

Presbytery of Stratford.

At Stratford and within Knox Church there, Monday the 11th day of May, the Presbytery of Stratford met and was constituted, at 7.30 in the evening Mr. Leitch was appointed moderator. P. T. The choir of the church led in praise. Dr. Hamilton at the request of the moderator led in prayer. The attendance of ministers, and especially of elders, was not full. A considerable audience was present. The first sermon, as appointed, was devoted to Conference on Church Life and Work. Mr. J. W. Cameron introduced the subject of reading a synopsis of his report upon it, given at last meeting of Presbytery. Almost all the ministers present joined in the ensuing discussion. This was maintained with animation till near the hour for adjournment, when the following resolution was moved by Mr. McKibbin, seconded by Mr. Henderson, and unanimously adopted. "In bringing this Conference on Church Life and Work to a close the Presbytery desire to emphasize the importance of religion in the home. To bring this to practical bearing, they urge upon the people under their charge, the duty and the privilege of family worship. By family worship is meant the assembling of the household daily at stated times for reading of the Scriptures in due order and quantity, singing praise to the Lord, where at all possible, and prayer, either with or without the use of a printed form. In addition to such careful observance of family worship, we recommend the practice of Christian parents joining with their children in home study of the Sunday School lessons; thus securing the children's acquaintance with these lessons, and with the Bible as a whole, whilst also giving parents an opportunity of guiding the minds of their children in matters of faith and practice, as is required by their relation to their children in the sacrament of baptism. Finally the Presbytery affectionately enjoin upon the people under their spiritual oversight to "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy;" inasmuch as God has blessed the Sabbath day that it should be a means of blessing to them who observe it wholly as the Lord's day." Next morning on resuming business there was an enlarged attendance especially of elders. Dr. Hamilton submitted draft minute in remembrance of the late Dr. Reid, agent of the church, which was adopted. Mr. Henderson tendered the resignation of his charge of Atwood and Muskoka. It was agreed to take the usual procedure, and cite the congregations to appear at the July meeting. Mr. McKibbin asked relief from duty for a time on account of impaired health. The Presbytery expressed deep sympathy with him in the circumstances and unanimously agreed to give him three months' leave of absence, from the first of June, from both pastoral duties and the duties of the clerkship of Presbytery,—also to supply his pulpit during that term—that Mr. Cameron supervise the matter of the supply, and that Mr. Henderson be clerk. P. T. Four circular letters from as many Presbyteries agent applicants for reception into the ministry of this church were read. Matters pertaining to Messrs. Alex. Stewart and F. A. Bell, students under the care of the Presbytery were arranged. The list of commissioners to the Gen. Assembly was revised. The court adjourned to meet in Knox Church Stratford, Tuesday the 14th day of July next.—W. M. McKibbin, clerk.

Brandon W.F.M.S.

The tenth annual meeting of the Brandon Presbyterial W.F.M.S. which was held lately in Carberry, was an interesting and pleasant gathering. It consisted of three services, morning, afternoon and evening. The morning meeting was devoted to items of business, principal among which was receiving reports from auxiliaries and mission bands, and the question of dividing the Presbyterial to make its boundaries coincide with those of the Presbyteries. The Presbyterial of Brandon was divided some time ago into the Presbyteries of Brandon, Portage la Prairie, and Glenboro', but the presbyterial kept its old bounds, till this year, when Glenboro' decided to withdraw, and form a new Presbyterial, leaving the other two which will here-

after be known as the Brandon-Portage Presbyterial. There are twenty-two auxiliaries and five mission bands in this Presbyterial with a membership of 291 in auxiliaries, most of these were represented by the forty delegates present. Many of the reports speak of difficulties and trials, but on the whole they show a growing interest in the work, and a determination not to grow weary in well-doing. 284 copies of the Letter Leaflet were taken last year and many of the societies subscribe for one or more copies of the Mission Review. Keulah Auxiliary, consisting of Christian Indian women, report an average attendance of thirteen with an enrollment of thirteen and their contribution last year was \$17, representing, the missionary tells us, much hard work and self-sacrifice. The total contribution of this Presbyterial, last year was \$1,061.68, besides \$40 worth of clothing which one of the auxiliaries sent to one of the Indian Reserves. The afternoon meeting was occupied with some very excellent addresses and papers, interspersed with music. A very interesting feature of this session was a showing of the excellent work done in the Mission Band of Carberry. The band was present and we saw how well a mission band may be conducted and instructed. They showed, by answers to questions, asked by their president, a wonderful amount of knowledge of the schemes of the church, of missions generally, China in particular, which they have been studying lately. Miss McWilliams, late of India, now of Lakesend, spoke both afternoon and evening on the work in India. She spoke very earnestly, and showed the great need of mission work in that land. All who had the pleasure of hearing her were much impressed with her earnestness and zeal. In the interval between the afternoon and evening meetings the delegates and friends enjoyed a social hour and a sumptuous tea, beautifully served in the lecture room by the good ladies of Carberry. Rev. Mr. Carswell, of Carberry, conducted the devotional exercises of the evening meeting and the Rev. Mr. Henry, of Brandon, spoke for some time on Foreign Missions, as work of the W.F.M.S., giving us many earnest and encouraging words. He emphasised "prayer life" as a great power in our work, and showed the necessity of having a lofty ideal, for our successes will be in proportion to our ideal. He grouped the effects of the work as follows: 1. The development of the women at home. 2. Blessings on the home church, the most powerful church was the one that did the most for foreign missions. 3. The uplifting of women in heathen lands, and lastly, *God is working out the results and He only knows what they will be.* Music was provided by the choir, Miss McFaul and Miss Hay. The meeting closed with the benediction and all left feeling both pleased and profited by the meetings. The officers for the current year are: President, Mrs. Ross, of Douglas; 1st Vice, Mrs. Carswell, Carberry; 2nd Vice, Mrs. J. McLeod, Portage la Prairie; 3rd Vice, Mrs. Creighton, Alexander; 4th Vice, Mrs. McRea, Burnside; Cor.-Secy., Mrs. Murray, Brandon; Rec. Secy., Mrs. R.A. Robertson, Portage la Prairie; Treasurer, Mrs. McDiarmid, Brandon.

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