

OWEN SOUND PRESBYTERY

The Presbytery of Owen Sound held its regular quarterly meeting on the 3rd of July. There was a large attendance of members and business of more than usual interest was transacted.

Session Records of Latona, Knox, Sydenham, Woodford and Chatsworth were examined and certified. Rev. A. Thomson, M.A., one of the sons of Division street congregation, who goes this fall as a missionary to Honan, China, was transferred to Montreal Presbytery for ordination, as his whole salary has been undertaken by the American Presbyterian church there.

By instruction of the General Assembly, Dr. Somerville was released from his charge that he might accept his appointment as Clerk of the Assembly, etc. Mr. John Armstrong and John McQuaker, representing the session, and Mr. James P. Telford, and Mr. H. H. Burgess of the congregation of Division street, gave fitting and very feeling expressions of the esteem in which Dr. Somerville is held and the universal regret at the severance of the pastorality and requested that he should be allowed to complete the 31st year of his pastorate, which will close with the 24th of August next.

This was agreed to and after several members of the Presbytery spoke in the warmest terms of personal appreciation of Dr. Somerville's work and worth, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"In parting with Dr. Somerville the Presbytery desire to place on record its high appreciation of the character and eminent ability of one who has been for thirty-one years continuously pastor of one of its leading congregations. During most of that time he has also discharged the duties of Clerk of Presbytery with great fidelity. His clerical work has been a model of neatness and accuracy, manifesting a complete grasp of business details, sound judgment and a thorough knowledge of ecclesiastical procedure. The higher church courts have not failed to appreciate his exceptional abilities and have utilized his services from year to year, and on many of the most important committees of our church, resulting finally in his appointment to his present position.

"While the Presbytery is sensible of the honor conferred upon it by the appointment of one of its number to this important position and whilst it recognizes the great gain thereby to the whole church, yet the Presbytery feels most keenly the great loss it sustains in the removal of a co-presbyter who during all these years has guided us by his counsel, informed us by his ripe scholarship, and encouraged us by his unflinching courtesy and kindness.

"The Presbytery would express its deepest sympathy with the congregation in its loss of a pastor to much honored and beloved, and earnestly unites in wishing Dr. and Mrs. Somerville and their family continued health and happiness in their new home, and abundant blessing and success for Dr. Somerville in his new sphere of labor."

After a most appropriate and affecting address by Dr. Somerville, routine business was resumed. Dr. Fraser, of Annapolis, was appointed moderator of session during the vacancy, and also Clerk of Presbytery. It was agreed to request the treasurer of the Presbytery to present an audited financial report annually at the March meeting. Some necessary changes were made in committees of Presbytery, owing to Dr. Somerville's removal. Messrs. Matheson, McAlpine, and McNabb were appointed to visit the congregations of Allenford, Elsinore, Skipness, Hepworth, Shallow Lake, Cruickshank, and Brooke, and if deemed expedient request them to send representatives to the September meeting to consider possible plans for re-arrangement. Messrs. Matheson, Eastman and Clark were appointed to visit Annapolis, Leith, Johnsons and Daywood congregations to urge the importance in the interest of the Home Mission fund of consolidating the four congregations into one charge and to report to September meeting.

PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.

The Presbytery of London met at Glenore, July 4th. Rev. J. Lindsay, of Kintore, was moderator, and the following members were in attendance: Rev. Messrs. Henderson and Moffat, London; Reece, St. Thomas; Jamieson, Wardsville; Shearer, Melbourne; Currie, Geddes, Ailsa Craig, and Dr. McDonald, of Mossa, and Dr. McCrae, Westminster.

The resignation of Rev. J. H. Courtenay, of Port Stanley, was considered. Messrs. Jack Meek, H. F. Jelly and Alex. Taylor appeared to oppose the acceptance of the resignation. A petition respecting almost the entire membership and many adherents was presented asking the Presbytery to seek to persuade Mr. Courtenay to withdraw his resignation. Mr. Courtenay adhered to his determination, notwithstanding the Presbytery's unanimous request to reconsider, and his resignation was accepted, to take effect a week from next Sabbath. The brethren expressed their great regret at parting with Mr. Courtenay.

Rev. M. W. Mackay, of Toronto, is likely to support Port Stanley for the summer. Mr. Mackay is a young man of fine pulpit power.

A request from Chalmers Church, London, for power to mortgage their property to the extent of \$5,000, was presented by Rev. Walter Moffat. The request was granted.

A call was presented to Rev. James Argo, B.A., of Duart, from Lobo and North Caradoc. The call was presented by Rev. Dr. Nixon. The parties heard in support of the call for Caradoc were Mr. R. T. Ball, J. H. Green, N. M. McGuigan and Duncan Leman, and from Lobo Alex. McLean, John McVicar, E. T. Caverhill and Fred McCallum. All urged strongly the sustaining of the call. The congregation are only giving \$800 with manse, and three weeks' vacation, but will increase the stipend considerably before long, especially in the Lobo part of the charge. There are only 40 members in Caradoc, but Lobo is much stronger, having 90 members and 45 families. The hope was strongly expressed that the stipend would be increased very considerably, as soon as possible.

The Sabbath school conference was really very excellent. The attendance of workers on account of the wet weather was not so large as it would otherwise have been. Dr. Barnett, the convener of the committee, gave in the report and its recommendations.

Rev. Dr. McCrae spoke on organization and management; Rev. J. Lindsay, on the home department; Rev. Geo. Weir, on the relation of the Sabbath school to the home and the church, and Rev. J. W. Rae, on normal training of the Sabbath school teacher.

Leave was granted to Mount Brydges to borrow \$1,500 on their new church when the conditions are fulfilled. Rev. R. W. Litch has done excellent work in this field, which is growing rapidly.

Mr. J. H. Woods, B.A., of Queen's College, was examined and licensed by the Presbyterian church to preach the Gospel.

Mr. W. W. Macalister, of the Guelph Mercury received a letter from Rev. Dr. Wardrop yesterday from Little Metis, One, the summer home of his daughter, Mrs. Grier. The doctor says "I have greatly improved in strength during the last three weeks and am now enjoying the bracing air here. I am not without hope of seeing you all in the fall."

Presbytery met at Palmerston on Tuesday last week. The business was routine. The young people's convention in connection with the meeting was an interesting and profitable meeting.

Rev. A. S. Ross, of Westboro, has accepted a call to Montreal west, and will be inducted on July 22nd.

SPARKS FROM OTHER ANVILS.

United Presbyterian:—Blessed is he that planteth and nurtureth a good thought. It will ever be a pleasant trying place for the children of his brain.

Cumberland Presbyterian:—Great are the enterprises before the church of today but there it not, there never was, and there never will be, any subject of more importance than that of the true, the complete education of a child, an education which brings him to a knowledge of God and into right relations with the Ruler of the Universe.

Canadian Baptist:—The minister or pastor who is to succeed in winning and retaining to good advantage the hearts of the people to whom he ministers must be a man of genuine and large sympathy,—of sympathy that finds expression in words and deeds that are unmistakably the transcript of his soul. Men and women of all classes and of all calibre are in need of sympathy and are open to receive it when it is bestowed in a manner becoming to all concerned. And no matter what it costs in the way of time and strength it will more than repay the man who takes the trouble to exercise it largely in his ministry. The broken heart; the desolated home; the bereaved family; the disappointed and discouraged life; the wearied laborer and mechanic; the anxious and worried business man; the perplexed professional man; the boy or girl; the father or mother; the brother or sister; the friend or acquaintance; all sorts and conditions of men daily furnish varied and manifold opportunities for the practice of sympathetic words.

Herald and Presbyter:—Firmness in the right is not only heroic, but is also for the advancement of the cause of righteousness. Firmness in the wrong may seem heroic to the individual, granted that he is mistaken and not vicious, but, nevertheless, he is serving the cause of unrighteousness. Before one sets out to be unyieldingly firm he would better make sure whether he is to be a moral hero, or merely an obstructionist and an opponent of what is right.

Lutheran Observer:—It is natural that we should sometimes forget, and fail to realize all that is involved in our seemingly trifling relaxing from our duty,—the spiritual loss to self, and the lowering of one's standards, the positive harm to others through the influence that is exerted, and the discouragement to those who are struggling against such odds to keep up the work of the church. Duty, privilege, love, call on us to be faithful, and to "remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," and to "let our light shine."

Michigan Presbyterian:—It would be a sad mistake to talk of the Bible as though it did nothing but expose sin. It does that to perfection. It denies none of the facts. Sin and death are not gotten rid of by a rigmorole of "God is Good and Good is God," said forwards and backwards until you are dizzy. The Gospel is here to meet facts, not delusions. "Comfort ye my people," not on the basis that they don't need comfort, but on the basis that we have something wherewith to comfort them. Don't say be ye warmed and clothed, but bring out the clothes and the coal, real clothes and real coal, paid for with real money; yes, gross materialistic coal, two thousand pounds to the ton. It is a great salvation because it is a real salvation.

United Presbyterian: God with all His greatness and majesty condescends to work through human agency. We are His helpers, His witnesses, His agents, His servants. What He does for men He does through men. The gospel that is to save men must be borne by men. Immortal truths must be told by mortal men. The Church though divine, is carried forward by agencies that are human. Heavenly glory is unfolded to our hope by those who are mortal as ourselves. But back of the meems Les God and at the end, God. It is His work, His institution, and we are His workmanship.