

the explanation given, and to receive Mr. Finlay as an ordained missionary.

The Clerk stated that he had received a letter from the Convener of the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland, with circulars containing certain queries to be answered by the different ministers and missionaries within the bounds of the Presbytery. From the nature of the queries, the Presbytery judged it expedient to refer the matter to the commission to ask their advice respecting the propriety of sending the required answers.

The following were appointed as a Sustentation Board for the Presbytery:—Messrs. William Reid and Robert F. Burns, ministers; the Hon. J. McDonald, Messrs. Alex. McAlister, John Miller, C. Patterson, John Flanagan, Joseph Keith, John Matthews, J. Dick, James Miller, Jonathan Green, J. Auchinvole, James Forrester, and William Campbell; Mr. William Reid, convener.

Mr. Crawford, catechist, gave an interesting report of his labors in Nanapanee, and stated that the Presbyterians there are taking steps towards the speedy erection of a Church in connection with our Synod.

The missionaries and catechists laboring within the bounds of the Presbytery, were instructed to take up the collections, appointed by the Synod, at the different stations.

The Presbytery had under consideration the propriety of its members combining to obtain for their joint use, the leading British and American Theological Reviews and other useful publications; and a committee was appointed to prepare a scheme for carrying this object into effect.

A committee was appointed to prepare a plan for a course of lectures, on points connected with the Romish controversy, to be delivered by members of Presbytery during the ensuing winter.

The Presbytery adjourned, to meet in Picton on the second Wednesday of September, at ten o'clock, A. M.

WILLIAM GREGG, Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

The Presbytery of Hamilton held their ordinary meeting on the 12th and 13th instant, at Hamilton. The attendance was rather small, both of Ministers and Elders. The Rev. G. P. Young was chosen Moderator for the ensuing twelve months. An application from Paris was given in by the members and adherents of our Church there, to be allowed for a time to associate themselves with a congregation forming at Beauharnois within the bounds of the London Presbytery, in order to their obtaining the regular dispensation of word and ordinance. The request was granted.

The trials of Mr. John Alexander, student occupied the Presbytery, and were gone through, much to the satisfaction of the members. He was afterwards licensed to preach the Gospel within the bounds.

An application was made from the congregation at Niagara, to have a call moderated in there, which was agreed to, and the Rev. J. G. McGregor was appointed to discharge this duty on the 27th instant. In the event of a call being given, the Presbytery is appointed to meet at Niagara on the 23rd day of September, and all things being satisfactory, to prosecute the ordination and induction of a minister according to the laws of the Church.

An application from a congregation at Chicago in the United States, was given in to the Presbytery, for a missionary to be sent to them; but considering the destitution within our own bounds, and the small number of labourers in the field, the Presbytery felt constrained to decline complying with the request.

Various matters of more or less importance were before the Presbytery: among others, the trials of Mr. Porterfield, which were partly proceeded with, and referred to next ordinary

meeting. A reference from the Kirk Session of Guelph, in regard to an interference with their exercise of discipline; and the case of a number of Highland immigrants working on the railroad near Dundas, was taken up. Mr. Meldrum was appointed to visit them and enquire into their circumstances. It was also hoped to obtain the services of a person having the Gaelic language to visit them as a Catechist.

Mr. McLean reported as to having dispensed the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at Walpole, when 14 new members were added to the communion roll.

This ordinance was appointed to be dispensed at Woolwich by Mr. Smellie; and at Caledonia, by Mr. Geo. P. Young, of Hamilton.

Collections were reported to have been generally made for the French Canadian Mission Fund. Ministers were enjoined to give every facility and assistance to the Visiting and Collecting Committees of the Widows' Fund Scheme.

The next Ordinary Meeting was appointed to be held at Hamilton on the 2nd Tuesday of October, at ten o'clock, A. M.

M. Y. STARR, Pres. Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL.

ORDINATION OF REV. WILLIAM TROUP, AT ENGLISH RIVER, C. E.

The Presbytery of Montreal, in connexion with the Presbyterian Church in Canada had an adjourned meeting at English River, on Thursday 7th August, and ordained Mr. William Troup, Preacher of the Gospel, to the office of the Holy Ministry. The services were conducted in the following order:—The Rev. Mr. Rintoul, Moderator, presided at the ordination. Mr. Quin, of Cornwall preached from 2 Cor. 3. 18. Mr. Black, of Ste. Therèse, addressed the Minister; Mr. Henry, of Lachute, the people; and, Mr. Cameron, of Lochiel, concluded with prayer, praise, and the benediction.

Notwithstanding its being the hay harvest, there was a very large congregation present, who seemed to take a deep and lively interest in all the services, and there is every reason to think that this settlement will be a very happy one for all concerned.

ORDINATION OF THE REV. DONALD FRASER, A. M. IN COTE STREET CHURCH, MONTREAL.

On Friday, the 8th August, the Presbytery had also the pleasure of ordaining Mr. Donald Fraser, A. M. Preacher of the Gospel, to the congregation of Cote-street Church, Montreal, at seven o'clock P. M. The Rev. Dr. Willis, Professor of Divinity, Knox's College, Toronto, was requested to preside on the occasion, which he accordingly did, and preached an eloquent and appropriate discourse from Matt. xxviii., 18—20, after which he put the usual questions to Mr. Fraser, which having been satisfactorily answered by him, and the congregation having expressed their entire and cordial concurrence in the call by standing up in their places, the Presbytery proceeded thereafter to set apart and ordain by prayer and the laying on of hands, Mr. Fraser, to the office of the Holy Ministry. Dr. Willis then addressed the young Minister in a very fatherly and affectionate manner, as to the duties belonging to the pastoral office, and the Rev. Mr. Rintoul, of St. Gabriel-street Church, addressed a few words of exhortation to the people with regard to the duties incumbent upon them towards their Minister.

There was a very large concourse of people present, and the services throughout were extremely solemn and interesting. May the Great Head of the Church smile with approbation on both these settlements, and may they be productive of the most beneficial and lasting effects on the interests of His kingdom in this Province.

DAVID BLACK, Pres. Clerk.

PROGRESS OF THE CHURCH.

ST. THERESE DE BLAINVILLE, C. E.

The Presbyterian Church in this place, like many others in this country, arose from very small beginnings, and has laboured under peculiar disadvantages. About the year 1821, a few old country settlers came to the place and neighborhood, with the view either of cultivating the soil, or following mercantile pursuits, their number not exceeding six or seven families. It was not long before they began to find the want of a stated ministry, to which all of them had been accustomed from their earliest years. Hemmed in on every side by a Roman Catholic population of different language, and different customs, with whom (though on friendly terms in the common concerns of life) they could, of course, have no religious communion, they felt their isolated and forlorn condition as to spiritual things. In these circumstances they applied to the Quebec Presbytery, which was then (as is well known) the only one in Lower Canada, and obtained supply of ordinances from them at long intervals. These casual supplies, instead of satisfying them, only increased their desire for more permanent services. However, as yet, no prospect of having their wishes gratified presented itself, as there were but few ministers in the Presbytery, who could ill be spared from their own flocks, and they had many stations throughout the Province to supply with the means of grace. The late Dr. Black, of Montreal, when he came out to St. Therese, used to preach in a house belonging to one of their number, and this may be said to have been the first Presbyterian Church in the place. On these occasions a considerable concourse from the surrounding district attended, and the ordinance of Baptism was administered to those, whose children were unbaptized. In this unsatisfactory state they continued for some years, receiving occasional supplies from the Presbytery; but at length a better day began to dawn. In the year 1824—25, in the month of February, upon the recommendation of two individuals belonging to their number, who had met with him in Montreal, the Rev. Mr. Brunton was induced to settle among them and become their minister. Mr. B. belonged to the body of Old Light Seeders, and proved a very acceptable and useful labourer in the vineyard of the Lord. At first he and the congregation assembled in a private house which easily accommodated them. Subsequently he bought a small property consisting of a house and garden, and every Sabbath-day, he and his little flock, assembled under his roof to worship the God of their fathers, according to their conscience and to hear the Divine word opened and applied to their consciences.

Here we may be permitted to observe that Mr. B. was a remarkably sound and practical preacher being a man of very extensive learning, and deep acquaintance with the Scriptures, and of a most exemplary character, a perfect Nathaniel in temper and disposition. He had not been long in the place before those who composed his flock, began to feel an earnest desire for a place of worship, wherein they might meet together with more comfort and advantage. Accordingly they bought an acre of ground for £50, upon which they erected a building* of logs 40 feet by 37, and the remaining portion was reserved for a burying ground and site for a manse. The church is the same with that in which the congregation now assembles, and, as might be expected, after having stood for upwards of twenty

* The building, though presenting a rough exterior, let it be observed, was made very comfortable inside, being lathed and plastered, and carefully plastered every year outside. Besides some years ago, a false roof was put up, and it was all neatly pewed, which it was not at its first erection. The building itself, however, is now sadly out of repair.