

Presbytery of Inverness.

THE Presbytery of Inverness met at Mabon recently for visitation and other business. They found the congregation in a flourishing condition. Mabon alone had paid on church and manse for the last seven years \$1,337, and will, in a few years, be free of debt and self-sustaining. They raised \$275 for the schemes of the church in 1894, and met their obligations to their pastor promptly. Port Hood is doing its part faithfully. That section raised \$33 for the schemes of the church during the year. The whole congregation raised \$1,524, which is very creditable to them considering their circumstances and paucity of numbers. The resignation of Rev. Alex. Grant, East Lake Anslie, was granted, his plea being age and infirmity. The moderator and clerk were appointed to draft a minute suitable to the retirement of Mr. Grant from the active duties of the ministry. The Presbytery will meet at Baddeck on the 30th inst. for visitation and other business.—D. McDONALD, Clerk.

Presbytery of Guelph.

THIS Presbytery held its stated bi-monthly meeting in Chalmers church, Guelph. The conduct of the clerk in giving a certificate of ministerial character and standing to Mr. Craig, of Melville church, Fergus, who had been ordered by his medical advisers to lose no time in repairing to a warmer climate, was approved. A letter was read from Mr. Craig, explanatory of the circumstances connected with his departure, and asking leave of absence for six months on account of his health was, as were resolutions by his session and congregation, consenting to the same, and asking that Dr. Wardrobe occupy his pulpit, and act as moderator of session while he was away. The Presbytery unanimously agreed to express their sympathy with Mr. Craig under his affliction, and their earnest trust that the means to which he has had recourse may be blessed to his perfect recovery, and their approval of the provision made to supply his place in the pulpit and session till his return. Dr. Jackson, convener, presented a very full report from the committee appointed to look into the matters sent down by the General Assembly for the consideration of Presbyteries. The report dealt, first, with the remits on which returns had to be made, and, next, with recommendations and injunctions requiring attention. There was not time to discuss the report in full and take final action. It will come up for disposal at a subsequent meeting. Almost all the afternoon was spent upon the report of the Hymnal committee, which was presented by Dr. Torrance. The first recommendation of the committee that there be but one Book of Praise and that the whole Psalter be included in it, and that the General Assembly give its imprimatur only to such, was approved. The second recommendation, dealing with the Selections from the Prose Psalms and other portions of Scripture, was adopted after a few changes. The third recommendation, recommending that selections from the metrical version of the Psalms now in use, and from other versions, be not printed in the Book of Praise, was adopted. The fourth recommendation, that all the new hymns, about one hundred and forty-five in number, proposed to be inserted, be omitted, on the grounds, among others, that they are unnecessary, that they will so increase the size of the volume as to render it unwieldy and add materially to its price, thus entailing upon the families of the Church a serious outlay. This recommendation called forth a long discussion, and finally it was resolved to proceed no farther in the subject at present, but take it up at an adjourned meeting, to be held in the same place on the 29th inst., at half-past ten o'clock in the forenoon. The remainder of the report, on the selection of Scripture sentences, of proper tunes, and one or two other points, were then considered, and the report as a whole disposed. A request from the session of Edin Mills for the continuance of Mr. Strachan's services as pastor for another year, was promptly and cordially granted. Mr. Smith and clerk were appointed

to examine a primer on Church History, alleged to be authorized by the General Assembly's Committee on Sabbath schools as a text book for examination in the department of Higher Religious Instruction, and ascertain if it did not contain objectionable teaching on the Disruption leading to the formation of the Free Church of Scotland, and on the origin of the Secession Church, and were instructed to report at the adjourned meeting.

Annual Meetings.

FENELON FALLS and Somerville congregation received satisfactory reports at the annual meeting. The church agencies have done excellent work, and have been successful beyond expectations. The financial statements were satisfactory. Rev. Malcolm Mackenzie, the pastor, is working hard for the erection of a new church.

THE annual meeting of the Brampton church was held on Tuesday of last week. The report showed that nearly \$5,000 had been raised during the year for maintenance of the church, missions, etc., inclusive of \$1,000 paid on the church debt. But \$1,000 now remains to be paid on the church, which cost \$26,000. Robert Young, John Smith, J. H. Robertson and Wm. Magill were elected managers for three years each, and Wm. Anthony, jr., to serve out one year in a vacancy caused by death. Under the ministrations of Rev. Mr. Clark the congregation is prospering.

REV. D. M. BUCHANAN presided at the annual meeting of St. Andrew's church, Lanark, when reports for the past year were presented, showing marked progress over previous years. There are 151 communicants; total receipts were \$2,990; balance on hand, \$94. During the past eighteen months a manse, costing about \$1,900, and sheds, costing over \$350, have been erected. The Sabbath school has increased in attendance during the past year about one-third, and the number on the roll is now 134. A fine new library, costing nearly \$100, has been added to the school. The W. F. M. S. raised \$65, and the contributions of the congregation to missions were \$178.43, making a total of \$244.29 for missions, being an increase of over \$100 more than last year.

At the annual meeting of the St. Andrew's church, Sarnia (Rev. Dr. Thompson), the chair was occupied by Mr. George Leys. The report of the managers was read by the secretary, Mr. J. B. Watson, and the satisfactory statement shown was most gratifying to the congregation. From the financial statement submitted by the treasurer, Mr. J. B. Barrie, it appeared that the income of the church for the year from all sources had been \$4,074.77; of which \$200 has been contributed by the Ladies' Aid society; \$690 had been the proceeds of the anniversary collection; \$2,426.61 had been received from weekly offerings; and \$647.41 from ordinary collections. The expenditure for all purposes had been \$4,005.18, leaving a balance on hand of \$69.59. During the year \$251.40 had been paid as interest on the church debt, and \$300 in reducing the principal, which now stands at \$3,800, a very moderate sum, in view of the large improvements which have been made upon the church properties during the past few years. The reports of the various auxiliary organizations connected with the church were read, showing in each case very satisfactory results for the year.

VERY satisfactory were the reports presented at the annual meeting of Knox church, Picton. The affairs of the congregation were never in a more hopeful condition than at present. There are 104 families connected with the congregation, 15 single persons not connected with families in the congregation, 185 communicants on the roll. There were added during the year 18 by profession and 2 by certificate. Extensive repairs have been put upon the church, costing something over \$2,700 and making the building practically new. The church was opened free of debt, as the total amount for repairs was subscribed by the congregation before the work was

completed. The sum of \$415 was contributed to the schemes of the church, and \$140 for other religious and benevolent purposes. The total amount contributed by the congregation was \$2,885. The total amount paid for all purposes including repairs was \$4,691. The treasurer reported a balance on hand for general running expenses of over \$200. During the evening the congregation presented their pastor with a cheque for \$100. The organist also received a practical recognition of her services in the shape of a cheque for \$25.

At the annual meeting of the congregation at Wlenheim, favourable reports were received from all the different committees and branches of the church work. The question of a new church was taken up, and, after a lengthy discussion, it was decided to canvas the members and adherents for subscriptions. Should a favourable response be received, a new church may be looked for as a certainty during the coming summer.

THE annual meeting of Chalmers church, Woodstock, was in every respect a most satisfactory one. Encouraging reports were received from the W. F. M. S., the Heart and Hand Mission Band, Y. P. S. C. E., Sabbath school and Bible class, poor fund mission collectors, Ladies' Aid and the board of trustees. Rev. Dr. Mackay, for the session, stated that during the year 51 had been received into the membership of the church and 21 had been removed, making a net gain of 30, and leaving the present membership of the church 359. He hoped there were evidences of the presence and power of the spirit in the congregation. The board of trustees had felt the general financial depression, but had no reason to be discouraged. Through the various agencies of the church the total sum of \$3,337.41 had been raised. The following were elected to fill up the vacancies on the trustee board:—Wm. Griffith, J. S. Mackay, Geo. Innis and Alex. McGraw. Votes of thanks were passed to the members of the choir, and to the missionary collectors and their treasurer, Mrs. Dr. Brownlee, also to Mr. John A. Mackay, the church treasurer.

THE attendance at the annual meeting of Knox church, Morrisburg, was very large, and the pastor, Rev. H. Cameron, presided. Reports were given by the treasurer, Mr. W. D. Meikle, and the treasurers of the various societies of the congregation, all of which showed the church to be in a healthy and prosperous condition. The revenue of the general fund was sufficient to meet all the expenditure of the year. The Ladies' aid have about \$700 on hand, preparatory to the erection of a prospective manse, while the other societies have each a very satisfactory balance of cash on hand to begin the year. The congregation raised for all purposes \$1,658 during the year. Mr. J. H. Meikle was elected to fill the position on the board of trustees made vacant by the death of the late Mr. J. H. Thom. The following officers were duly appointed:—Managers, Messrs. W. Meikle, M. C. Gibson, Chas. Helmer, J. Warren, W. Farlinger, Fred Chalmers, L. McKinnon; W. D. Meikle, treasurer, messrs. Messrs. George Meikle, W. Montgomery, John Ferris, jr., W. Kilgour; collectors, morning, Messrs. L. McKinnon and C. Helmer, evening, Messrs. F. Chalmers and Jas. Meikle.

THE third annual meeting of St. Cuthbert church, St. Lambert, was presided over by Rev. Murray Watson, R.A. The reports of the various societies (Ladies' Aid Society, Women's Missionary Society Auxiliary, Senior Society of Christian Endeavor, Junior Society of Christian Endeavor, Mission Band, Sabbath School) showed marked progress and energy in every department. The scholars on the roll in the Sabbath School numbered 93, average attendance, 83, average collection, \$2.25, and a sum of \$47.75 was given to missions. The church membership increased from 25 at organization to 52 at present. About 30 families are connected with the congregation. The amount raised for all purposes by the congregation for the past year was \$1,413, and by the various societies \$112, a total of \$1,525. The board of managers for 1895 is as follows:—President, Wm. Foulis; Vice-president, James Wright; Secretary, D. Scott Bruce; Treasurer, Walter Andrews; Managers, J.