

tent in your locality; or fishing, hunting, or any kindred amusements?

2. Is there any Trading on the Sabbath, especially in intoxicating liquors? do any engage in their secular avocations on that day?

3. Are Harvest operations carried on at all? any instances of farmers cutting down and taking in their grain on the Lord's day?

4. How many Stages or Steamboats arrive or depart on the Sabbath?

5. Is there much Travelling for pleasure or business, is it at all customary to set out on, or return from a journey on the Sabbath?

6. If, in the vicinity of any of the public canals which are open on the Sabbath, could you give a probable estimate of the number of hands employed, the amount of traffic during the past year, the effect produced on the surrounding community, and the opinion, in so far as it can be ascertained, of parties most interested on the subject of closing them?

7. If in the vicinity of any Railway, state the probable amount of Sabbath desecration thereby caused, and what efforts, if any, have been made to effect a discontinuance of such desecration.

8. What is the extent of Sabbath labor in your Post Office; has anything been done in the way of memorializing the public authorities for its discontinuance?

9. Have existing Legislative enactments for the protection of the Sabbath, been faithfully enforced in your quarter?

10. Have any special efforts been made to bring the general question of the Sabbath prominently under the notice of your congregation, or the community at large,—such as having lectures delivered, tracts distributed, or an association formed?

11. State any additional facts, and make any suggestions that may occur to you as likely to prove of use, for the information and guidance of the Committee.

By order of Synod, and Synod's Committee,
R. F. Burns,

Convener of Com. on Sab. Observ'ce.

Proceedings of Presbyteries, &c.

MEETING OF HOME MISSION COMMITTEE.

The Home Mission Committee of the Synod, of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, met in the vestry of Knox's Church Toronto, on the Evening of Tuesday, 31st March.

There were present Rev. Mr. Reid Convener, Rev. Messrs Kemp, Wilson, W. J. McKenzie, J. W. Smith, Chambers, McLeod, Rev. Dr. Burns, Rev. Dr. Irvine, Rev. Messrs Young, McTavish, Nisbet, John Gray, Inglis, McKuar, James Black, Cheyne, McLean, Scott, Ross, D. McDiarmid, Tolmie, Ministers, and Messrs. Clark and Heron, Elders.

After transacting some minor pieces of business, the Committee proceeded to the distribution of the Preachers and Students among the various Presbyteries. The following distribution was made viz:—

To Presbytery of London.—Rev. Messrs. McGillivray, McKobie, and Messrs. McLean, Blount, A. McKay, Fraser, Students; also Messrs McKerracher and Anderson, two Students expected from Scotland in the course of a short time.

To Presbytery of Hamilton.—Rev. Messrs. Stewart, Cuthbertson, and Rev. Mr. Grant, after the month of June; Messrs. J. Cameron, (for three months,) Mackey, C. Cameron, Mulican, Lochhead, and Kennedy.

To Presbytery of Toronto.—Rev. Messrs. Chesnut, Grant, for three months; Messrs. Cameron, (after June,) McDonald, P. McDiarmid,

Campbell, Bremner, Anderson, and Fenwick, Students.

To Presbytery of Cobourg.—Rev. Messrs. Windell and Snell, with Messrs. Duncan and Thom.

To Presbytery of Kingston.—Rev. Mr. Montgomery.

To Presbytery of Brockville and Ottawa.—Rev. Mr. Irvine, with Messrs. Whyte and McEwen, Students.

To Presbytery of Montreal.—Rev. Messrs. Allan and Milloy, and Messrs. Paterson, A. McDiarmid, McQueen, and W. Matheon.

PRE-SBYTERY OF TORONTO.

This Presbytery met in Toronto on the 31st of March. There was a pretty full attendance of Ministers, but very few Elders. Several of the brethren from other Presbyteries being present were requested to sit with the Presbytery.

Rev. Mr. Marshall, pastor of Cooke's Church, Toronto, made a statement to the Presbytery indicating, that owing to the state of his health he felt constrained to tender the resignation of his pastoral charge, and laid before the Court a medical certificate corroborating his own statement. It was on motion unanimously agreed, that in the peculiar and solemn circumstances of this case, the Presbytery—even without waiting to cite the congregation of Cooke's Church—do accept of Mr. Marshall's resignation, and Dr. Willis, Messrs. McTavish and Reid be appointed a Committee to draw up a suitable minute on this case, which is as follows:—

"That the Presbytery having listened with the deepest regret to the statement made by their beloved brother, Mr. Marshall, find that, in the painful circumstances of the case, they have no alternative, and therefore accept of his resignation of his charge, and in doing so desire to record their sense of his christian worth—his consistent conduct—his efficient discharge of ministerial duties, and his amiable spirit, by which he has, in the short time he has been among them, won the most thorough confidence and esteem of his brethren in the ministry, the affection of his now sorely afflicted people, and the respect of the community at large; to tender to him their heart-felt sympathy in his affliction, and express their earnest prayer that his covenant God may be pleased to restore him to a measure of health, and spare him for a life of usefulness in some other portion of the vineyard, and commend him to the Lord in whom he has believed.

"And further, the Presbytery record their sympathy with his bereaved flock, who, in the all wise and mysterious providence of God are called on to part with a beloved minister, and to deplore the severing of a relation so recently formed, and from which so much benefit was expected to result, both to them and to the Presbytery,—and assure them of their willingness to do all in their power to promote their interests in their present painful circumstances."

Mr. Reid was appointed to preach in Cooke's Church on the 5th of April, and declare the Church vacant.

Before proceeding to other business, the Presbytery engaged in solemn prayer, Mr. McTavish, on the call of the Moderator, leading their devotions.

A call in favor of Mr. Sharp, probationer, from the united congregations at Ashburn and Utica, or at the rear of Whitby and front of Reach, unanimously signed, and accompanied with a guarantee for stipend, was laid upon the table. The call was sustained and put into the hands of Mr. Sharp, who was present, and who signified his acceptance of it. Subjects of

trial for ordination were, then prescribed to Mr. Sharp.

On application from the congregations in Caledon West, and Erin, Mr. McLachlan was appointed to moderate in a call to a minister as soon as the people are prepared for it. Also, in compliance with a similar petition from Mono Centre, Mr. Holmes was appointed to moderate in a call there as soon as the people are ready.

Report of Committee on the examination of Students within the bounds of the Presbytery was given in by Mr. Laing, and read; and after revision was adopted, and transmitted to the College Committee in terms of the regulations regarding examination of Students adopted by last Synod.

The following overture on the re-arrangement of Presbyteries was given in by Mr. Laing, and read,—and it was agreed to transmit it to the Synod:—

"Whereas, owing to the increasing number of settled charges in some Presbyteries of this Church, great inconvenience is occasioned from the distance of some places from the seats of Presbytery, frequent meetings, or protracted sederunts, with a thin attendance of members, become necessary, and thus there is a tendency to the less effective transaction of important business, and the too frequent omission of religious conference:—and whereas in connection with changes in the mode of travelling the relative position of not a few localities has been altered—

"It is therefore overtured by the Presbytery of Toronto to the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, that the present arrangements of Presbyteries in respect to territorial division be revised with a view to modification, and that a new Presbytery or new Presbyteries be formed, so as to adopt the limits of Presbyteries to the present extent and prospective growth of the Church in this Province."

Report on Missionary Meetings being called for, several of the brethren present reported. These reports were received, and it was agreed that Congregations that have not yet sent in collections to the Home Mission Fund of Presbytery be agreed to do so without delay, as that fund is at present greatly overdrawn. The attention of brethren, congregations, and mission stations, whom it concerns, is hereby called to this matter.

Several applications for missionary supply from vacancies and mission stations within the bounds of the Presbytery were read and considered. In one or two of these letters there was shown a disposition to look to the Presbytery, both for missionaries and funds to pay them. The following supplies were appointed, viz:—

Knox's Church and Cooke's Church, Toronto, to be supplied meantime by members of Presbytery in the order of the Roll, and by Mr. Chesnut, probationer. Brock and Reach—Mr. Anderson. Caledon East and Mono Mills—Mr. Bremner. Mono Centre—Mr. Alexander of Norval, April 12th, Mr. Holmes of Brampton, April 26th. Caledon West and Erin—Mr. Mitchell of Milton, April 19th, and Mr. Laing of Scarborough, 3rd May. Adjala—Mr. Fletcher. Nottawasaga and Osprey—Mr. McKinnon. West Gwillimbury—Mr. Grant. Collingwood—Mr. McDonald. St. Vincent and Euphrasia—Mr. Campbell, who is also to visit Holland and Artemisia. Oro, Medonte, &c.—Mr. Cameron. Brampton, (new station,) and Weston—Mr. Fenwick, alternate Sabbaths to each.

Messrs. Nisbet, Wightman, Reid, and Laing were appointed a Committee (Mr. Nisbet, Convener,) to attend to the general affairs of the Home Mission of the Presbytery.

The Clerk was instructed to communicate with all the vacancies and mission stations re-