

Presbytery of St. John, N. B.

The Presbytery of St. John met on the 14th May in St. John Presbyterian Church. There were present the Rev. Jas. Bennet, Moderator; Revs. Andw. Donald, Lewis Jack, Jas. Gray, Wm. Alves, and N. McKay.

The report of Commission of Presbytery appointed to visit Hammond, Salt Springs, and Golding Grove was called for; when the Rev. N. McKay reported that he had visited Hammond, and conferred with the people on the subject of the commission, and that the following resolution had been adopted by them: "That they are willing to be associated with any stations the Presbytery may desire, provided they enjoy the ministrations of their present pastor (Rev. James Gray); but that they cannot entertain any proposal that would contemplate their separation from him. Also, that they would continue the present salary they give to their pastor if they were united with any other stations under his charge." The Rev. Jas. Gray reported that he had visited Salt Springs, and preached on Sabbath in two different sections of the charge, and called a general meeting in the new Church. There were about 14 heads of families present. He found that there was an unanimous opinion that they were too far separated from Golding Grove to fall in conveniently with the proposed arrangement, and that they would more willingly be united with Hammond and Norton; but that as they were not able to support a minister by themselves, they would fall in with the arrangement if a better could not be made. A subscription list was opened, and he now presented it to the Presbytery, shewing a total of \$123, on condition of their receiving half the time of a minister. The Rev. W. Alves reported that he had visited Golding Grove, and preached to the people in the church, and afterwards conferred with them on the subject; that the people were willing for a junction with the other places; and a few of them had subscribed to the amount of \$43.50; that a great many of the Presbyterian people had been alienated from the cause owing to disagreement about the church; and that there is a great difficulty in reconciling them to work together. In the circumstances, it was felt by the Presbytery that no action could be taken at present to carry out the arrangement, especially on account of the stand that the people at Hammond seemed to have taken, and inasmuch as it would be a serious risk to remove Mr. Gray from the charge of Upper Norton and Sussex. Messrs. Bennet and Alves were appointed to see to Golding Grove, and Rev. D. Sutherland was appointed to preach for a time at Salt Springs.

Letter from Messrs. Sutherland and Munro, anent the alleged circulation of Romish versions of the Scriptures by the B. & F. Bible Society, accompanied by a pamphlet by Pozzie on the subject, was read, and it was resolved, that members of Presbytery be recommended to give attention to the matter referred to in the communication.

VISITATION OF ST. JOHN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The Presbytery was engaged in the evening in the visitation of St. John Presbyterian Church (Rev. Jas. Bennet's). After investigation into the affairs of the church, and the usual queries put and answered, the Presbytery came to the following finding: "That the Presbytery rejoices to find the affairs of this church in a healthy and vigorous condition, and that in addition to the liberal contributions made towards congregational and other purposes, considerable outlays are being made on the Manse. The Presbyterians regret, however, the existence of a heavy debt on the congregational property, and would earnestly recommend that an effort be made for its liquidation as speedily as possible.

VISITATION OF CARLETON.

The Presbytery visited the Presbyterian church in Carleton (the Rev. Jas. Baird's) on the following evening. There was a considerable attendance of people, and after full examination the following deliverance was come to, viz: "That the condition of the congregation, both in a financial point of view and in regard to attendance on ordinances, is on the whole satisfactory and hopeful; that strenuous efforts should be made to pay punctually the minister's salary, and inasmuch as it is confessedly too small, that it should be increased as soon as possible."

The Presbytery was appointed to hold its next regular meeting in St. David's on the third Wednesday in June, at 11 A.M.

WM. ALVES, Clerk of Presb'y.

NOTICES, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, &c.

MISSIONARIES WANTED.

The Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces, having been authorized by Synod to engage the services of one or more Missionaries to the New Hebrides, invite Ministers and Probationers to consider prayerfully the urgent call for Evangelists in that dark and destitute portion of the earth.

Applications or letters of inquiry addressed to the Secretary will meet with immediate attention.

By order of the Board,
P. G. MCGREGOR, Sec'y B.F.M.
Halifax, Oct. 24th, 1866.