

Church News.

We are thankful for items of Church News...

The Cobourg congregation, to the pastoral oversight of which Rev. John Hay, B.D., was recently inducted...

OBITUARY.

WILLIAM BYERS.

ON the 28th of May last, at his residence in the city of Stratford, Ont., after a lingering illness caused by cancer in the stomach, Mr. Wm. Byers died at the ripe age of eighty years and six months.

JAMES BURNETT.

WE have been asked to give publicity to the following extract from the minutes of the Board of Management, Presbyterian congregation, Durham:—The Board of Managers of the Presbyterian church, Durham, would with sad hearts place on record the sore breach made upon it in the removal by death of the late James Burnett...

N. W. CAMPBELL, Chairman of Board of Managers. JOHN CAMERON, Secretary of Board of Managers.

WILLIAM C. EWING.

It has seldom been our painful duty to refer to an event more solemnizing and mysterious than the sudden removal by death of William Caven Ewing, the beloved son of the Rev. R. Ewing, Collingwood, who met his death by drowning, July 31st, while bathing in company with two other gentlemen in Sturgeon Falls, where he had been employed on mission work during the summer months.

near Georgetown beside that of his sainted mother; his spirit from the watery deep has winged its way on high. His father and friends mourn his loss; and often has the remark been made, "It may be long ere we again see a nobler, purer youth than William C. Ewing."

THE above sketch, by an affectionate hand, does not exaggerate the attainments and virtues of Mr. Ewing. He had fine intellectual qualities, which were developed by an excellent course of education and by diligent study. His standing both in Classics and Mental Science was exceptionally high. He had entered the Theological classes of Knox College, and the other professors of that institution will agree with me in their estimate of the diligence, thoroughness and success with which Mr. Ewing prosecuted his studies and accomplished every task.

WM. CAVEN.

MEETINGS OF PRESBYTERIES.

OTTAWA.

MET August 6th. There were present seventeen ministers and three elders. Mr. Hughes, of the First Presbyterian church, Osgoode, was appointed Moderator for the next six months. Mr. William Orr was taken under the care of the Presbytery as a student for the holy ministry. The Rev. Mr. Smith, D.D., and Mr. Anderson, were invited to act as corresponding members. Mr. Caven submitted his report on statistics, showing the number of communicants within the bounds to be four thousand six hundred and twenty-two, and total contributions, for all purposes, to be fifty-seven thousand eight hundred dollars.

MINNEDOSA.

By authority of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Presbytery of Minnedosa met at Minnedosa in the Presbyterian church there on Thursday, the 18th day of July, Rev. W. Hodnett, of Birtle, who had been appointed by the Assembly as first Moderator, called the meeting to order at the hour fixed. He conducted divine service, preaching from Ephesians iii. 8. After reading the extract minute of the General Assembly authorizing the meeting, Mr. Hodnett formally declared the Presbytery of Minnedosa duly constituted for the transaction of its business. It was agreed that Mr. Murray, of Neepawa, be permanent clerk, and that Mr. Hodnett remain in the chair for the next six months. A committee was appointed to strike standing committees, whose report when adopted, was as follows:—Home Missions—Messrs. Jas. Todd, D. Stalker, J. Nowat, Wm. Hodnett, S. C. Murray and H. C. Ross. Foreign Missions—Messrs. D. Stalker, McArthur, Colter, Hargrave, Laird and Colter. Temperance—Messrs. Hodnett, Colter and Steele. State of Religion—Messrs. Nowat, David Ross and James Broadfoot. Finance and Statistics—Messrs. Murray, Hargrave and Young. Maintenance of Theological Education—Messrs. McArthur, Laird, Hargrave, Wellwood and H. C. Ross. Sabbath Schools—Messrs. Colter, Todd and David Ross. Examination of Students—Messrs. Colter, Stalker, Murray, Wellwood and Smith. Church Law and Property—Messrs. Todd, Wellwood and Myers. Sabbath Observance—Messrs. Hilliday, Hodnett and Irwin. Systematic Benevolence—Messrs. Hargrave, McArthur and Young. The first named by the convenor of the committee in each case. An application for a loan in aid of a church at Russell was recommended to the favourable consideration of the church and manse building board. Mr. D. Stalker was appointed treasurer of the presbytery fund. The resignation of Mr. Gow of his charge of the Oak River mission was referred to the home mission committee and afterwards accepted. Arrangements were made for the dispensation of the sacrament in mission fields having no ordained missionaries. There was a discussion of the temperance question and the attitude of

the Church toward the liquor traffic. A committee consisting of Messrs. Murray, Todd, Smith, Colter and Ross, was appointed to draft resolutions on the matter, who afterwards submitted the following report, which became the finding of the Presbytery: "That whereas the present aspect of the liquor traffic system reveals its obnoxious nature in a way that calls for the interference of this Presbytery, be it resolved that,—1. We condemn most strongly the attempts which have been made within our bounds to obtain liquor licenses without complying with the law; that we denounce the persecution carried on in many instances by liquor dealers and their friends, of law-abiding citizens who have refused to sign an application for license or who have protested against the same; that we express our strong sympathy with all who may have suffered in any way for thus maintaining law and opposing the liquor traffic. 2. That we call upon the office-bearers, members and adherents of the Presbyterian Church within our bounds to refuse to sign any recommendation for an application for license, and urge them to oppose the licensing of hotels, saloons, and breweries to the utmost of their power. 3. That an organized effort be put forth by this Presbytery to educate the congregations within its bounds by ministers exchanging pulpita and preaching sermons on the present aspect of the liquor question. 4. That, in accordance with the deliverance of our Synod and Assembly, we will never rest until we obtain the entire suppression of the liquor traffic. It was agreed that the next meeting of Presbytery be held in Birtle on Wednesday, the eleventh day of September next, at 9 o'clock in the morning; that the Wednesday evening sederunt be devoted to the discussion of the question "How Best to Promote Spiritual Life," and that Messrs. Murray and Todd open the discussion.—S. C. MURRAY, Clerk.

BRANDON.

MET in Knox church, Portage la Prairie, July 15th. Rev. A. McTavish, of Chater, was appointed Moderator. Mr. S. C. Murray handed in his resignation of the clerkship. This was accepted and a hearty vote of thanks tendered Mr. Murray for the efficient manner in which he had discharged the duties of his office. Mr. W. L. H. Rowand was then appointed clerk. Dr. Robertson reported for the deputation appointed to visit the Treherne field, that after deliberation with the people, they had divided the field into two new charges to be known in the future as the Treherne and Holland fields. The extract minute from the proceedings of the General Assembly sent the division of the Presbytery, was taken up and read, and it was agreed to forward the paper to Mr. Hodnett, the Moderator by appointment of Assembly, of the new Minnedosa Presbytery, which holds its first meeting in Minnedosa on the 18th of July. Mr. D. Stalker submitted his report as treasurer of the Presbytery. This showed that the receipts for the past year were \$64.75, disbursements \$86.10, and that the Presbytery is still indebted \$99.35. The report was received and adopted. Mr. Stalker then gave in his resignation, which was accepted, and the thanks of the Presbytery were expressed to him for his faithful services. Mr. W. W. Miller was elected to act as treasurer in the future. Arrangements were made for Rev. Peter Wright's induction into the pastoral charge of Portage la Prairie, July 23rd. The Presbytery unanimously agreed to a resolution of condolence to Mr. Todd for the bereavement he recently suffered in the drowning of one of his children. Letters from the clerk of Toronto Presbytery were read, transferring Messrs. T. R. Shearer and M. C. Runball to the Brandon Presbytery, to be taken on probationary trials. These gentlemen being present, were licensed in due form. The Presbytery also proceeded to the ordination of Mr. Shearer. Answers satisfactory to the court having been given, he was solemnly set apart to the office of the holy ministry, Dr. Robertson leading the Presbytery in prayer. Application for loans to aid in erecting churches at Virden, Alexander and Austin were received and transmitted to the Church and Manse Building Board, with recommendations for their favourable consideration. Standing Committees were appointed for the ensuing year, and the Conveners are as follows: Home Missions, Mr. A. Urquhart; Foreign Missions, Mr. A. McTavish; Temperance, Mr. P. Wright; Sabbath Schools, Mr. D. H. Hodges; State of Religion, Mr. A. Currie; Statistics and Finance, Mr. W. L. H. Rowand; Maintenance of Theological Education, Mr. T. C. Court; Examination of Students, Dr. Robertson; Systematic Benevolence, Mr. A. McT. Haig; Sabbath Observance, Mr. W. McK. Omand; Church Law and Property, Dr. Robertson. Mr. J. C. Court was authorized to moderate in a call at Carberry and Mr. A. McT. Haig at Treherne and Holland, whenever the congregations at these places were prepared. The Presbytery agreed that the next regular meeting should be in Brandon on the evening of second Tuesday of September. The Presbytery then adjourned to meet in the same place above on the 23rd July, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

Met in Portage la Prairie on the 23rd ult., pursuant to adjournment; there was a good attendance of members. The court proceeded with the induction of Rev. Peter Wright into the pastoral charge of Portage la Prairie congregation, after which the Presbytery resumed its ordinary business. Messrs. D. Stalker, James Todd and J. A. F. Sutherland, ministers of other Presbyteries, being present, were asked to sit as corresponding members. Arrangements were made for the dispensation of communion services in the different stations within the bounds of the Presbytery. Mr. P. Wright was appointed Moderator of Session at High Buff, and leave was granted him to moderate in a call so soon as the congregation are prepared. The Presbytery unanimously agreed to a resolution on the translation of Mr. D. Anderson to the Presbytery of Winnipeg, and expressed its high esteem for Mr. Anderson and appreciation of the excellent services rendered by him to the Church while a member of this court. A suitable minute on the death of the late Rev. S. C. Fraser, M.A., was also adopted. Reference was made in this resolution to his high character, unobtrusive piety and blameless life; his ripe scholarship, his long experience in the courts of the Church, and his extensive and accurate knowledge of

Church law, and the faithful, valuable services he had rendered during a long life in the ministry of the Gospel. It was arranged that the first evening sederunt of the next meeting of Presbytery should be spent in devotional exercises and the discussion of Foreign Missions, and that on the second night the subject for discussion should be: "The forces which operate in the development of national greatness."—W. L. H. ROWAND, Clerk.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

(Continued from last issue.)

AS to the prevalence of the evil in this community at large, the reports amply testify that strong drink is still a barrier to the spread and reception of Gospel truth; that the domestic misery it creates is still both profound and widespread, and that vices still grow in clusters on the upas tree nourished by our social habits and protected by our laws. The mining districts of Nova Scotia still present a good field for the missionary of temperance. Pictou Presbytery tells us that fully one-third of our own, and nearly all the Belgian, miners are addicted to drink. True, one Session says in reply to this question: "There are no evils of intemperance here." But its own Presbytery suggests that the good friends in that Session probably regard the "mountain dew" as "a good creature of God," and that evils springing from its use must be looked on with large allowance. Though the reports agree that even in the community matters are improving, yet all see cause for deep anxiety. The most central and populous Synod of the Church says that the "rum-bend still wages war against the weak and the unwary; and the bar-room is still a trap for many a bright and promising youth."

2. Is there any change in this respect within the past few years? To what cause would you ascribe this change?

The most frequent reply, is "Change for the better!" The city of Montreal is reported as presenting no change. One North-West Presbytery states that in some districts the evil has increased; but tidings from other parts of the same Synod tell us of saloons closed and drunkards reclaimed, and of general advancement all along the line.

In those Ontario counties where the Scott Act has been repealed, the change has in every case been for the worse. There is absolutely no exception to this. Ontario, in some frontier towns of Western Ontario, in even those under the Scott Act, it is alleged that drinking has rather increased than diminished. The law is said to be systematically violated, largely owing to the proximity of a less law-abiding community.

Among the causes of improvement noted are:—The influence of temperance societies; the education of our people in temperance principles; and, above all, the expulsive power of a new affection, which only the Gospel of Jesus can inspire. The one specified cause of retrogression, with the exception already noted as to frontier towns, is the repeal of the Canada Temperance Act, and the return to license.

3. What practical measures are adopted in your congregation to enlighten the people on the evils of the liquor traffic, and to induce them as citizens to bring about prohibition?

The answers assure us that the pulpits of our Church are for the most part faithful in setting forth the antagonism of the liquor traffic to all true national prosperity, as well as to everything pure and lovely, and especially in urging those sublime truths of the Gospel, in whose living presence all unholy passions wither and die. Subsidiary, yet important agencies are mentioned, such as temperance societies, temperance literature, temperance lessons in Sabbath School, Women's Christian Temperance Unions, and reading to the people the deliverance of the General Assembly on the temperance question.

4. What measures are adopted by the Session and Sabbath School teachers to instruct the youth on this subject and to train them to habits of total abstinence?

Though one Presbytery speaks of its sessions as being "most of them indifferent spectators of one of the noblest movements of our time," yet such words of censure are entirely exceptional. The other sessions in the same Synod are reported as faithful in this respect. Then the men and women who carry on our Sabbath School work, and who probably constitute the most devoted band of workers our Church possesses, are spoken of as zealous and faithful in the cause of temperance. The Quarterly Lesson on Temperance is generally taught. In some schools Bands of Hope are formed and temperance literature diffused. And perhaps the strongest influence brought to bear on our young people in favour of total abstinence is the personal example of so large a number of our elders and our Sabbath school teachers.

5. Is the law within your district a prohibitory or a license law? If local option, how is it enforced? What are the causes of the partial or entire failure of the law?

The area covered by a prohibitory law is considerably decreased since last year. This decrease is almost wholly within the Province of Ontario, which is now virtually under license. Quebec is also chiefly under a license law. In the Maritime Provinces about two-thirds of the population are under the Canada Temperance Act, and the remainder under the most effective license law in the Dominion. The prohibitory law of the North-West Territories is greatly vitiated by the wanton abuse of the "permit" system. In Manitoba a license law has been passed during the present year that makes it easy to reduce even to zero the number of places where liquor can be legally sold. And as this power to stop the legal sale of liquor seems to be matched with machinery to prevent the illegal sale of it, we at the benefits that should accrue from such a law may be fully realized. Many towns and villages have already under this Act swept away their bars and saloons. Out of one hundred and two municipalities, seventy refused to issue licenses, and we await with interest the practical results.

(To be concluded next week.)

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