

the Church, an ample reward for his "works of faith and labors of love."

The congregation would also avail themselves of this opportunity to express their best wishes for the temporal and eternal welfare of the several members of Mr. Croil's family. *Comm.*

#### PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL.

An ordinary meeting of this Court was held at St. Andrew's Church, Montreal, on Wednesday the 4th of May.

There were present the Rev. Frederick P. Sym, Moderator, Alexander Mathieson, D.D., James Anderson, James C. Muir, D.D., William Simpson, James T. Paul, John McDonald, William Snodgrass, James Patterson, John Moffat and Prosper L. Leger, Ministers,—and Messrs. Alexander Morris and John Greenfields, Elders.

The minutes of last ordinary meeting and of meetings held at Beauharnois, on the 18th of February, and on the 9th and 10th of March last, were read and sustained.

The Rev. Thomas Haig, having the day previous returned from Scotland after leave of absence owing to the infirm state of his health, reported himself present, and was cordially welcomed by the brethren, the Court being gratified to learn from himself that his health is much improved.

The Rev. James Aitken, minister of the North Church, Paisley, Scotland, being present, was invited to take part in the deliberations of this meeting.

Mr. R. H. Story, a licentiate of the Church of Scotland, recently arrived in this country as assistant in St. Andrew's Church, Montreal, was introduced to the Presbytery by Dr. Mathieson, and laid upon the Table a presbyterial certificate from the presbytery of Dumbarton, Scotland, cordially recommending him to the presbytery of Montreal, and, upon this, was admitted a probationer within the bounds of the Presbytery.

After disposing of some other business arising out of the minutes of last ordinary meeting, the Presbytery heard the report of Mr. Snodgrass, appointed at last meeting to direct the Secretary-Treasurer as to the transmission of the proceeds of the Home Mission Fund. Mr. Snodgrass reported that he had instructed the Treasurer to transmit the sum on hand; and there was read a letter from the Secretary of the Colonial Committee acknowledging the receipts of \$65 stg.

Mr. Rannie read a report of his missionary labours since last meeting, which was received by the Presbytery as highly satisfactory. Mr. Rannie receives leave of absence during the remainder of the present month to visit the Upper Province to supply a vacant congregation, and to receive further appointments from the Presbytery at their next meeting.

Mr. Haig is appointed to supply Dundee on Sabbaths the 8th and 15th, and to preach at Rivière Laguerre on Sabbath the 22nd of May.

Mr. Snodgrass asked the indulgence of the Presbytery to allow the motion and

the formation of a Presbyterial Church Society, of which he gave notice at last meeting, to be over till the meeting in August, which was granted.

Mr. Snodgrass reported that the committee appointed at the *pro renata* meeting of the Presbytery at Beauharnois on the 18th of February last, to correspond with the Colonial Committee auct pecuniary assistance to the Beauharnois congregation, had attended to this matter; but that sufficient time had not yet elapsed for a reply to their communication being received.

There was laid upon the Table and read a "circular letter" from the Presbytery of Toronto, intimating that said Presbytery propose to take "on public probationary trials" Messrs. Donald Ross, David Cameron and John Livingston, Students of Divinity, having had the necessary certificates in their favour regularly laid before them.

Mr. Morris in terms of intimation given at last meeting, seconded by Dr. Muir, moved an overture to the Synod in the following terms: "It is respectfully overtured by the Presbytery of Montreal that the Synod do take into its serious consideration the Bursary or Education Scheme with a view to its being placed in a more satisfactory condition than it now is, the Presbytery representing that, in view of the importance of the Scheme and of the increasing number of young men coming forward to the Ministry, a committee should be nominated by the Synod charged with the general oversight of the Scheme, the Presbytery being persuaded that thus the efficiency of the Scheme would be promoted, and it would be enabled more fully to accomplish the object it was designed to overtake.

The Presbytery agree to transmit the overture, and Dr. Mathieson, Mr. Snodgrass and Mr. Morris are appointed a committee further to consider the subject.

The Session Records, ordered at last meeting to be produced at the meeting in May, were now called for.

There were laid upon the Table of the Presbytery the Records of the Sessions of Beechridge, Russelltown, Hemmingford, St. Louis de Gonzague, Ormstown and La Prairie, which were revised and attested *cum notis*.

Mr. Anderson, Ormstown, applied for leave of absence for three months for the purpose of visiting Scotland for the benefit of the health of a member of his family. The Presbytery unanimously agree to comply with his request, Mr. Anderson undertaking to provide supply for his pulpit during his absence.

Dr. Mathieson and Mr. Patterson are appointed by the Presbytery a deputation to visit Chatham and confer with the Rev. Mr. Mair before next meeting.

The Presbytery, as enjoined by the Act anent the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund, next enquired whether all the congregations within their bounds had made

collections for this Fund during the past year. It was found that all had done so with the exception of the congregations of Beauharnois, LaPrairie and Longueuil, who however intend to make collections without delay.

The Presbytery, having revised the Presbytery Roll, order the Clerk to transmit a copy thereof to the Synod Clerk as the Roll of this Presbytery.

#### REV. PROF. GEORGE'S ADDRESS TO THE DIVINITY STUDENTS AT THE CLOSE OF THE SESSION, 1858-59.

GENTLEMEN,—To-day our connection in this place closes. Before, however, bidding you a final farewell. I think a few words of counsel in reference to your future work in the ministry will not be deemed irrelevant.

Before doing this, it may not be out of place to say, that from the step you took at the opening of the session I was in no small degree influenced to undergo the task which is now drawing to its close. How far that step was wise on your part must, after the experience you have had, be left to your own candour and judgment. I shall merely remark that I have done my best, and, with such students as I have had the pleasure to address, not to have done my best for their intellectual and spiritual improvement would have shown at once a disregard to the calls of conscience, and an insensibility to the diligence and attainments of those whose theological instruction I had undertaken. But the work, let it have been done as it may, is now done, and both you and I will have to account at the great day of the Lord for the way in which we have gone through it.

While all the young men within these walls are preparing for honourable and high vocations, yet it is no disparagement to the other professions to say that that to which you are looking forward is the highest of all. Indeed the Gospel ministry is the highest calling in which man can be engaged. For, while it is true that the humblest situation, if the duties be faithfully discharged, is honourable to him that fills it, still it is plain that some situations are from their duties and responsibilities peculiarly honourable. The office of the Gospel ministry is eminently so. No one will question this who thinks of the manner of appointment to it, the duties which it involves and the benefits that flow from these when rightly performed. If God appoints, as the God of Providence, to the ordinary offices in life, yet it must not be forgotten that those who are moved by the Holy Ghost have to this office a very special call and, as to the duties and the effects of these on the present and eternal condition of man. I shall show immediately that they are altogether the most important in which man can be engaged. Let it, therefore, sink down into your minds that the office to which you are looking forward is every way most responsible and the most honourable that the most gifted of minds can occupy.

Titles among men are often for mere show, and really mean nothing; but titles and designations given by God are ever pregnant with weighty meaning. Those engaged in preaching the Gospel bear in a high sense the title of ministers of God and ambassadors for Christ. Yet surely a Nebuchadnezzar, sent forth as God's servant to destroy guilty nations, was in a very different sense the minister of God from what Paul was, when sent forth to announce the glad tidings of mercy to sinful men. As the kingdom of grace is the highest department in God's great economy of things, so those who labour in this department are the highest of God's