

ECCLESIASTICAL AND MISSIONARY RECORD,

For the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

"Wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation."

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THE BIBLE.

—
 This book unfolds Jehovah's mind.
 This voice salutes in accents kind
 This friend will all your need supply
 This fountain sends forth streams of joy.
 This mine affords us boundless wealth.
 This good Physician gives us health.
 This Sun renews and warms the soul.
 This Sword both wounds and makes us whole
 This letter shews our sins forgiven.
 This guide conducts us safe to heaven.
 This charter has been sealed with blood.
 This volume is the word of God.

J. IRONS.

SYNODICAL COLLECTIONS FOR THE YEAR.

1. For the French Canadian Missionary Society, on the 3rd Sabbath of July.
2. For the Buxton Mission and Synod Fund, on the 3rd Sabbath of October.
3. For the Foreign Missions of the Free Church of Scotland, on the 3rd Sabbath of Jan'y.
4. For the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund, on the 3rd Sabbath of April.

PRESBYTERY OF BROCKVILLE AND OTTAWA.

This Presbytery will meet in the city of Ottawa, on the first Tuesday in March, at seven o'clock, p. m.

S. C. FRASER, Pres. Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

The next ordinary meeting of this Presbytery will be held in Knox's Church, Hamilton, on the second Tuesday in April, at one o'clock, p. m.
 M. Y. STARK, Pres. Clerk.

FOREIGN MISSION COMMITTEE.

The members of the Committee on Foreign Missions, are hereby requested to meet in Toronto, within the Office at 108 Yongo Street, on Tuesday, 11th current, at 2 o'clock, p. m.
 D. FRASER, Convener.

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

The Presbytery of Toronto met at Brampton, by appointment, on the 12th February, and continued nearly two days in session. There were present, of Ministers, Dr. Burns, Messrs Holmes, McLachlan, Nisbet, Ure, Alexander, Laing, and Wightman—together with Mr. Rogers (late of Demorestville) and Mr. McLean of Puslinch—of Elders, Mr. Lindsay and Mr. S. Wallace. It was understood that the fall of snow the night before, prevented other members from getting forward.

At the opening of the Presbyterial visitation of the united Congregations of Brampton and vicinity—Mr. Holmes preached on Ps. xxvii. 14.

In absence of the Moderator and ex-moderator, Dr. Burns as senior minister, was called to the chair.

The Presbytery proceeded to the proper business of the meeting, when all parties interested, Ministers, Elders, Trustees, and a considerable body of the members of the three Congregations being present, the special object of the meeting was duly announced by the Moderator.

Mr. Holmes asked if it might be proper for him to read and give in certain statistical tables relating to the numbers in attendance at the different stations—number of communicants and various other particulars, which was allowed.—These statements being read and their accuracy assented to by all parties, were along with the Session Records handed in to the Court for inspection. A lengthened questionnaire examination was then proceeded in between the Presbytery and parties interested—partly according to the interim scheme of the Presbytery. At the adjourned meeting on Wednesday, after the hearing of evidence was considered closed, and parties removed, the Presbytery met and spent a considerable time in conference, reviewing the evidence, and preparing to come to a deliverance on the case.

Thereafter, the Presbytery again met in open court, and being constituted by Mr. Nisbet, Moderator *pro tem.*, before submitting the deliverance came to at the confederal meeting, Mr. Rogers, on the call of the Moderator, offered up prayer for divine direction.

Thereafter Dr. Burns submitted a series of resolutions which, with some slight modifications, were on motion of Dr. Burns, seconded by Mr.

McLachlan, unanimously adopted as the Presbytery's deliverance in this case. The finding is as follows:—

1. The Presbytery are impressed with the conviction that, the pastoral field occupied by Mr. Holmes, is too large. They would advise a concentration of his labours on the Congregation of Brampton, and a totally new arrangement as to Free Temple and E. Toronto. What arrangement that may be, will be matter for future consideration, and in the meantime, things remaining as they are, it is recommended that the minister should occupy Brampton at 2 o'clock, p. m., each Sabbath, and Temple and E. Toronto on alternate Sabbaths, at 10 o'clock, a. m.

2. The Presbytery lament the distracted and unhealthy state of the congregations owing to various causes—but are satisfied that with the blessing of God and the grace of his Spirit on the hearts and on the lives and labours of the pastor and elders, together with the cultivation of a kindly spirit of forbearance and charity among the members, these causes may be greatly counteracted and gradually removed.

3. While the Presbytery were much pleased with the statistical statements which Mr. Holmes laid before them, the accuracy of which was attested by all parties, they have found evidence quite sufficient to lead them earnestly to recommend,—yea to enjoin on pastor and session, a higher tone of discipline and of spiritual inspection—more frequent meetings of session for ordinary business and for prayer—more distinct arrangement of districts for elders to superintend—timely sessional notice to applicants for communion, and pastoral dealing with them, as well as with parents on occasion of baptism, and more frequent adjustment of the rolls of membership.

4. The Presbytery disapprove of the union of secular offices with the pastoral charge, and regret that Mr. Holmes should have entangled himself with these, but are happy to find from himself, that he is about to free himself from all such entanglements. The Presbytery, moreover even in reference to the superintendence of schools, recommend that no minister engage in it, beyond what is compatible with a proper regard to the best interests of the Congregations.

5. The Presbytery are happy to find that, under the superintendence of Mr. Hamilton, assisted by a staff of male and female teachers, the Sabbath-school and its Library are in a flourishing state, and they would warmly encourage and commend such helps to the ministry, and in addition would approve of Mr. Holmes holding Bible Classes for young men and women after they leave the Sabbath-school, such as he may occasionally have been accustomed to hold, endeavouring to keep them up through the year.

Earnestly also would the Presbytery recommend to Minister and Session to give all encouragement in their power to prayer meetings in the Church, and in private houses, to be conducted by the Pastor, Elders, or private christians, with the knowledge and approval of the Session