

THE 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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PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

An adjourned Meeting of the Presbytery of Toronto, will be held in Knox's College Library, on the 8th inst., at 12 o'clock, A. M.

PRESBYTERY OF COBOURG.

The Presbytery of Cobourg will meet at Cobourg on the second Tuesday of January, 1851.

J. W. SMITH, *Pres. Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

The Presbytery of Toronto met in the Library of Knox's College, on the 4th December.

The Rev. Mr. Holmes reported that he had, according to appointment, ordained the elders elect, in the congregation of King.

The Home Mission Committee of the Presbytery, gave in the following report:—

"Mr. Burns submitted a scale of supply for the vacancies of the Presbytery during the winter, amounting to 69 days' services. In addition to 16 of the Divinity Students who had been em-

ployed in catechetical labour during the summer, the names of six settled ministers of the Presbytery were added to the list of supply. The Committee recommended to Presbytery that he allowance to ordained missionaries be at the rate of £100 per annum, and that all Students, who have been employed as Catechists within the bounds of the Presbytery, be required to give in written reports."

The Presbytery received and approved of the Report.

Dr. Willis reported that he had dispensed the Sacrament at Niagara, on the Sabbath previous, according to appointment.

Dr. Willis also reported that from his interview with brethren of other denominations, in reference to a day of thanksgiving, he doubted whether any further effort would accomplish the object. The Presbytery recommended to the ministers, Kirk Sessions, and congregations within their bounds, to select an early day on which the congregations may be convened for public worship—the last day of this year or the first of next, would be very suitable, and appoint the Committee, formerly named, to draw up a short statement of reasons and grounds of thanksgiving, and also to include grounds of humiliation and repentance, of which ministers may avail themselves as they see fit, in guiding the devotions of their congregations.

The names of Professor Es-on and Messrs. Wightman and Ure, were added to the Committee on the charter of Knox's College, the Committee were instructed to mature the subject by next meeting of Presbytery.

On the application of the congregations, the Presbytery appointed the Rev. John McLachlan, to supply at Boston Church, Acton and Nassagaweya, for five Sabbaths, from 15th December.

Mr. Teifer elder, on behalf of the congregation in Scarborough, applied for supply once a fortnight, at the new church about to be opened at Highland Creek. Remitted to the Home Mission Committee of Presbytery.

An adjourned meeting of Presbytery will be held on the 8th January—the ordinary quarterly meeting, on the first Wednesday of March, 1851—in the usual place.

VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, ON BEHALF OF THE RALEIGH SETTLEMENT OF COLOURED PERSONS. BY DR BURNS AND THE REV. W. KING.

In undertaking the mission to Pittsburgh, on behalf of the Raleigh Settlement, there were two things which we considered it essential to keep in mind. In the first place, we did not go forth to plead for the *secular interests* of the "Elgin Association." Of that Association, indeed, we felt it our duty to give, wherever we went, some distinct account, in connexion with the principle, that in order to benefit the coloured population of Canada, it was necessary to give them something of the nature of a defined locality; but we regularly drew the line of distinction between the interests of the Association in the purchase and settlement of the land, and the arrangements made for the spiritual benefit of the settlers upon it. This last was the single object of our visit to the States. A Committee of Synod had been entrusted with the charge of providing for the spiritual instruction of the settlers and the education of their children, and a place of worship, school-house, and dwelling house for the missionary and teacher had been provided. To assist in defraying the expenses thereby incurred, and to provide for the keeping up of the religious establishment thus effected, was the single object of the appeal. We found it of importance to keep the two things entirely distinct, and thus our appeal had clearly and substantially a missionary character.

In the second place, while we made no secret of our views, both on slavery in general, and on the refugee law in particular, we did not assume the attitude of anti-slavery or abolition pleaders. We sought to lay before all whom we addressed, a specific case of benevolence. Twenty thousand coloured persons existed in Canada prior to the passing of any fugitive law. They had been placed in circumstances unfavorable to their civilisation and religious improvement. In connexion with the fugitive law, it was no doubt a happy thing, that a settlement which admitted of a character of an asylum in some sense had, in the course of Providence, been made. Such a fact could not diminish the inter-