

News of the Church.

Presbytery of Pictou.

The Presbytery of Pictou met in James Church, New Glasgow, on the 5th inst., and was constituted by the Rev. George Patterson, Moderator, with whom were present the Revs. David Roy, J. Stewart, George Walker, D. Bayne, A. P. Miller, Alexander Sutherland, D. B. Blair, James Thompson, George Roddick, J. McKinnon, Alexander Ross, K. J. Grant, J. A. F. Sutherland, A. J. Mowitt, A. McL. Sinclair, J. B. Watt and J. D. Murray, Ministers, and Messrs. George Underwood, James McGregor, John Miller, Hugh Gunn, James McDonald, Donald Ross, Francis Henry, Daniel Falconer and James Grant, Ruling Elders.

After the Roll was called and the Minutes of the last meeting were read and sustained, Mr. Hugh Gunn representative Elder from the congregation of Earltown and West Branch, reported that since the last meeting of Presbytery, their pastor, the Rev. Lauchlan McDonald, had been called away by death, that consequently the congregation is vacant, and that through him they ask the sympathy of the Presbytery in their present trial and attention to their spiritual wants. The Presbytery in removing Mr. McDonald's name from the Roll appointed the Rev. John Stewart to preach to the congregation vacant on the 4th Sabbath of this month, and prepare a Minute in reference to his death to be placed on their records, and also appointed the Rev. Alex. Sutherland to be Moderator of the Session.

The following is the Minute prepared by Mr. Stewart:—"The Presbytery in consequence of the removal by death of one of their number who within the last eighteen months was inducted into the charge of Earltown, feel by this sudden death a loud call addressed to them to be up and doing the important work with which the Lord has intrusted them. Mr. McDonald more than twenty years ago had his heart deeply impressed with the importance of the work of the Ministry—labored in the Free Church of Scotland for several years with more than usual diligence and acceptability—came to this country certified by that church—without any unnecessary delay entered upon his work as one that felt he could not do enough for Christ during his short sojourn here below, and "was instant in season and out of season," that both himself and his work might be accepted by Him who had called him. While both his friends and this Presbytery deplore the loss of a lovable man and a faithful ambassador of Christ, they at the same time believe that their loss is his gain. The congregation of

Earltown and West Branch feel that they have lost the best friend they had on earth, and in this bereavement the Presbytery deeply sympathize with them, and their prayer in their behalf is that the Lord in due time will send them a pastor "according to His own heart," who among them will gather souls unto Christ, and feed the flock of His heritage "with knowledge and understanding."

The Rev. Mr. Sinclair reported that according to appointment he preached during the month of April in St. John's church Chatham, and that on the 14th of that month he moderated in a call for one to be the pastor of the congregation, which came out unanimously in favour of Mr. Garvie, preacher of the Gospel; that it was signed by 59 members and 88 adherents, and that the congregation are desirous, in the event of their call being sustained and accepted, that the ordination and induction take place at as early a date as possible.

Mr. Sinclair's conduct was cordially approved of and the Call to Mr. Garvie sustained. Mr. Garvie being present the Call was put into his hand and, after some time given him for consideration, he intimated its acceptance.

The Moderator and Clerk reported that they had on their own responsibility and unofficially assigned Mr. Garvie the following subjects as trials for Ordination, viz: Lecture, Matthew xxv. 1-13; Sermon, John iii. 14, 15; Exercise and Additions, Acts ii. 27; Theology, Arminian Controversy; Church History, Arian Controversy, Hebrew, the Book of Ruth; Greek, N. T. ad ap. Lib.; with a view of facilitating his ordination and induction before the meeting of Synod. The Presbytery agreed to accept these subjects as his trials for ordination. Mr. Garvie having intimated that he was prepared to give them in, the Presbytery received and sustained them.—It was agreed to appoint his ordination and induction into the pastoral charge of the congregation of St. John's Church, Chatham, on Thursday, the 28th inst., at 11 A. M., the Moderator to preside and ordain, Mr. McKinnon to preach, and Dr. Bayne to address the minister, and Mr. Blair the people. The Rev. J. D. Murray was appointed to preach in the congregation on the 3rd and 4th Sabbaths of this month, and to read the Edict for ordination, Mr. William Grant was appointed to supply his place.

The Rev. Mr. Roy requested leave to be absent from his congregation during the month of June, and Dr. Bayne to be absent from his congregation for 6 or 7 weeks, as they intended to make additional improvements upon the church. Both of these requests were granted.

The Rev. Mr. Thompson was appointed to preach at West Branch, River John, on