

ere regret and with deep sympathy for Mr. Pirie and the congregation on account of the circumstances by which it was rendered necessary.

Dr. Bayne appeared and took his seat in the Presbytery, and was cordially welcomed by the brethren after so long an absence, and thankfulness was expressed to the Great Head of the Church for his safe return and the appearance of an improved state of health.

The Presbytery were painfully occupied for some time with a charge brought by the Rev. James Middlemiss of Elora and the Elders and Deacons of his congregation, against the Rev. John G. McGregor, principal of the Grammar School, accusing him of affirming to various individuals of the congregation that Mr. Middlemiss preached unsoand doctrine, and desiring that he might be cited to appear before the Presbytery to answer for his conduct in so doing.

The Presbytery after hearing documents and evidence. Resolved.—That having lately had Mr. Middlemiss under trials, and many members of Presbytery having heard him preach in their pulpits several times, are not disposed to allow their confidence in the soundness of his doctrine to be easily shaken; and further agree to grant the prayer of the petition of the Elders and Deacons of Chalmers' Church and direct their Clerk to cite the said Rev. J. G. McGregor to appear at the next ordinary meeting of Presbytery, to answer the charges preferred against him by Mr. Middlemiss and the petitioners.

It was moved and agreed to that the committee for arranging Missionary Meetings be instructed to correspond with Sessions of congregations and be guided by the answers received in making their appointments; some objections having been brought against the arrangements published in the Record.

The Rev. James Rogers, late of Demorestville, was received as an ordained minister without charge, within the bounds, and as eligible to any missionary appointment which may be given to him by the Home Mission Committee.

Missionaries were allocated for the next three months, and various matters of minor importance were taken up.

Sessions Records, which have not been examined since last meeting of Synod, are enjoined to be sent forward without fail to next ordinary meeting.

Next ordinary meeting to be held at Hamilton and within Knox's Church there the second Tuesday of April, at 2 o'clock, p. m.

The overtures sent down by the Synod to Presbyteries for their consideration, are to be taken up at next ordinary meeting.

M. Y. STARR, Pres. Clerk.

Communications, &c.

OBITUARY NOTICE OF THE LATE ALEX. ROSS, ESQ., OF RED RIVER.

To the Editor of the Record.

MY DEAR SIR:—It is only a few short months since your excellent periodical contained an obituary notice of the late William Ross, of this settlement. Will you now allow me a brief space for a similar notice of his worthy father. "They were lovely in their lives and in their deaths they were but little divided." The strong and active man of thirty-one years fell asleep on the 4th of May, and the venerable patriarch of three score and fourteen, on the 23rd of October of the present year.

Mr. Ross was a native of the North of Scotland, having been born in the parish of Dyke, on the 2nd of November, 1782. Early in the present century he emigrated to Canada, and when the celebrated "Astor Expedition" was

fitted out in September, 1810, to open up the fur trade of the Oregon, Mr. Ross was one of the first to join it. Having embarked at New York on board of the ill-fated ship *Zongara*, he and his companions, after a tedious voyage of about seven months round Cape Horn, arrived at the mouth of the Columbia, and were the first Europeans to fell a tree or erect a building in that then remote and almost fabulous region. In this country—peopled at that time by numerous tribes of bold and warlike Indians—he remained until 1825, in the service successively of the three great fur companies that have, in turn, made it the field of commercial enterprise—the "American Fur Company," the "North West Company," and the "Hudson's Bay Company." The wild and exciting adventures of this period of his life have been graphically narrated by himself in three interesting volumes—the first, published in 1816, and the other two during the course of the present year.

At the period above-mentioned, influenced chiefly by a regard to the best interests of a rising family, Mr. Ross resolved to abandon the life of a fur-trader. He made his way over the Rocky Mountains and settled down as a merchant and farmer in the Red River colony, then, for the first time, after the calamities of its early history, beginning to give tokens of permanency and prosperity. Here he soon became a prominent citizen, and for upwards of twenty years held the offices of Sheriff and Councillor, in which, on his retirement, he was succeeded by his late excellent and much-lamented son. Zealously attached to the Church of his fathers, his talents, education and standing in society soon made him the acknowledged leader of the true-hearted, but small and friendless band of Scotch Presbyterians, who formed the nucleus and heart of the colony. But so strong were opposing influences that it was not till after a struggle of twenty-five long years that he and they had the satisfaction of welcoming a minister of their own beloved Church to their secluded homes. And while too much honor cannot be done to the faithfulness with which our people have held fast their principles in spite of every temptation to abandon them, it is not too much to say that the firm establishment—if not the very existence—of our Church here is, under God, chiefly to be ascribed to the zeal, ability and indefatigable perseverance with which Mr. Ross maintained its cause.

For the last five years, he, with his family, was permitted to enjoy its ministrations, and confessedly not without benefit. On the organization of a Church he was at once elected an elder, and his wisdom, experience and love of peaceful measures have been of the greatest advantage to the Session which, with the family and the congregation, now feels itself deprived of a leader and guide such as, to human eye at least, no one seems prepared to succeed.

Even during the most unsettled period of his life, Mr. Ross was a regular student of his Bible; and although he did not altogether escape the evil influences of a life in the Indian country, the taint of these in his latter years, was becoming less and less discernible, and the indications of Christian character more and more so. The last time he attended Church, it was to preside at a prayer meeting, in the absence of the minister, when many were struck with the peculiar earnestness and fervency of his prayers. His last illness was only of six days duration; though severe, it was borne with patience and resignation. He was almost constantly engaged in prayer, or in repeating precious texts of Scripture. His confidence in his future well-being was firm and unwavering to the last, until a quarter past eleven o'clock on the night of Thursday, October 23, when he departed peacefully in the midst of his family.

Mr. Ross has left a widow and seven chil-

dren, and two families of orphan grand children to lament his loss. The widow—daughter of a great chief of the Okinakan nation, and a woman of truly Christian character and feeling, has been his faithful companion for more than forty years. Under the very afflictive strokes with which she has been lately visited, she finds consolation in the religion which her husband was the first to teach her, and in the tender assiduities of affectionate children. Both the family and the Church have been stricken, but both desire believingly to listen to our Lord's words—repeated by the deceased on his death-bed, and made the subject of his funeral sermon—"Let not your heart be troubled, ye believe in God, believe also in me."

Red River Settlement,

November 8, 1856.

[Mr. James Ross, a son of the deceased Mr. Ross, and, we believe, now the eldest surviving son, has been for the last three years pursuing his studies at University College, and has highly distinguished himself in the various classes through which he has passed.—EDITOR.]

ANNUAL REPORT OF SABBATH SCHOOL OF KNOX'S CHURCH, TORONTO.

Once more, in the providence of God, we are permitted to assemble together to celebrate our annual meeting, and to report the operations of the Sunday School for the past year, as well as what has been done for objects of a missionary character.

It has been usual on former occasions to allude to any changes which may have occurred, either from the death of those who were connected with us, or the removal to other places of those who were associated with us in the work of instruction.

So far as the teachers have ascertained, but one death has occurred. Robert Lester, the subject of the following remarks, attended this Sabbath School for a number of years, he was a youth of promise, and none who noticed his quiet and retired habits but must have been struck with his example so well fitted to lead others to serious thought, whilst engaged in the study of God's Word, and presenting a marked contrast to the many who look upon such exercises as irksome, and prevent others, as well as themselves, from reaping the results of faithful instruction. In the month of November last, he was prevented from attending the Sunday School from a severe illness, which was not at the time regarded as dangerous, but a few days brought the disease to be regarded as one which would bring death in its train. It is pleasing to know that on his death bed he gave abundant testimony that the seed sown had not fallen on barren soil, and his parting words, that Christ was all his salvation and all his desire, must have fallen sweetly on the ears of a widowed mother and sorrowing sister. He is gone, and it is to be hoped that his companions may be led to ponder well the necessity for preparation, from the fact that the young die as well as the old, and we knew not what a day or an hour may bring forth.

Two of our teachers, since the last annual meeting, have left Toronto, and are, we believe, engaged in the same work in another part of the Province.

The attendance for the last year has been good, the number on the roll at present being one hundred and fifty, and the average attendance one hundred and thirty. For the first six months there was a falling off, but for the last two quarters the loss has been regained.

The number of teachers engaged is fifteen, with a Librarian. One of the greatest difficulties in the management of a Sunday School, where so many are brought together, is maintenance of order. In last year's report the Commit-