

News of our Church.

PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL.



ON Thursday, the 5th ultimo, at noon, the Presbytery of Montreal in connection with the Church of Scotland met in the basement of St. Andrew's Church, Rev. Mr. Darrach, Moderator. The Moderator said that he had been requested by three members of the Presbytery to take steps that the Rev. Dr. Jenkins should receive some authority to preach to the congregation of St. Paul's before the ordinary meeting of Presbytery; he having received from the congregation not a call, but an invitation, which was not absolutely binding. He, the Moderator, believed much good would result to the Church in Montreal and the Church in the Province by receiving Dr. Jenkins into the Church. Some objection was made by Mr. Simpson of Lachine to this mode of calling the meeting, which he held was not constitutional. The Moderator read from the Constitution the clause empowering the Moderator to call meetings under certain circumstances.

Rev. Dr. Mathieson objected to the meeting as being illegally called, the required notice not having been given. He also held that a *pro re nata* meeting had no authority to receive Dr. Jenkins before his credentials had been submitted to an ordinary meeting. They had no official expression of his desire to become a member of the Church. He declared that the Moderator had compromised the dignity of his office by proceeding in this manner. He then read the rule for the reception of ministers from Jissenting bodies. The application should have been made to the Presbytery within the bounds of which the applicant had resided a year, and that application should remain on the table until the following meeting.

Rev. Mr. Patterson of Hemmingford, Clerk of the Presbytery, thought the Doctor was mixing up two questions,—the legality of the meeting and the action the meeting might take after being constituted. He said that *pro re nata* meetings had frequently conferred licenses to preach upon young men, and even ordained them. The point first to be disposed of was whether the conduct of the Moderator in calling the meeting was approved or disapproved.

The Moderator said that it being known that the Rev. Dr. Jenkins would arrive four or five Sabbaths before the next ordinary meeting, a large majority of the congregation was desirous that he should, in some form, be authorized to preach before them previous to the ordinary meeting, and having been directed by three members of the Presbytery to call a meeting, he had done so, and they might now say if they approved of his conduct or not.

Rev. Mr. Sieveright moved that the action of the Moderator be sustained.

Rev. Dr. Mathieson moved, in amendment,

that his action be not sustained, it being unconstitutional.

A division on the approval or disapproval of the action of the Moderator resulted in his action being sustained.

Dr. Mathieson protested against the meeting and its object, and submitted a written appeal to the Synod.

The Moderator then stated that he had been authorized by Dr. Jenkins, in case there was any dissatisfaction expressed, to withdraw his application, which would then come up in the regular order before the next ordinary meeting. He (the Moderator) therefore withdrew the application, and dissolved the meeting.

FRENCH MISSION.—The first annual meeting of the Montreal Ladies' French Mission Auxiliary Society in connection with the Church of Scotland was held in St. Paul's Church, on the evening of the 29th of December last. The Rev. Principal Snodgrass was called to the chair. After devotional exercises, the annual report, submitted by Miss McIntosh, was read. It commenced with a short sketch of the origin and aims of the Society, setting forth that it originated at a meeting of Sabbath school teachers belonging to St. Andrew's and St. Paul's Churches. The ladies had been anxious to enlarge their sphere of usefulness, and desirous of aiding the French Mission Scheme. With the view of fixing upon some plan, a meeting was called at the house of the Rev. Principal Snodgrass, the result of which was the formation of the Society. The report was very encouraging, shewing that a considerable amount of work had been done. The Rev. Mr. Tanner's health being delicate, one of the first operations of the Society was to undertake the support of a missionary to assist him. The selection was referred to the Synod's Committee, who chose Mr. A. Geoffroy. Since his engagement on 1st May last he had furnished monthly reports to the Society, shewing that he had held prayer meetings and visited a large number of French families, Protestant and Catholic. He had also held meetings at Côte St. Paul, St. Martin, and Point St. Charles. Mr. Geoffroy, as the result of his labours, was able to speak hopefully of seven persons who had resolved to read the Bible and be guided by its precepts. Of these, one had died trusting in the merits of her Saviour, and two had renounced the Romish faith. Seven Bibles, nine Testaments, and 400 tracts had been given away, care being taken to distribute none where there was a likelihood of their being destroyed. Miss Vernier, the teacher of the day school in connection with Mr. Tanner's congregation, had also been supported by the ladies. There was an attendance of twelve scholars, who received an intellectual and religious training, besides being taught sewing, &c. The report was adopted, and a committee for the ensuing year appointed. The Chairman, John L. Morris, Esq., and the Rev. J. E.