

It was opened and dedicated. Immediately after opening, the Building Committee met to arrange the finances, and it was found that, consolidating the whole congregational debt, the total sum was about \$8,000. Of this \$2,000 subscriptions were already paid, and \$2,000 more were on the treasurer's books. The committee at once set themselves to devise a scheme for clearing off the remaining \$4,000 and decided to call for subscriptions extending over five years for the amounts of which the subscribers are to give their notes, said notes bearing interest at the same rate as that paid on the mortgage. In this way both interest and principal are wiped out at one sweep. The committee themselves headed the list with the handsome beginning of \$1,500. A vigorous canvass is certain to accomplish all that is desired. Most of the \$4,000 already subscribed was paid at the time of subscribing by the promissory notes of the subscribers. It worked so well that an effort is now made to meet the whole debt on the same plan. Not much fear of that congregation being strangled by church debts.

THE annual meeting of St. Paul's church, Hamilton, held on Monday evening Jan. 20th., was an occasion of unusual interest, owing to the happy and prosperous condition of the congregation, as shown by the reports upon all departments of the church's work. The report of the Treasurer of the Board of management, showed that the sum of about \$15,500 had been received and disbursed during the year. Of this amount about \$3,500 was received from the ordinary revenue of the church; over \$1,000 from the Ladies' Association; \$1,700 from outside contributions generously given toward the purchase fund; and the balance from the liberal contributions of the members of the congregation, supplemented by cash received on the sale of certain properties belonging to the church. The Session's Report showed an increase of forty-seven families during the year, with sixty new members received to the communion of the church. In the midst of this very gratifying success, the church has been called upon to mourn the loss of one of its most prominent members, the late Mr. Thos. C. Kerr, whose death took place at London, England, on the 21st Nov. last. Mr. Kerr had been connected with the congregation for over forty years, had been for many years an elder, and was a member of last General Assembly. The report of the Session contained resolutions expressing sorrow for his loss and sympathy with his family; and praying that the great Head of the Church would be pleased to raise up others to take the places of those who are called away.

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.—An ordinary meeting of this Presbytery was held on the 14th inst., Rev. Dr. Robb, Moderator. Rev. Dr. Gregg reported that he had moderated in a call from the congregation of Charles street, which was given (by a small majority) in favour of Rev. Dr. Matthews, New York, but that owing to the small number of signatures attached to the call, the congregation had recently agreed to withdraw it. Accordingly it was set aside. Rev. Dr. Caven reported that he had moderated in a call from the congregation of Knox Church Toronto, which was given in favour of Rev. A. V. Millingen. The call was read, and was found to be signed by 104 members and nineteen adherents. Mr. J. L. Blaikie and Hon. J. McMurrich appeared, and stated that they and their fellow-commissioners, in consequence of the small number of signatures, would not ask the Presbytery to sustain the call. Accordingly it was set aside. In terms of an application duly made, Rev. J. Breckenridge was appointed to moderate in a call from the congregation of Boston Church, Esquesing, and Knox Church, Milton, on the 31st inst., at 1.30 p.m. Also Rev. D. Mackintosh was appointed to moderate in a call from the congregation of Mount Albert and Balantrae, on such a day as the session may determine and give due notice of. Dr. Topp, on behalf of a committee previously appointed, read a minute which the Presbytery adopted, expressing its high estimate of the character, and abilities, and varied services of the Moderator, as also of its best wishes for him and his family in the land of his nativity to which he intends soon to return. An application was read from Rev. T. M. Reikie, hitherto a minister of the Congregational body, asking to be received as a minister of our Church, and offering to furnish satisfactory testimonials, as well as to give whatever explanations might be deemed necessary. A committee were appointed to confer with Mr. Reikie. And in terms of a

report afterwards submitted by them, the Presbytery unanimously agreed to apply in his favour to the next General Assembly. In terms of an application made, Dr. Gregg was appointed *interim* Moderator of the Session of Cooke's church during the coming vacancy; also he was empowered to moderate in a call whenever the session may determine thereon. Similar appointments were assigned to Professor McLaren in regard to Charles street congregation, and Rev. W. Frizzell was appointed to take the Professor's place as *interim* Moderator of the Session of Queensville, etc. A report was read by Rev. J. M. Cameron from the committee previously appointed on the Assembly's Remit anent Sabbath school work, etc. The report was received, and its recommendations (being somewhat modified) were adopted as follows: 1st. That the list of questions from the General Assembly's Committee be sent to the superintendent of each Sabbath school within the bounds. 2nd. That the questions and answers be returned not later than the 25th day of February, and that a tabulated statement therefrom be prepared for the next meeting of Presbytery. 3rd. That at the meeting of Presbytery on the 4th day of March, the evening of that day be specially set apart for a conference on Sabbath school work. 4th. That all the superintendents and teachers within the bounds of the Presbytery be invited to attend that meeting, and that accommodation be provided for those coming from a distance, who shall notify the committee not later than the 15th day of February of their intention to be present. 5th. That ministers be recommended to bring specially before parents the propriety of reading, or causing to be read, a portion of the Word of God every day in the family, the necessity and duty of regularly catechising their children, and the claims of the Sabbath school on their countenance, assistance and support. 6th. That the Presbytery expresses its sense of the importance of classes for the special training of Sabbath school teachers being instituted wherever found practicable to do so. A petition was read from Parkdale, a suburb of the city, signed by sixty-one communicants and adherents of the Church, praying to be organized as a congregation. In support of the petition Messrs. R. Sabiston, Geo. Tait, D. McKindlay, and Geo. Dempster, Commissioners, appeared, and were severally heard. After some consideration, and on motion of Rev. J. M. King, it was unanimously resolved as follows. 1. To direct the Home Mission Committee to make provision for the immediate supply of ordinances to the petitioners aforesaid. 2. To give notice to the neighbouring Sessions of the petition, and in the event of no opposition being offered before the 1st of February, to authorize the mover, Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, Rev. R. Wallace, and Mr. Winchester, to organize the congregation in accordance with the prayer of the petitioners, with the understanding that supply should be given to Parkdale in connection with Brockton, and that these congregations for a time form one pastoral charge. 3. To encourage the petitioner to take steps for the purchase of property and the erection of a church at as early a date as possible. A circular of the Assembly's Home Mission Committee was read, and was disposed of in the way of a warm recommendation to congregations to contribute liberally to the Home Mission Fund. Dr. Topp submitted a statement anent the needs of Queen's and Knox Colleges, and it was resolved as follows. "The Presbytery having heard the statements of Dr. Topp in regard to the financial necessities of Queen's and Knox Colleges, commends the claims of these institutions to the generous support of the congregations within its bounds, and requests the minister of each congregation to report to Dr. Topp the amount contributed for this purpose before next meeting of Presbytery." Various other matters, not of importance to the public, were taken up and disposed of; and after appointing Rev. D. J. Macdonnell to be Moderator for the next twelve months, the Presbytery adjourned to meet again on the first Tuesday of March, at eleven a.m. Commissioners to next General Assembly to be appointed that day at three o'clock.—R. MONTEATH, *Pres. Clerk*

PRESBYTERY OF STRATFORD.—This court met for ordinary business, in Knox Church, Stratford, on the 21st inst., seventeen ministers and eleven elders being present. Notification was read from the Presbytery of Brockville of its intention to apply for the reception into the Church of Rev. Geo. Blair of the Kirk of Scotland. The expenses of the Presbytery, including

railway fare of Commissioners to Assembly, for the current year, amounting to \$260, were allocated amongst the congregations. A certificate of the standing of Rev. John Kay was read, and the Clerk was instructed to forward application to General Assembly for his reception. Mr. Wade presented a report, in behalf of the Sabbath School Committee, embracing a synopsis of statistics and a programme for the convention next day. The Clerk stated that he had received from Mr. Gordon of Harrington a letter with medical certificate after the close of last meeting, from which it appeared that his health had not so recovered as to allow of his resuming his labours for some months. It was agreed, in view of his speedy return from Scotland, to leave the supply for his pulpit to be arranged in the meantime by the Home Mission Committee and the congregation as before. At the request of the second congregation of St. Mary's, it was entered upon the roll as Knox church, St. Mary's. The Assembly's remit on the formation of a new Presbytery north of this one was taken up, when it was agreed to express decided opposition to the removal of any congregation from the roll of this Presbytery. The remit on the Sustentation Scheme was taken up, when it was unanimously agreed to disapprove a supplementary scheme, and to overture General Assembly to take into consideration the necessity and practicability of a sustentation scheme for the whole Church. Mr. McLeod submitted an overture which was adopted, setting forth that as the sustentation of the ministry is at present in an unsatisfactory state, and as there are grave objections to a supplementary fund, it is desirable that steps be taken towards the careful consideration of the practicability of a sustentation fund, it being the opinion of Presbytery that its organization would be a great blessing to the church. Messrs. Mitchell and McLeod were appointed to sustain the overture. Mr. Boyd was appointed to receive reports on the State of Religion and submit a digest of them at next meeting. On Wednesday, the 22nd, Presbytery met with teachers and friends of its Sabbath Schools. The convention was felt to be very interesting and profitable, and was continued throughout the day, in forenoon, afternoon, and evening sittings. It was agreed to instruct the Sabbath School Committee to issue in its next circular the question. Would you give your views on the best method of classification in Sabbath Schools? Presbytery adjourned to meet at 9.30 a.m., on the 18th of March next, in St. Andrew's church, Stratford.

PRESBYTERY OF PETERBOROUGH.—The regular quarterly meeting of this Presbytery was held in St. Paul's Church, Peterboro', on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 21st and 22nd instant. After the reading of the minutes, Mr. White, (Dummer), was elected Moderator for the next six months. Mr. Fotheringham presented the report of the Sabbath School Committee which was, after considerable discussion, adopted. Mr. Bell, on behalf of the Committee on Arrears of Stipend, reported that their efforts had been attended with success. The Committee, with Messrs Cameron and Carnegie added thereto, was re-appointed, with instructions to continue their efforts. Mr. Clelland, as Treasurer, presented a report of the state of the Presbytery and Home Mission Fund. Mr. Bennett reported that the monies collected for the Minden Manse had been paid over in accordance with the instructions of the Presbytery. The discourse sent in by Mr. Hunter was referred to Messrs. Bell and Torrence to examine, and if found satisfactory, to authorize the Clerk to certify accordingly to the College authorities. Mr. Bell reported that the Good Templars had offered to give a lease of their Hall, at Apsley, to be used for church purposes, upon condition that the Presbytery aid them in paying off the debt thereon. Messrs. Bell, Clarke and Carnegie were authorized to inquire into the matter and take steps to raise such funds as may be necessary. On motion it was resolved to hold the next meeting of Presbytery at Port Hope on the last Tuesday in March. On motion of Mr. Bennett, it was decided to overture the General Assembly to give liberty to Presbyteries to place the names of retired ministers on their rolls with power to vote as well as to deliberate. Messrs. Smith, Clelland and Craick were appointed a committee to visit Oak Hill congregation. Mr. Gourley of the United States presented his certificate from the church there and was reappointed to the mission field at Minden and Haliburton. Messrs. Clelland and Clark were appointed to visit Burleigh and Chandos during the winter. The Presbytery then adjourned.