for complete organization. A minute of condolence with Mr. Croly in his recent bereavement was agreed to.

PRESBYTERY OF PETERBORO.—This Presbytery met on the 20th ult. Mr. Hodnett was chosen Moderator for the next six months. The following resolution was adopted regarding the remit sent down from the General Assembly on the question of the establishment of a Presbyterian University of Canada: "That in the opinion of the Presbytery, the question of the establishment of an Ecclesiastical University for the purpose of conferring degrees of divinity is one which does not fall within the legitimate province of the Church of Christ, and that, in the present circumstances of our Church, its agitation is both inexpedient and impracticable, and calculated to lead to no satisfactory results." The Home Mission business of the Presbytery was taken up and discussed at length. Steps were taken for the payment of the arrears of salary due to the missionaries who had been labouring within the bounds during the summer months. Upon the remit "Anent the status of retired ministers," the Presbytery resolved: "That the names of ministers who have been permitted by the General Assembly to retire on account of age or infirmity from the active duties of the ministry, and who continue to reside within the bounds of the Presbytery to which they had belonged, be retained on the rolls of their respective Presbyteries." Presbytery met the Sabbath school superintendents and teachers in conference at St. Paul's Church, Peterboro', on Wednesday, January 21st, Rev. A. Bell presiding. After prayer and singing, the Rev. A. Bell opened the discussion of the subject, "The Preparation of the Session at Home." Sheriff Hall introduced the subject, "The Relation of the Sabbath School to the Session." Rev. E. F. Torrance gave an outline of the subject, "Teacher's Meeting." At the evening session the subject of "The Teaching of Presbyterian Doctrine and Government in the Sabbath School," was introduced by Rev. A. McFarlane; Messrs. Sheriff Hall, N. Meikle of Norwood, Wm. Tully, J. H. Roper, G. H. Johnston, D. Pentland, Col. Haultain, and the Revs. Bell, Bennett, Torrance and McFarlane, joining in the discussion. Considerable diversity of opinion was manifested, but all agreed, however, that the children should be instructed in the doctrines of the Presbyterian Church either in Sabbath school or at home, or both. The Rev. Mr. Bennet then introduced the subject of "How Parents may help the Sabbath School," Col. Haultain and the Rev. Mr. Torrance taking part in the discussion. The subject "The Claims of Baptized Children upon the Church," was discussed by Col. Haultain, who was followed by others, after which, and the singing of a hymn, the benediction was pronounced.

PRESBYTERY OF BARRIE.—This Presbytery met at Barrie, on January 27th, and sat with the usual adjournments till past noon next day. The principal items of business are the following: An overture to the General Assembly anent the ecclesiastical novelty of "preferential claims" was unanimously adopted. It asks that the Assembly may legislate in such a way as to secure absolute fairness in the distribution of the Church's contributions for Home Mission funds. Mr. McConnell was heard in regard to the resignation of the charge of First and Second Tecumseth and Adjala. On motion of Mr. Stevenson (elder), seconded by Mr. Leiper, it was agreed that Mr. McConnell's resignation be accepted; that Mr. Cochrane preach to the congregations aforesaid on the 15th day

of February, and declare the pulpit vacant; that Mr. Burnett be appointed Moderator of the vacant Sessions; and that supply of the pulpit be committed to the Home Mission Committee. The Home Mission affairs of the Presbytery engaged, for some time, its attention. Mr. McKay having intimated his intention to leave the Parry Sound mission after 1st April, the committee was instructed to procure a successor to him. The congregation of Nottawa was put under the care of Mr. Rodgers. Mr. Dawson gave a statement of the contributions of congregations in the bounds in aid of the manse at Gravenhurst, and tendered thanks on behalf of the congregation there. Mr. R. Scott addressed the Presbytery in regard to the hindrance recently imposed on his labours among the boys of the Penetanguishene Reformatory, and the means he had taken, without success, to regain access to them. A committee, consisting of Dr. Fraser, Messrs. D. McDonald (Moderator), J. Leiper, ministers, and Mr. L. Stevenson, elder, was appointed to inquire into matters laid before the Presbytery, and to request, if necessary, an interview with the Government, that causes of dissatisfaction may be removed. The Presbytery adopted a number of questions, twenty six in all, to be put to vacant congregations when applying for leave to moderate in a call. These questions, of which Mr. Leiper is the author, are designed to ascertain the numerical and financial strength of congregations, their indebtedness, if any, their business methods, the rates of contribution, etc. A report of the Committee (Dr. Fraser, Convener,) on the hymns sent down by the Assembly was adopted, and ordered to be forwarded to the Secretary of the Assembly's Committee. The Presbytery has, for a few months, had on the table petitions from certain congregations for re-arrangement. It was agreed at this meeting to send down to the congregation, interested the following scheme, to be considered by them and reported on, so as to enable the Presbytery to come to a final decision at next meeting: 1. Second Tecumseth to be separated from First Tecumseth and united to First West Gwillimbury as one charge. 2. First Tecumseth and Adjala to remain united and form one charge. 3. Cookstown to be united to Town Line and Ivy, if all parties be agreed. 4. Failing such agreement, Cookstown to be united to West Gwillimbury and Innisfil. The Central Church congregation was authorized to sell the manse property in Innisfil. Mr. Gray, Convener of the Committee appointed to visit congregations of West Nottawasaga, Creemore and Dunedin, anent arrears, reported. The report shewed that people can with content to themselves hold principles on Church finance which bear with severity upon a faithful and diligent minister. Certain recommendations were made and adopted, which it is hoped will secure payment of arrears, and introduce methods of more liberal finance. Mr. Gray also reported that the Committee appointed to visit the congregations in Innisfil, with the view of arranging a settlement of pecuniary matters, had been successful, as both parties, Central Church, Craigvale, and Lefroy on the one part, and Second Innisfil on the other, acquiesced in the arrangements proposed by the Committee, and thanked the Committee. The remits were considered. The Presbytery approved of names of retired ministers being retained on the roll with power to vote. A motion, not approving of the principle of the proposed University, was made. An amendment in approval of the University was presented. Being put to the vote a tie was the result, and the Moderator cast his vote in favour of the motion. Thus this Presbytery disapproves of the proposed Act for establishing the Presbyterian University of Canada. Messrs. S. Acheson and Cochrane entered their dissent. The interim act on reception of ministers was approved. The question of Roman Catholic ordination was not touched. The Presbytery agreed to hold its next regular meeting on 23rd March, a week earlier than the usual time, in order to prepare business for meeting of the Assembly's Home Mission Committee.—ROBERT MOODIE, *Pres. Clerk*.

REV. T. L. CUYLER says in the "Evangelist": "I don't believe in asking a boy, 'How do you feel?' but rather would I inquire, 'How do you act?'" He thinks it often a shallow way of dealing with a child to ask the stereotype question, "Do you love Jesus?" and believes that a far better way of putting it would be to inquire: "Do you try to do what Jesus asks you to do?" In other words, he makes principle and not feeling the true test of a child's conversion.