

This Presbytery, we understand, some time ago formed a Presbyterial Association, consisting of the Members of Presbytery and such laymen adhering to our Church as shall pay the annual sum of five shillings. The immediate objects of the Association are,—1st. To provide and pay a Missionary to travel within the bounds of the Presbytery, in order to supply, as far as practicable, destitute Settlements and vacant Congregations therein. 2nd. To assist deserving young men, living within the bounds of the Presbytery, who may wish to study at Queen's College with the design of becoming Ministers of our Church.

It is provided by the Constitution, that an annual meeting shall be held in every Township within the bounds of the Presbytery where any of our Ministers is settled, at which the Minister of the place shall be assisted by the two Ministers of our Church that are nearest to him, when addresses on Missionary and religious subjects shall be delivered and Collectors appointed to visit families and individuals likely to contribute for the objects of the Association.

In most, if not in all, of the Congregations of the Presbytery, these meetings, we understand, have been held in course of the winter. They were well attended and were felt to be very interesting. The people seemed highly to approve of the objects of the Association and cordially to co-operate in giving them effect. From the spirit displayed by the people at the meetings and from reports of several of the persons appointed to collect, it is expected that, when the Collection Lists from the several Congregations shall be returned to the Presbytery at their meeting in May next, they will feel warranted to make application to the Colonial Committee for a Missionary. Irrespectively of the good likely to be done by this Association in carrying out its specified objects, it is calculated, by the meetings held and the other measures adopted in terms of its constitution, to have a very beneficial effect in its reflex influence upon the Ministers and people of the Congregations interested in its verifying to them our Lord's promise—"Give and it shall be given to you."

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

The Presbytery of Hamilton held their ordinary quarterly meeting at Hamilton on Wednesday. There were present the Rev. Mr. Cruickshank, Moderator, Mr. William King, Mr. George McClatchey, Mr. Alexander McKid, Mr. Andrew Bell, Dr. Hugh Mair, and Mr. Colin Grigor, Ministers, besides several Elders.

The Presbytery had some conversation upon a remit of the Synod as to the best order for keeping Presbytery Rolls, to be uniformly observed throughout the Church, when they agreed to report it to the Synod as their opinion that Ministers' names in

Presbytery Rolls should stand in the order of their admission to the Presbytery.

The Rev. John William Baynes, Minister of the Presbyterian Congregation at St. Catherine's, was introduced to the Presbytery, and, with a view to his being ultimately connected with them, presented a number of documents testifying as to his education, orthodoxy, and standing as a Minister. These, after having been read, were laid upon the Table, for further consideration, until next meeting.

It will be recollected that, when the Presbytery of Hamilton applied to the Synod, at their last meeting, in conformity with the Regulations for the reception of Ministers and Probationers, for leave to take Mr. William Bell, Probationer, on trials for ordination as Minister of Stratford and Easthope, the Synod, in view of his having been so very recently admitted as a Probationer, granted leave to the Presbytery to proceed as they should see meet, upon condition of his being employed as a Missionary for six months previously to being settled. While Mr. W. Bell has occasionally visited other vacant Congregations, a considerable portion of the time has been spent in Stratford and Easthope; and the following Paper, which was transmitted to the Presbytery and laid before them at their present meeting, shows the result of the probation:—

"EASTHOPE, 27th March, 1848.

"To the Presbytery of Hamilton,

"REV. GENTLEMEN,

"We have had an opportunity, for the last six months, of witnessing the exemplary conduct of the Rev. Wm. Bell, and of ascertaining his acceptableness as a Preacher amongst us; and, finding that he is more popular now than he was at first, we request the Presbytery to send one of its members to moderate in a call with the view of his being ordained as our stated Minister; and for his support as a Minister in connection with the Church of Scotland we bind ourselves to pay yearly the sums opposite our respective names in a previous subscription list."

Signed by 106 male persons.

The paper alluded to shows about £70, but, as the subscription lists had not been completed at the time that was transmitted to the Presbytery, there is reason to believe that half as much more may perhaps be raised.

The Presbytery, considering the invitation to Mr. Wm. Bell, formerly sent from Stratford, as virtually a call though not regularly moderated in, proceeded to hear a portion of his trials for ordination upon subjects formerly prescribed, which were unanimously sustained. The call was appointed to be regularly moderated in by Mr. McKid at Stratford and Easthope on the 3rd and 4th of May. The next meeting of Presbytery was appointed to be held at Hamilton on Monday the 15th of May, by which time Mr. Bell was directed to be ready with the remainder of his ordination trials; and, in the event of these proving satisfactory, the Presbytery resolved to proceed to Stratford the same week, and

ordain and induct Mr. Bell on Wednesday the 17th.

A Memorial from the adherents of the Church at London in regard to the recovery of the Church property having been laid before the Presbytery, the Presbytery agreed to such directions and encouragement to be given them, as the circumstances of the case seemed to require,—as also to recommend them to the favourable consideration of the Lay Association. A similar recommendation was also agreed to in the case of another Church somewhat burdened with debt.

Several papers were presented to the Presbytery by the Elders and Trustees of St. Andrew's Church, Hamilton, in regard to matters connected with the Congregation. After the reading of these papers there was some conversation as to the course to be pursued, when it was proposed and agreed to that the Ministers of the Presbytery should have a private conference with Mr. McKid; and the Presbytery adjourned for two hours for that purpose. When the Presbytery resumed, the Moderator announced that, in the private conference which they had held, Mr. McKid had agreed to put himself entirely at the guidance and disposal of the Presbytery, but that after consideration they had felt the whole case to be beset with so many difficulties that they had resolved to defer taking any action in the matter until next meeting of Presbytery, when they had every hope that an amicable adjustment would without doubt be come to.

Mr. Cruickshank asked and obtained leave of absence for a few months to enable him to visit Scotland for the benefit of his health,—and stated to the Presbytery that he had the prospect of being able to procure a supply of sermons for his congregation.

ORDINATION OF THE REV. WM. STEWART.

On Wednesday last, the 22d instant, the Presbytery of St. John met in the Scotch Church here at 11 o'clock, preparatory to the ordination of the Rev. Mr. Stewart, as Missionary from the Church of Scotland within their bounds. The documents required by the laws of the Church, being submitted to the Presbytery by their clerk, were regular and sustained. Mr. Stewart then delivered the following discourses on subjects which had been formerly prescribed, viz. Homily Lecture, Exercise and Addition, Exegesis and Popular Sermon, which were highly satisfactory. He afterwards underwent a searching examination in Greek, Hebrew, Church History and Divinity. The Presbytery adjourned at 2 o'clock, to meet again at half past 3. The Rev. Mr. Stewart then preached before the large congregation assembled, from 2 Cor. chap 5, ver. 11, "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men." After which the Rev. Mr. Ross gave from the pulpit an account of Mr. Stewart's appointment by the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland, and his acceptance of it. He then proposed the questions prescribed by the Church to the Candidate for Ordination, and, these being answered, Mr. Stewart was solemnly set apart to the office of the Holy Ministry by Prayer and the laying on of the hands of the Presbytery. This was followed by an address from Mr. Ross on the objects of the Gospel Ministry, and the means by