

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

THE teachers of the Russell Hall, Montreal, Sabbath School beg to acknowledge with thanks the sum of \$45 which has been contributed by friends of the school for the purpose of commencing a library. A careful selection has been made from the French books of a suitable kind which were to be had in Montreal, and these are now given out regularly. As the number of volumes that could be obtained in this way is very limited, and will only meet the requirements of the school for a short time, an additional order based upon the latest catalogue of the *Societe des livres religieux de Toulouse*, has been sent to Paris, and it is hoped that in a few weeks the library will be placed in a satisfactory condition.

THE annual meeting of the Bothwell portion of the charge over which Rev. D. L. Mackechnie is pastor, was held on the evening of the 2nd inst. Colin Reid, Mayor, was re-elected manager, and D. McLardy was appointed in the room of D. Tait. Captain Taylor was reappointed Secretary-Treasurer. The report of the managers was most satisfactory and showed the congregation to be in a prosperous state. Owing to removals the number of members is less than last year, being only 68. Notwithstanding this fact and the pressure of hard times, the contributions to the six schemes of the Church are larger than in any previous year, being \$186.60. This is an average of about \$2.75 per member. This, we think, will compare favourably with the contributions of any of the congregations of the towns of Western Ontario.—COM.

ON Thursday afternoon last a large congregation assembled in the Presbyterian Church, Prescott, to witness the solemn and impressive ceremony of inducting the Rev. Mr. Stewart into the pastoral charge. The induction sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. Taylor, of Morrisburgh; the Rev. Mr. Clarke, of Kemptville, addressed the pastor, and the Rev. Mr. Mullen, of North Augusta, addressed the people. After the induction ceremony was over the Rev. Mr. Stuart was introduced to the members of his charge and cordially welcomed by them. Previous to the congregation being dismissed Mr. M. Dowsley, the treasurer of the church, handed Mr. Stuart \$250 being the payment of his first quarter's salary in advance. In the evening a reception social was tendered the new pastor by the ladies of the congregation, and it proved in every respect a brilliant success, and must go far towards at once establishing pleasant and cordial relations between the pastor and the congregation. After the refreshments had been served it was found necessary to adjourn to the body of the church. Mr. I. D. Purkis occupied the chair, and discharged his duties in his usual agreeable manner. Excellent addresses were delivered by the following gentlemen: Rev. Mr. McGillivray, of Brockville; Rev. Mr. Austin, of the Methodist Episcopal Church; Rev. Mr. Armstrong, of Knox Church, Ottawa; Rev. Mr. Taylor, of Morrisburgh; Rev. Mr. McKibbin, of Edwardsburg; Rev. Mr. Blair, Prescott, and Mr. Cassels, of Lyn. The speakers all heartily congratulated both Rev. Mr. Stewart and the congregation on the union which they had that day formed, and wished them the most pleasant and happy relations in the future.

PRESBYTERY OF OWEN SOUND.—This Presbytery met in Division St. Church on the 18th ult. A full attendance of members were present. The committee appointed to arrange a basis of union between Lake Shore church of Sydenham and Johnston congregations reported that they had visited the congregations interested, and that delegates appeared from the congregations to submit to the Presbytery the report of the progress made. The delegates submitted a basis of union that had been agreed on by both congregations. The Presbytery thereupon agreed to separate the Lake Shore Church from Knox Church of Sydenham, and approve of the basis of union between it and Johnston Church, but seeing there are certain arrears in both congregations the Presbytery appoint Messrs. Cameron, Scott and Armstrong a committee to look after these arrears. The following were appointed delegates to the General Assembly, Messrs MacLennan and Mordy by rotation, and Mr. Somerville by election, ministers; and Messrs. MacKnight, Christie and Mitchell, elders. The Presbytery recommended that Dr. Cochrane be chosen Moderator of Assembly. Mr. Stevenson gave notice that at the next meeting he would move that the Moderator

of the Presbytery should occupy the chair only six months, and Mr. Colter gave notice that he would move to have the meetings begin at half-past one p.m. instead of at ten a.m. as at present. Mr. Stevenson presented an overture to the General Assembly on the status of retired ministers and the Presbytery resolved to transmit it. The motion of Mr. Somerville, of which notice was given at last meeting, that Presbytery should meet on the third Tuesday of January, March, July, September, and November and on the first Tuesday of May at ten o'clock a.m. was agreed to. Mr. Currie was appointed to receive and tabulate the returns on the state of religion, Mr. Mordy the Sabbath School returns, and Mr. Somerville the statistical and financial returns. The following general resolutions were adopted in reference to the hymn book sent down. 1.) That in any further copies issued the title, author and date of the hymn be given. 2. That the collection for the young was too meagre both in subjects and numbers. 3. That the hymns for children be inserted in the body of the book, and that the committee make a suitable selection for use in Sabbath Schools and special services from the larger book. 4.) That the paraphrases should be embodied in the book. 5.) That certain attributes of the Divine character, such as His Holiness and justice do not receive sufficient recognition in the hymns selected and sent down. 6.) That in arranging for the publication of the book endeavours be made to get things so arranged that the profit arising from the sale be secured for the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. Mr. Somerville presented the Home Mission Report. The Convener was instructed to secure the service of students for the following stations: Sarawak and North Keppel, Euphrasia, and Holland, Johnston and Caven, Lion's Head, and an ordained missionary for Wiarton. He was further instructed to apply for the sum of \$100 per annum for Meathcote, \$100 per annum for Knox Church, Sydenham, \$4 per week for Lion's Head from June 1st, and \$1 per week for Euphrasia and Holland. The Rev. Mr. McDiarmid was granted leave of absence from the Presbytery for three months, members of Presbytery and others to supply his pulpit during his absence. The Presbytery agreed to meet in Division St. Church the first Tuesday of May at ten a.m.—JOHN SOMERVILLE, M. A. Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.—This Presbytery held an ordinary meeting on the 8th and 9th current, Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, Moderator. A large amount of time was spent in considering the collection of hymns transmitted by the General Assembly's Committee thereanent—further consideration of the same to be prosecuted at next meeting. Papers were read, and parties heard, proposing a re arrangement of the congregations of West King, Laskey and East King, and Aurora, with a view to the formation of these into two pastoral charges, and the doing away with relative supplements from the Assembly's Home Mission Committee. On motion made by Dr. Caven, seconded by Rev. J. M. King, the Presbytery recorded their great gratification with the foresaid action, and appointed a committee, consisting of Rev. P. Nicol, (Convener, Rev. J. Dick, Rev. W. Frizzell, Mr. George Smith and Mr. Donald Sutherland, to confer with these congregations, and to report to next meeting of Presbytery as to the best way in which consolidation may be effected. A paper was read from the congregation of West Church, Toronto, applying for leave to dispose of their present church and site and erect a new church and school room at the south-west corner of Denison Avenue and Wolsey street, as also to borrow a sum of money not exceeding \$10,000. After hearing commissioners, it was moved and agreed to grant the leave so applied for. Application was made by the united congregations of Queensville, Ravenshoe and North Gwillimbury, for the appointment of one to moderate in a call. A promise was read of \$500 as stipend from said congregations, and it was also shown that the Assembly's Home Mission Committee had voted a supplement of \$200 conditional on settlement. The above application was agreed to, and Rev. W. Frizzell was appointed to moderate at Queensville on the 21st current, at two p.m. Also on request of Rev. J. Carmichael of King, Rev. J. S. Eakin was appointed, as his substitute, to moderate in a call at Sutton on the 22nd current, at two p.m. A committee was appointed consisting of Revs. A. Gilray, J. M. Cameron, R. Pettigrew and Mr. A. Murray, to prepare a report on the State of Religion, based on the returns received from Sessions within the bounds;

said report to be submitted at next ordinary meeting. An application was read from Rev. R. H. Hoskin, accompanied by a relative certificate, asking to be received as a minister without charge. After due consideration, the Presbytery resolved that Mr. Hoskin's name, with his application, be sent to the General Assembly, and that in the meantime he be declared eligible for work, if such shall offer. Rev. Dr. Topp gave notice of an overture to the General Assembly, to be submitted at next ordinary meeting, in favour of the number of pastoral charges rather than the number of ministers on the rolls of Presbyteries being taken as the basis of the proportion of representatives to the Supreme Court of the Church. The next ordinary meeting was appointed to be held in the usual place on the first Tuesday of May, at eleven a.m. Statistical and financial returns not yet received should be sent to the undersigned without delay.—R. MONTEATH, Pres. Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF BRUCE.—This Presbytery held an adjourned meeting at Paisley on the 1st and 2nd inst. Dr. Bell reported that he had moderated in a call at Pinkerton and West Brant, which came out unanimously in favour of the Rev. John Eadie, late of Milton. The call is subscribed by eighty-nine communicants and thirty-three adherents. The salary promised is \$850 per annum, to be paid quarterly in advance, with manse. The call was sustained, and ordered to be forwarded to that gentleman. The appeal of Mr. R. M. Hay from the decision of the Kirk Session of Knox Church, Paisley, (in the matter of recording a certain minute of Session) was dismissed as incompetent. Dr. Bell on behalf of the Commission of Presbytery appointed to consider the petition and complaint of Mr. R. M. Hay against the Rev. J. Straith, reported that they had spent one whole day in taking the evidence of witnesses on the case. The evidence was then read. Mr. Hay was heard in support of his petition, Mr. Straith in reply, and Mr. Hay in reply to Mr. Straith. It was agreed to appoint a committee consisting of Dr. Bell (Convener), Messrs. Scott, Tolmie, and Gourlay, ministers, and Mr. Rowand, elder, "To prepare a deliverance anent the case, and to report at next sederunt. The aforesaid committee submitted the following deliverance, which was unanimously adopted, viz.: "The Presbytery took up the complaint of Mr. Hay against Mr. Straith, and having heard the report of the Commission appointed to receive the evidence in precognition of the matter, including said notes of evidence, and having heard Mr. Hay and Mr. Straith thereanent, after careful deliberation find and declare: 1. That the evidence adduced entirely fails to establish any one of the charges made in the complaint, and that the complaint be and hereby is dismissed. 2. Said charges are of so serious a nature and so evidently groundless that for the protection of the ministerial character and in accordance with the general principles of the process of Presbyterian Churches, the complainant has now to be dealt with as a slanderer. 3. Considering the special circumstances of the case, instead of sending Mr. Hay to be dealt with by the Session, the Presbytery do now suspend Mr. Robert M. Hay from exercising the office of elder, discharging and prohibiting him from exercising any part thereof until he may be duly restored thereto; but the Session shall not restore Mr. Hay whatever the evidences of his penitence, without reference to the Presbytery. 4. The Presbytery instruct the Session of Knox Church, Paisley: 1) To remove Mr. Hay from the offices of Superintendent of the Sabbath school and Session Clerk. (2) To see that the Sabbath school is conducted in accordance with the well understood principles of the Church, and take order that any regulations in force therein be not in conflict with such principles. In the absence of Commissioners from St. Andrew's church, Kincardine, Mr. Wm. Anderson's resignation was allowed to lie on the table, and the congregation cited to appear for their interest at a special meeting of Presbytery to be held in St. Andrew's church, Kincardine, on the 15th inst., at two o'clock p.m. The next ordinary meeting of Presbytery was appointed to be held in St. Paul's church, Walkerton, on Tuesday, the 24th day of June next, at three o'clock p.m.—A. G. FORBES, Pres. Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF KINGSTON.—The quarterly meeting of this Presbytery was held at Kingston, on the 25th and 26th days of March. The report of the Presbytery's Home Mission Committee was presented and read. It was decided to apply for eight mission-