

ordered to be attested, namely those of St. Andrew's (Montreal), Georgetown, Lachine, St. Louis de Gonzague and St. Paul's (Montreal). All records not forwarded were ordered to be presented at next ordinary Meeting.

Collections for the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund were reported to have been made at St. Andrew's (Montreal), Ormstown, Georgetown, Lachine, St. Louis, St. Paul's, (Montreal,) and Hemmingford.

A Report was given in by the Committee, appointed to consider the overture on the appointment of an agent to attend to the general business of the Church, to the effect that they have not been able to agree to any recommendation on the subject. The Committee are continued.

The following Report of the Committee on the Bill anent the Representation of the Eldership in Superior Courts was read and adopted unanimously.

"The Committee of Presbytery appointed to consider the Bill transmitted by the Synod anent the Representation of the Eldership in the Superior Church Courts beg leave to report that in their opinion the Presbytery should recommend the Synod to enact the same into Law with the following amendments:—

**SECTION FIRST.**—Omit the whole of the second clause beginning with "*and the responsibility,*" and ending, "*and Elders;*" omit also the concluding words of the last clause, to wit: "*should it be their desire or interest to attend.*"

**SECTION SECOND.**—Omit the first 4 lines and insert instead thereof—"Before the election takes place the Moderator shall read the following statement to the meeting:"—instead of "*therefore*" in the 3rd clause of the Statement insert "*it shall be the duty of:*" from the same clause omit the words "*shall be required, before his election be sustained, to acknowledge it to be his duty,*" and also the whole of what follows after the words, "*by this Session,*" in the conclusion of the same clause; as likewise omit the first 4 lines and part of the 5th, immediately following Statement to be read, and instead thereof before the words "*the Session Clerk*" in the said 5th line, insert the words "*an election shall then be made and.*"

**SECTION THIRD.**—Omit the last 2 lines and part of the 3rd, so that the section may end with the words "*to this Act.*"

**SECTION SEVENTH.**—Instead of the words "*it shall be the duty of,*" insert the words "*the Synod recommends.*"

**SECTION NINTH.**—After "*Synod*" insert "*anent the election of Representative Elders.*"

**FORMULA.**—Omit the word "*that*" wherever it occurs.

All which is respectfully submitted.

For the Committee,

(Signed,) W. SNODGRASS,  
Convener.

The Bill "anent the attendance of Ministers at meetings of the Superior Church Courts" having been read, it was moved and passed unanimously that the Synod be recommended to enact the Bill as a Law of the Church with the following amendments, namely: Omit the whole of Section 2nd:—insert the word "*recommends*" for the word "*requires*" on line 6th of Section 3rd, and omit all that follows the words, "*Meetings of Church Courts,*" from the same section.

Mr. Morris stated on behalf of James Court and William McGinnis, Esquires, executors of the late Miss Elizabeth Fleming that, as that lady was a member of the Church of Scotland, they deemed it their duty to offer to the Presbytery a legacy of £25 which had been bequeathed to them in trust to apply it "*towards the support of a Presbyterian City Missionary actually labouring and employed as such in the City of Montreal,*" on condition of the Presbytery's undertaking to apply it to that object, the executors being of opinion that the Presbytery having a Missionary now engaged in the city warranted them in making this offer.

The Presbytery gratefully accepted the offer and instructed the Moderator to sign in their presence and behalf a receipt for the sum therein specified. Dr. Mathieson, Mr. Snodgrass and Mr. Morris were appointed a committee to consider the best manner of dealing with the legacy so as to carry out the wishes of the Testatrix and report to next ordinary meeting.

The following appointments were made for the supply of vacant pulpits.—Ormstown; Mr. Masson, Feb. 24th; Mr. Sym, March 10th; Mr. Snodgrass, March 31st. Chatham; Mr. Black, March 3rd and 10th; Mr. Paul to supply Point St. Charles on March 10th. Dundee; Mr. Wallace, February 17th; Mr. McDonald, March 24th. Laprairie; Mr. Simpson, April 28th.

A communication from the Rev. Alex. Wallace, Huntington, was read, asking the recommendation of the Presbytery to the transmission of a memorial to the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland for aid in building a Church, the said recommendation being desired in order that it may be presented to the Synod along with the memorial. The memorial not having been laid before the Court, the Clerk was instructed to communicate with Mr. Wallace and desire that the memorial and copy of the deed be laid before the Presbytery at next ordinary meeting.

The overture and interim act on the maintenance of Ministers having been read, it was moved by Dr. Mathieson, seconded by Dr. Muir, that the opinion of the Presbytery be reported as in favour of the overture. The motion was carried; Mr. Snodgrass dissenting for the following reasons, namely because:—

1. In the absence of any fixed sufficiency

for the support of ministers, and because of their necessary dependence to a great extent on the voluntary contributions of the people, and the fluctuations to which these are unavoidably liable, the kindly exercise of a judiciously directed moral influence becomes a special duty of the local courts and is likely to be more satisfactory and successful in effecting a respectable maintenance of religious ordinances than the enforcement of any stringent law such as is contained in the proposed overture.

2. While the sum required by the overture may in some cases be less than what is necessary, in other cases where the payment of a greater amount is both possible and easy, the proposed enactment will have a tendency to make congregations satisfied with the bare fulfilment of it, and thus defeat its own end, which can only be the intelligent and willing manifestation of a larger spirit of liberality than now prevails.

3. In the present condition of this country there are some congregations so weak that the proposed overture must render the settlement of a minister a perfectly hopeless matter to them, and thereby endanger their connexion with the Church; and there are other congregations in a state similar to what has been passed through by the majority of our strongest country congregations, which in their early history could not have borne the exaction of the overture,—to wit a state of growth which, while it promises ultimate success, demands and warrants the settlement of a minister though for some time he may receive less than \$400; and in both these cases the operation of the proposed overture cannot fail to be detrimental to the interests of religion, more especially should a minister be found willing to submit to some hardship, or able from private means to encounter any pecuniary difficulties connected with them.

4. The reservation of a discretionary power by the Synod implies the existence of obstacles to the execution of the proposed law, as a general rule, and is likely to encourage the reference to it of cases more difficult for it than for a Presbytery to determine advantageously, while the delays which this course must involve may prove to be exceedingly hurtful.

Mr. Black read a report of his labours at Point St. Charles and St. Joseph Street, which was approved.

The next ordinary meeting is appointed to be held on the first Wednesday of May next at the usual place and hour.

#### PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

The winter quarterly meeting of this Court was held in St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 19th and 20th February.

There were present Messrs. Gordon, Moderator, Tawse, Lewis, Porter, Campbell (Nottawasaga), Watson, MacKerras, Col-