

PICTOU : 7th September :—The Presbytery met at Antigonish. It was announced that the mortgage on the Westville Church was paid off. Strenuous exertions will be made to pay the remaining debt of \$300 before the end of the year. Encouraging Home Mission reports were received from Isaac's Harbour, Wine Harbour, County Harbour, Ecum Secum, &c., where Mr. Cairns had been labouring during the summer. Rev. J. F. Forbes and his elders were appointed interim session for these stations. Rev. Thomas Cumming having resigned the clerkship, the Presbytery regretfully accepted his resignation, and appointed Rev. E. A. McCurdy, Clerk. There was read a circular from Dr. Reid respecting the Assembly Fund, stating that the amount according to membership to be paid by this Presbytery for the current year is \$292.85. It was resolved unanimously that the clerk be instructed to communicate with congregations and endeavour to see that the amount specified be raised.

The following minute respecting Mr. Maxwell was unanimously adopted: "In removing from the roll the name of the Rev. W. Maxwell, the Presbytery take the opportunity of placing upon record their high estimation of him both as a man and a minister of the Gospel. He preached the Gospel with fidelity and earnestness and discharged his duties as a pastor faithfully. The Presbytery regret to part with him, and trust that another field of usefulness in the Gospel ministry may soon be opened up for him. A visitation of the Antigonish congregation was held, and the following finding was adopted: "The Presbytery declare their great satisfaction with the congregation in the main as elicited during the visitation; and are thankful for the measure of liberality displayed and for the prosperity enjoyed; and recognize the goodness of God in the degree of spiritual life which appears to exist among the members and adherents of the Church. Further, the Presbytery desire with brotherly affection and faithfulness to recommend to the office-bearers and members of the congregation renewed consecration to the Lord's service, renewed diligence in the Lord's work, and increased prayerfulness for the Lord's blessing."

On the 8th Sept., the Presbytery held a visitation of the Lochaber and Union Centre Congregation, and came to the following deliverance: "The Presbytery find that the minister preaches the Gospel faithfully and attends to all his pastoral duties with fidelity and diligence, that the elders and managers are attentive to their work and that the congregation is in a satisfactory state and making progress."

LUNENBURG AND YARMOUTH :—19th Sept :—The Presbytery met at Lunenburg. Mr.

Creelman was allowed three more weeks to make up his mind regarding the Shelburne call. The following motion by the clerk was adopted: *Whereas*, The statistical and financial returns, forming the larger part of the volumes containing the annual "Acts and Proceedings of the General Assembly," are chiefly useful for the purposes of comparison and history as regards congregations, Presbyteries, and the whole Church; and *Whereas*, Their value for these purposes would be greatly increased by having sets of questions that may be used from year to year without change; *Resolved*, That this Presbytery respectfully call the attention of the Assembly's Committee on Statistics to the matter, and request them to adopt in the blanks for the present year such questions as may, in their judgment, be used, without frequent change, to elicit such information as will make the statistical and financial tables most valuable for the purposes of comparison and history. A report of work at Riversdale, by Rev. R. Laird was read, and Mr. Laird's diligence highly commended, and the Home Mission Board asked to pay the balance still due. A circular anent Assembly Fund was read, and in connection therewith the Clerk moved the following resolution, which was laid over for consideration at next meeting: *Whereas*, There is a tendency to multiply schemes to which Presbyteries are asked to contribute, and the Presbytery and Assembly Funds are necessary for the efficient carrying on of the Church's work, and in addition to these Funds, congregations are asked to contribute towards paying the expenses of Commissioners to the General Assembly; and *Whereas*, In the past some of the congregations within the bounds of this Presbytery have regularly contributed to all these funds, while others have not contributed to any of them; *Whereas*, If each congregation would punctually pay an amount only 20 per cent. in advance of that now asked for the Presbytery Fund alone, there would be sufficient to meet the claims of the three Funds, thus practically reducing three to one; therefore *Resolved*, That hereafter this Presbytery shall require each congregation within its bounds to pay to the Treasurer, in half-yearly instalments in January and July, at the rate of twelve dollars a year for each self-sustaining, and six dollars a year for each supplemented congregation to meet the claims of those Funds named in the preamble.

The course of study recommended by the Assembly's Sabbath-school Committee was commended to the attention of Sabbath-schools within the bounds, and they were asked to take such action in the matter as may be possible in their circumstances. Public meetings are to be held during the autumn and winter in connection with Sab-