

### Presbytery of Pictou.

The Presbytery of Pictou met in Antigonish on the 5th inst., to ordain and induct Mr. J. D. Murray as pastor of that congregation and was constituted by the Rev. George Patterson, Moderator, with whom were present the Revs. David Roy, John Campbell, D. B. Blair, John MacKinnon, Alexander Ross, K. J. Grant, J. A. F. Sutherland, C. B. Pitblado, A. J. Mowatt, A. McL. Sinclair, J. F. Forbes and J. B. Watt, ministers, and Mr. James MacDonald, Elder. Mr. Forbes returned the Edict as duly served, and Mr. MacKinnon was appointed to read it again to the assembled congregation.

Mr. Watt preached an appropriate sermon from 1st Cor. v 30. "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: We pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."

Mr. Patterson narrated the steps taken to procure the call, put the questions of the formula to Mr. Murray which he satisfactorily answered, and offered the ordination prayer. Mr. MacKinnon in the absence of Dr. Bayne addressed the minister, Mr. Ross the people, and Mr. Roy concluded with prayer. The newly ordained minister was welcomed at the door of the church in the usual manner by the congregation as it retired. Mr. Grant introduced him to the session and thereafter his name was added to the roll of Presbytery, and he took his seat accordingly. The Treasurer reported the quarter's stipend paid in advance. Mr. Murray enters upon his labours in this congregation under the most favourable and encouraging circumstances. The congregation as a whole is in good circumstances, free from debt, harmonious and united—it occupies a very important and prominent position—a witness-bearing position for the truth.—It is to be hoped that the light of divine truth may always shine forth from it with regenerating and converting power, and that its young pastor may be divinely guided, sustained and blessed in all his ministerial labours.

Mr. Howard Archibald's report of missionary labours was read and sustained.

Mr. Murray reported that he had fulfilled his appointment to Wine Harbour which was sustained and his diligence approved.

The clerk read a letter from the Session of St. John's Church, Chatham, giving the assurance that in due time the organ would be put out of the church, and requesting a constant supply of preaching, and also intimating that Dr. McCurdy was very seriously ill.—Whereupon the Presbytery unanimously agreed to the following minute, viz.—That the clerk be instructed to write to Dr. McCurdy in the name of this Presbytery, conveying to him an expression of

their sympathy with him in his present state of health, their desire that he may yet be spared to labour in the church on earth, but should the will of the Great Head of the Church be otherwise—their prayer is that he may be abundantly sustained by the consolations of the Gospel in his closing days, and that he may receive the approving sentence of his Divine Master—"Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things; I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

The Presbytery also agreed to express their sympathy with the congregation in its present position, and while in the circumstances forbearing with them in regard to the use of instrumental music in public praise, the clerk be instructed to inform the session; that the Presbytery rely upon their carrying out their own resolution at as early a date as practicable.

The following supply was arranged for Wine Harbour:—The Rev. K. J. Grant to preach on the 4th Sabbath of this month and on 1st Sabbath of December. The Rev. A. McL. Sinclair to preach on the 3rd and 4th Sabbaths of December. The Rev. J. A. F. Sutherland to preach in Merigomish on the 1st Sabbath of December, and Mr. MacKinnon to preach in Springfield on one of the Sabbaths on which Mr. Sinclair is away to Wine Harbour.

The Presbytery then adjourned to meet in Blue Mountain church on the third Tuesday of January 1866, for visitation and ordinary business. Mr. Ross to preach, and the next day in James Church, New Glasgow at 11 o'clock, A. M. for ordinary business and for religious conference. The Subject for conference to be "the cultivation of piety in ministers." The Rev. Mr. Patterson to open the subject. Concluded with the benediction.

JOHN MACKINNON, Clerk.

### Presbytery of Halifax.

The Presbytery of Halifax met in Poplar Grove Church, Halifax, on Wednesday, 13th inst., and was constituted by Rev. Dr. King, moderator *pro tem.*, besides whom there were present, Revs. P. G. McGregor, Wm. Duff, John Cameron, Wm. Maxwell, Jno. M. McLeod, Professor McKnight, Edw. McCurdy and John Forrest, and Messrs. Robt. Murray and James Farquhar, ruling elders. Commissions from Newport and Musquodoboit Harbour were read and sustained, appointing Hiram Smith and Wm. Anderson, Esqrs., respectively, as representative elders to Presbytery and Synod for the current year. The names were accordingly added to the roll. Rev. Dr. Forrester being present, was invited to sit as a corresponding member.