

man, he protects him if he can do it. And also when any one wishes to talk with him, and shake hands with him, he does it in a friendly manner with all. This comes from the mercy of God."

Later intelligence is still more decisive and encouraging. The new King, Radama II., is reported to have transmitted a messenger to the Governor of Mauritius, inviting free intercourse; to have proclaimed commercial liberty throughout his territory, with equitable customs regulations at all the ports; to have intimated that he is not disposed to accept the *protectorate* of France or of any other power; and to have appointed an Englishman, long a faithful adherent, as his Chief Minister. It is stated also that he has distinctly declared his adherence to Protestant Christianity; and has written letters to Protestant missionaries at the Mauritius and the Cape, informing them that the land is once more open to the preachers of the gospel.

Proceedings of Presbyteries, &c.

PRESBYTERY OF STRATFORD.

The last quarterly meeting of the Presbytery of Stratford was held at St. Mary's, on the 30th and 31st December.

Permission was granted the congregation under the pastoral charge of the Rev. Thomas Lowry, to sell a house and lot which was purchased as a residence for their minister, but which had been found unsuitable for that purpose.

Permission was also granted the congregation of Chalmers' church, St. Mary's, to sell their church property in order to effect a union with Widder Street Church.

A petition was laid upon the table and read from 25 members and 21 adherents of Fish Creek congregation, praying "that they might be congregated as a separate congregation in the Biddulph Church. Messrs. James Spence and Alexander Grant appeared as commissioners to support the petition and was heard.

The Presbytery agreed that the petition should lie on the table until next meeting.

The Rev. Thomas Lowry agreeably to notice previously given, laid upon the table the following overture:—"Whereas there is reason to believe that a desire is entertained by many who are interested in the prosperity of the church, that the purposes for which a part of Knox College buildings is employed, should be re-considered,—the Stratford Presbytery hereby overture the Synod of the Canada Presbyterian Church to take said subject into its consideration, and to make such arrangements, and give such instructions to the Board of Management as shall promote the comfort and other interests of the Professors and students, and which at the same time shall harmonize with the means and requirements of the church."

The Presbytery agreed to adopt and transmit this overture, and appointed Messrs. Lowry and McPherson to support the same.

The remit from Synod on the distribution of Preachers and on Home Missions was considered. The Presbytery agreed to approve of a *central fund* and that the distribution of this fund should be made *semi-annually*; that students of Theology may be employed in the Home Mission work, after attendance during *two* sessions of the Theological course, that the roll of Probationers and other Missionary labourers shall consist of Preachers who have been licensed less than *four* years, and ministers who have been loosed from their charges, or who have been received from other churches, and have been receiving appointments from the committee less than *four* years (reckoning in both cases from the date of their admission to the roll).

Arrangements were made for holding Missionary meetings in the congregations and Mission stations within the bounds. The Presbytery was divided into sections and a deputation appointed for each section.

The following appointments were made for the supply of vacant congregations and mission stations, viz.—

Mitchell.—Mr. Goodfellow, 5th Jan., Mr. Hume, 19th Jan., Mr. Hay, 26th Jan., Mr. Drummond, 2nd Feb., Mr. Boyd, 16th Feb., Mr. Fotheringham, 2nd March, Mr. Huy, 16th, 23rd, and 30th March, and 6th April.