

After disposing of several other pieces of ordinary business, the Presbytery adjourned to meet at half past three o'clock for special services, connected with the inauguration of the New Presbytery of Victoria.

Having resumed, the Presbytery engaged in devotional exercises, being led in prayer by the Rev. Mr. Tawse, who made pointed and happy reference to the circumstances under which the Presbytery had met—invoking most fervently the blessing of Almighty God upon the brethren who were to form the New Presbytery, that they might be greatly prospered in their new organization and guided in their deliberations for the good of the Church.

Dr. Barclay being called upon by the Moderator to address the Presbytery, spoke as follows:

Moderator.—The Synod having, during its recent session, passed an Act providing for the division of the Presbytery of Toronto,—the same to take effect at the close of the present meeting, it seems proper that we should devote a portion of this sederunt to the expression of such thoughts and the interchange of such sentiments as may be appropriate to the circumstances in which we have this day assembled.

Certain of the brethren residing in the Eastern Section of the Presbytery are about to be separated from us—having been appointed to meet four weeks hence at Lindsay, and form themselves into a new Presbytery, to be called the Presbytery of *Victoria*. The other section retaining the larger portion of the existing congregations, will still be known by the time-honoured name of "*The Presbytery of Toronto*."

To none of us who take an interest in the prosperity of our Church in this land, can this day's proceedings be devoid of interest; for they inaugurate a change in our position as a Presbytery which, however long spoken of as desirable, is only now to be consummated with the consent of those principally concerned. While to those of us whose connection with the Church has been of longer standing, a deeper interest may well hang around the simple act, to be so soon completed, of severing the tie which has so long united us, fathers and brethren, into one court of the Church: but, by whose separation, another Pres' ytery is henceforth to be reckoned among the number on the Synod Roll.

It cannot but be with feelings of regret that we contemplate the termination of that more intimate relation in which we have stood to one another—some of us for a long term of years. But it is gratifying to think that the change in the relation of the two sections of the Presbytery to each other, is one of progress and advancement. It has in a measure been rendered indispensable by the growth of the Presbytery and by considerations affecting the personal convenience of those ministers and elders who reside at a distance from Toronto. With their seat of Presbytery nearer to their own fields of labour, these brethren will henceforth be enabled to discharge more easily their important duties as rulers in the Church—whilst it is to be hoped by the facilities thus afforded, the interests of the Church at large will be largely promoted.

Such, at least, is the object, such was the motive in the recommendation given by the Pres-

bytery of Toronto, and on which the Synod acted, in instituting an additional Presbytery in this section of the Province. Within our extensive bounds two Presbyteries in place of one will henceforth be available for carrying on the public business of the Church, which is thus likely to be the better attended to by each within its own narrower limits. It is, at the same time, gratifying to think that this arrangement has not been forced upon us by any sectional feeling, or by any want of harmony among the members of this large Presbytery. But, on the contrary, the uninterrupted harmony which has so long characterized our proceedings, and the feeling which has uniformly subsisted among the members, have rather contributed to retard not a little the adoption of the plan, now to be consummated, of sending off from the parent a fresh swarm to occupy a position for themselves in the eastern section, where they may concentrate their efforts, and act as from a new centre of operations in the interest of the Church at large.

When the Synod of our Church was organized nearly forty years ago, the Presbytery of Toronto, or, as it was then styled, the Presbytery of *York*, was one of four Presbyteries into which the Church of Scotland in Canada was then divided. This Presbytery then included the whole of that part of the Province lying west and north of the city of Toronto—while it also extended many miles to the eastward. At that time the population was sparse and the settlements far apart. Attendance at meetings of Presbytery entailed on ministers and elders no small amount of labour. Yet that labour was ungrudgingly performed by our predecessors in the service of the Church. From the lips of some, who took no inconsiderable share in these early labours in the cause of the Church, I have heard many interesting details, which want of time precludes me from quoting here, of the toils and hardships they had not unfrequently to encounter in their distant journeyings through the "backwoods"; and yet of the primitive simplicity and the hearty welcome with which they were wont to be greeted by the adherents of the Church in the remote settlements to which their peregrinations extended.

The Presbytery of York appears to have held its first meeting at Kingston, according to appointment of the Synod, then just instituted. And on the sixteenth of the same month the Presbytery met in this city, then the town of York. Five ministers formed the sederunt. Their names, which I may as well mention here, were Rev. Geo. Sheed, Moderator, Rev. William Rintoul, Clerk, Rev. Alexander Gale, Rev. Alexander Ross, and Rev. Robert McGillicuddy, all of whom have gone to their reward.

For some years afterwards the Presbytery seems to have held its meetings at various places within the then far-extended bounds—such as at Ancaster, Dundas, Hamilton, Fergus, &c. In the year 1834, when the name of this place was changed from the "Town of York" to the "City of Toronto," the Presbytery appears to have made a corresponding alteration in its designation, assuming the title of the Presbytery of Toronto, by which it has ever since been known. As the charges scattered over this extensive