

6. The Presbytery of Toronto could employ 10 labourers, who they applied for 7.

7. The Presbytery of Hamilton could employ 12, but applied only for 6, in addition to those ministers who have received calls.

8. The Presbytery of London could give employment to 25, but in the well known scarcity of labourers, applied only for 5.

The following was the distribution made by the committee:—

1. To the Presbytery of Montreal, five were assigned, viz., Rev. Mr. Crombie, Messrs. Currie, Young, McDiarmid, and Searth.

2. To the Presbytery of Perth, two, viz., Straith and Duncan.

3. To the Presbytery of Brockville, two, viz., Rev. W. Troup and Mr. A. McDonald.

4. To the Presbytery of Kingston, two, viz., Rev. Mr. McCaughey, and Mr. James Thom.

5. To the Presbytery of Cobourg, one, Mr. N. Paterson.

6. To the Presbytery of Toronto, three, Messrs. Milroy, Clark and Blount.

7. To the Presbytery of Hamilton, four—Messrs. McLean, McMillan, McRobie, and Cuthbertson.

8. To the Presbytery of London, five, viz., Rev. J. McFatrick, Messrs. Ferguson, McMullen, Forest and McKay.

After a lengthened conversation on several points connected with the harmonious working of the Home Mission Scheme, the Committee adjourned.

#### PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

The Presbytery met on the 1st and 2nd of May, and transacted a considerable amount of business. Without noticing several items not of sufficient interest to appear in the *Record*, the following sketch is given of the principal matters before the court:—

The proposed Marriage law was brought under the notice of the Presbytery, and a Committee was appointed to draw up, and transmit to the Provincial Parliament, a petition against the passing of the bill.

Certificates were read from Mr. Gilbert Ferguson, Student of Divinity, recently from Scotland, now residing within the bounds of this Presbytery, which were considered satisfactory. The case was referred to the Committee on the examination of students.

The subject of the examination of Students was taken into consideration, and the following overture thereon was agreed to, viz:—

Whereas it is most important and desirable, that there should be exercised a thorough system of examination, in reference to the attainments and progress of the students of Knox's College; and whereas, in the system now in operation, there are inconveniences and difficulties not easily obviated, it is respectfully overtured to the venerable the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, by the Presbytery of Toronto, that some more efficient means may be devised, and put into operation, to attain the object contemplated.

Two of the students of Knox's College, Messrs. Alexander McLean and John Milroy, having finished their curriculum, were taken on preliminary trials previous to application being made to the Synod. The Synod were satisfied with the result of the examination, and accordingly agreed to apply to the Synod for leave to take these students on trials for license.

The Home Mission Report of Presbytery,

drawn up by Dr Burns, was submitted and approved of.

Mr. Nisbet, appointed at a former meeting to proceed on a missionary tour through the north-western district of the Presbytery, gave in his report, which was received, and the thanks of the Presbytery were given to him, for the very satisfactory manner in which he had fulfilled this appointment.

A Committee of Presbytery was appointed some time ago to look out for a suitable person to act as a missionary within the bounds, with more special reference to the north-western district, and had given in a report, recommending that Mr. Nisbet, of Oakville, be appointed to that office. The consideration of this important matter, in the absence of the Convener of Committee, was delayed till next meeting.

The missionary labours that have been allocated to this Presbytery by the Synod's Committee, were distributed as follows, viz:—

Mr. D. Clark was appointed to labour in St. Vincent, Lufra-sia, &c. Mr. John Milroy was appointed to labour in Brock and Reach. Mr. J. Blount was appointed to supply Melville church, and the mission station in the south-east of Markham, till the end of May, and Boston church during the month of June.

The Rev. D. Clark was appointed to supply Caledon West and Erin during the month of May, and Caledon East and Mono during the month of June.

It was resolved, that Rev. Mr. Boyd, of Richmond Hill Grammar School, be requested to dispense the Communion at Brown's Corners, in Markham, and also to supply the congregation there during the summer.

THOS. WIGHTMAN, *Pres. Clerk*

#### PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.

The Presbytery of London met on the 9th of May, and continued in session two full days, and part of the third.

The following is a statement of the principal business performed by the court:—

The Rev. Lachlan McPherson of Williams, was elected moderator for the year.

The minutes were received and sustained, of two special meetings of Presbytery—the one of which was held at Port Stanley, for the purpose of ordaining the Rev. W. Doak, and inducting him over the congregation there; and the other at Saugeen, for the ordination of the Rev. J. P. McNaughton, and his induction over the congregation of that place.

Reports were received of two committees of Presbytery—the one of which was appointed to induct the Rev. David Walker over the congregation of Sarina, and the other to moderate in a call from the congregation of Port Burwell.—The latter committee reported that they had not proceeded with the business for which they had been appointed, having received intimation from the people at Port Burwell, that the person for for whom the call had been appointed, had distinctly stated his purpose of rejecting it.

The deputation, appointed to visit Williams and consult and advise with the members of the church there, respecting the impropriety of selling in perpetuity the pews of their church, reported, that according to the direction of Presbytery, they had met with the congregation of Williams, and that after a lengthened period of consultation, in which the matter of selling the pews was familiarly discussed, all the members present, with one exception, had agreed to abandon their original plan, and retain the pews as the common property of the congregation.

Verbal reports were also heard of the fulfilment of special missionary appointments given to members of Presbytery at last ordinary meeting, and of the annual missionary meetings held throughout the bounds of the Presbytery in the months of January and February. Respecting the special appointments it was ascertained that they

had all been met; of the missionary meetings, very favourable accounts were received from the western and middle sections of the Presbytery, but in the eastern section these meetings had, in several instances, proved comparative failures. The collections made on behalf of the Presbytery's Home Mission Fund, at all the meetings held throughout the bounds, amounted to £122.

Quarterly Financial Reports were received and read from all the congregations of the Presbytery, with the exception of Aldborough.

The Rev. John McFatrick, probationer, intimated to the Presbytery, his intention of leaving this country for Australia, and requested to be furnished with his credential; in which the clerk was instructed to supply Mr. McFatrick with a certificate of status and character.

A paper was laid on the table by the Rev. William Porterfield, in which he signified to the Presbytery his resignation of the pastoral charge of the congregation of Plympton, and assigned several reasons for taking this step,—the chief of which reasons was the inadequacy of his strength to supply with preaching, four separate stations. Two papers were also read from the people of his charge—one from a conjunct meeting of the people belonging to three stations, proposing that the pastor's labours should be confined to them, and the fourth given into the hands of the Presbytery for missionary supply—the other paper from the members residing at this fourth station, praying that they might not be separated from the general charge, and proposing that a certain one of the other three stations should be so separated. The Presbytery delayed coming to a decision on the matter, and agreed to cite the members of the Plympton congregation to appear for their own interest, at the next ordinary meeting of the court.

The subject of the desecration of the holy Sabbath by the running of cars on the Great Western Railway on that day, was brought before the court; when after consultation respecting the matter, a committee was appointed, consisting of the Rev. Donald McKenzie, W. S. Ball, and Thomas McPherson, to prepare a memorial on the subject, and send it to the Directors of the railway; and also to send a notice to the different congregations belonging to the Presbytery, calling on them to petition against the unlawfulness and profanity of the conduct alluded to.

A motion to petition the Synod for a division of the Presbytery was brought forward, when on the vote being taken, it was decided by eight against four, that the Presbytery should remain entire for another year, in the prospect of a division being more advantageously made then than now.

A deputation appeared before the Presbytery, from a conjunct meeting held in London between the members of the United Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church of Canada, ancient Union, and laid on the table a series of resolutions, and a petition founded on said resolutions both for transmission to the Synod. Resolutions of a similar nature were also presented from the Townships of London and Westminster. All of these the Presbytery agreed to transmit to the Synod, at the same time expressing their earnest wish for a union between the Churches referred to, provided such union can be obtained without compromise of scripture principle.

The draft of an overture to be presented to the Synod, on the importance of establishing a scheme of Publication and Colportage, was read and adopted, and committed to the clerk for transmission to Synod. The Rev. Mr. King, and Rev. Mr. McLaren, were appointed to support the overture in the Supreme Court.

Mr James Ferguson, student of Divinity, appeared with his trials for license, when the Presbytery having heard the prescribed trials, and gone over the usual course of examination, agreed, on a conjunct view of the whole, to sustain the same, and in the usual manner solemnly set