

This letter is addressed on the back to the care of Mr. McDonald, of Albany, as the others.

The next is a letter on the same subject, from the Rev. Mr. Young:

"MONTREAL, Aug. 21, 1792.

"Very Revd. Sir,

"I beg leave to inform the Presbytery that such is my situation that I find it necessary to apply for a dismission from the Presbytery of Albany. The Presbyterian Ministers of Canada have long wished to form themselves into a Presbytery, and I understand soon expect to accomplish their wish. Should this happen, this congregation think it will be better for them to be in connection with said Presbytery, and with this view wish me to apply for a dismission. I have been rather complied with their desire, because from my distant situation and bad state of health, I cannot attend my duty with you. I meant to have made this request in person, but a sore in my leg, which for some months hath baffled every attempt to cure it, and a severe attack of the rheumatism renders it impossible to attempt the journey.

"I hope the Presbytery will grant my request, and send my dismission with the first convenient opportunity. And that the Good Shepherd, who laid down His life for the sheep, may bless the Presbytery of Albany, take all its members under His holy keeping, and guide and feed the various congregations under their inspection, and in their connection, shall ever be the prayer of, very Revd. Sir,

Your affectionate Brother in the Lord,  
JOHN YOUNG.

Very Revd. Moderator  
of the Presbytery of Albany."

To these communications we find a reference made in the following Minute of the Presbytery, six months after date:

"BALLSTON WEST, 3 o'clock, P.M.  
19th February, 1793.

"A letter from Mr. Young, their stated supply at Montreal, and also another from the Presbyterian Congregation in which he preached, were laid before the Presbytery, in which each of them requested a dismission from the Presbytery in order to join a Presbytery about to be formed in Canada.

"The Presbytery, however, willing to grant their request, judged that a dismission to join a body not in existence was irregular.

"I hereby therefore ordered Mr. McDonald to write a letter to Mr. Young, and another to the congregation, informing them that the Presbytery would with cheerfulness dismiss them as soon as they should name the body to which they desired to be connected, and that he send to them an extract of this Minute."

In answer to this Minute, two other letters seem to have been sent to the Presbytery, one from the congregation at Montreal, and another from Mr. Young; these communications have not been found, but their purport may be gathered from the following Minute and decision of the Presbytery:

TROR, June 25, 1793.  
11 o'clock, A. M.

"A letter from Mr. Young, dated at Montreal, was read, in which he informed the Presbytery that a Presbytery had been lately erected in that country, under the name of the 'Presbytery of Montreal,' and he

requested a dismission from them to join that body. The Presbytery having taken under consideration the remote and local situation at which Mr. Young was placed, agreed to grant his request, and they did, and hereby do dismiss Mr. Young from his connection and subordination to the Presbytery of Albany to join the Presbytery of Montreal, and they hereby recommend him to their friendly attention as a Minister of the Gospel in regular standing with them, and ordered the Clerk of the Presbytery to furnish Mr. Young with a certified copy of their decision.

"A petition from the vacant congregation of Montreal under the inspection of the Presbytery, was laid before them stating that a Presbytery under the title of the Presbytery of Montreal, had lately been established in Canada, that they found it would be peculiarly convenient for them in their situation to be under their care, and requested a dismission, that they might be regularly received by the Presbytery of Montreal. The Presbytery sensible of the justice of the observations contained in their petition, agreed to grant their request, and they did and hereby do dismiss the congregation of Montreal from their inspection, and do hereby recommend them to the care and kind patronage of the Presbytery of Montreal, as a society of regular and reputable standing in the Presbytery, and they ordered their stated Clerk to transmit a certified copy of their decision to that congregation."

It is a curious and interesting circumstance, that a Presbytery in the United States should have had under its fostering care the old Presbyterian Church of St. Gabriel Street. At that time they worshipped in the Roman Catholic Church of the Recollets which was granted for their use by the priests of that order. In 1792 the congregation purchased the land and erected the Church which now stands upon it. The deed of purchase is dated April, 1792, and was drawn up at the very time they were in connection with the Presbytery of Albany, and the Presbyterian Church of the United States. The value of these documents is that they show very clearly what was the original design and intention of the parties who first instituted St. Gabriel Street Presbyterian Church, and also explain, without the possibility of a doubt, the meaning of the terms found in the original deed of purchase.

According to their first letter it was the desire of the congregation to have public ordinances dispensed according to the order of the Presbyterian Church—its doctrine, discipline and government. To secure this was their aim. For this purpose they joined the Presbytery of Albany, and received a Minister at their hands. For the same purpose they inserted in the deed of conveyance of the original property, the clause that it was for a "Presbyterian congregation, and the Worship of God according, and conformable to the usage of the Church of Scotland, as by law established in Scotland." So long as this usage was observed, the object and intention of the founders were effectually carried out. The particular ecclesiastical connection under which this should be done, was not to them a matter of concern. At that time the usage of all Presbyterian Churches on this continent was identical with that of the "Church of Scotland as by law established

in Scotland." It seems a strange assumption on the part of a section of the Presbyterians of this Province, that the usage of the Church of our revered fathers cannot be purely and completely carried out unless in connection with them. We claim now to be more completely identified with the Church of that age than the Church in this Province jealously kept "in connection with the Church of Scotland," and we are even more tenacious of the ancient usages than they are. As it evidently was not the intention of the original founders of St. Gabriel Street Church to limit by the deed of conveyance, their own choice of ecclesiastical connection, but simply to provide that the great religious and christian objects of a Presbyterian Church should be secured; so it seems to the congregation now a hard matter that although maintaining in all their integrity the ancient usages of the Church in doctrine, discipline, worship and government, they should be harassed, and threatened with the loss of their property, by parties whose right to be regarded as the true representatives of the ancient Church of Scotland is, to say the least, very questionable.

## KNOX'S CHURCH TORONTO,

### ANNUAL REPORT OF SABBATH SCHOOL.

After the lapse of another year, we are permitted in the providence of God, to assemble together this evening to celebrate our Anniversary, and to report the operations and state of the Sabbath School for the past year, as well as what has been done for the missionary cause.

It has been usual to allude to any changes which may have occurred from death in the ranks of the young during the year past. As at our last Anniversary, under this head we had to report no loss of either teachers or scholars, so again we have cause to record our gratitude for sparing mercies; so far as is known, we have suffered no loss from the removal, by death, of any of the young attending the Sabbath School, and the same remark holds good in regard to their teachers. It is extremely rare for a Sabbath School to report no losses, sustained either in teachers or scholars where the number in attendance is large, but for two years in succession, to be able to report that the angel of death has not visited either teachers or taught, furnishes abundant cause of gratitude to Him, from whom all our mercies flow, and whose long suffering patience reminds us that mercies so marked, demand at our hands, greater devotion to his service, and the right improvement of precious opportunities.

The attendance during the past year, differs little from the preceding—the average attendance is 140. The teachers number 20 with a Superintendent and Librarian; three additional teachers have been added during the past year. In last year's report it was stated that a Sabbath School had been opened at the West end preaching station, where a number formerly connected with this School were in the habit of attending. It affords us much pleasure to state that this School still continues in successful operation, being attended by about 60 children, with a staff of teachers under the Superintendence of Mr. McMurich.

Last summer a school was opened on Glou-