

the words of the minute—"the subject of Church extension in Ottawa, and especially the propriety, and practicability, of certain members of the congregation agreeing to disjoin themselves finally, or for a time, to form the nucleus of a new charge."

At the set time the deputation met with the office-bearers, and congregation. After a pretty free expression of opinion, the *propriety* of the course recommended by the Presbytery, was affirmed by a unanimous vote. But then came the delicate matter of testing its practicability. Could we succeed in inducing any to take the decisive step, and to offer themselves for the work? It was a great thing to require, implying sacrifices of substance, of comfort, and of feeling. There was here an embarrassing pause. If there was a cordial brotherly unity in the congregation of Knox's Church, and the hardest sacrifice of all, on the part of any, was to sever the tie which bound him to a much-loved pastor. At last a much esteemed elder arose, and said, in substance, that, in love to our blessed Lord and Master, and from a single-hearted desire to advance His cause, he would give himself for the work. This was followed by the adhesion of others until, finally, some fourteen heads of families,—among whom three at least had held the office of the eldership,—had willingly offered themselves. In accordance with the tenor of their commission, the deputation consulted with these brethren, and took the needful steps for the immediate organization of the new congregation. On the Sabbath week following, they met for public worship, for the first time, in the Mechanics Hall, a member of the Presbytery conducting the service.

An almost entire harmony has characterized the whole of this movement; and it seems to have elicited, on both sides, an admirable feeling of Christian sympathy and brotherly kindness. This will be more fully seen from the following extracts from the minutes of a congregational meeting of Knox's Church, Ottawa, held on the evening of the 24th day of August—1865.

"Moved by Mr. Thorburn, seconded by Mr. W. A. Porter. That, the Trustees of Knox's Church be, and they hereby are, empowered, authorized, and instructed, to transfer to the new congregation about to be formed in the west end of the city, or their representatives, all the right, title, and interest, of this congregation in the Church lot on Wellington Street, for the purpose of aiding them in the erection of a church building in the west end of the city in connection with the Canada Presbyterian Church.—Carried.

"Moved by Mr. Hay, seconded by Mr. Donald Robertson, That, In the prospect of a number of our brethren leaving this congregation, this meeting desires to record their sense of gratitude to the great Head of the Church for the prosperity and harmony which have been vouchsafed to them in the past, and to assure their brethren that they carry with them the hearty sympathy and good will of the congregation, and their earnest prayer that the like prosperity and harmony may characterize their efforts in their new sphere of labour.—Carried unanimously."

The first of these resolutions is equivalent to a gift of from three thousand to four thousand dollars,—which may be about the clear value of the property—to the new congregation, to aid in the erection of a place of worship. The second is an indication of the kindly spirit wherewith the movement is regarded by the congregation in Knox's Church.

Since the end of August the new Congregation has met regularly for public worship, in the Mechanics' Hall. A Session has now been constituted. A Sabbath School, taught by members of the congregation, has been established. There is, already, a steady attendance of from one hundred, to one hundred and fifty, at the ordinary diets of worship. And they find themselves in receipt of an income able to meet current expenses. Steps have already been taken for the speedy erection of a Church. Two lots, in a suitable locality, in the western part of the city, have been secured at a cost of two thousand four hundred dollars, and a plan for a new church has almost been decided upon.