

## OUR CHURCH NEWS.

### PRESBYTERY OF PICTOU.

The Presbytery of Pictou met at Springville for the Presbyterian visitation of the congregation there. The state of things in the congregation as elicited by the examination, was not so favourable as could be desired. The general impression on the minds of members of Presbytery was that the time was drawing near, if it has not already arrived, when the congregation should provide a colleague to their present pastor, who for a period of nearly forty years has broken the bread of life among them. After the visitation the Presbytery had a large amount of important business before them. The first matter was an appeal from a decision of the Session of Prince St. Church, Pictou, suspending certain parties from Church privileges, in consequence of their keeping a public house in which intoxicating liquors were sold, with the usual evil consequences of such sale. The Presbytery unanimously agreed to sustain the proceedings of Session in the case, whereupon the parties appealed to Synod.

An interesting report of Rev. A. W. McKay's labours at Little Harbour and Sutherland River was read and approved. Commissioners appeared from there stations with a petition, that they be constituted into a congregation, and that afterwards the Presbytery moderate in a call to one to be their pastor.—The petition was accompanied by a subscription list amounting to £93. The Presbytery unanimously agreed to grant the first part of the petition, and the Revd. Messrs. Stewart and Walker were appointed to meet with the people for the purpose of forming the congregation, and they were authorized to take all the necessary steps for having a Session constituted among them. The application for a moderation was delayed.

Commissioners appeared from French River, prosecuting the petition for a moderation lying on the table of Presbytery, since its last meeting. The prayer of the petition was granted, and the moderation was appointed to take place on Monday, 26th May, Rev. D. B. Blair to moderate.

The Presbytery then took up a complaint of a member of Springville congregation, against the Session for withholding from him a certificate. All parties were fully heard, when it was resolved that inasmuch as there are still matters unsettled between him and other parties, a committee be appointed to meet with the Session and all concerned, to endeavour to have these matters duly adjusted.

A letter was read from Mr. Alex. Falconer declining the call from Merigomish, which was accordingly set aside.

Mr. Kenneth J. Grant, student of Theology, presented a certificate signed by the Professors of the Seminary at Princeton of his attendance at that institution during the last term. Mr. Grant having completed his term of study, and having already had subjects of trial for license assigned him, proceeded now

to deliver the same. His exercises were all highly creditable, and were duly sustained by the Presbytery, and he was licensed in the usual manner.

Certificates were received from the Professors of Theology, of Mr. W. S. Campbell student of the 2nd year, and of Mr. John D. Murray of the 1st, and exercises were assigned them to be prepared during the recess.

An interesting report of Rev. Alex. Campbell's visit to Wine Harbour was read and approved, and Mr. W. R. Framo was appointed to supply that place for four Sabbaths. A letter was read from the people there, intimating that they had deemed it advisable to erect a larger building than was originally contemplated, and soliciting the sympathy and encouragement of the Presbytery. Mr. McKinnon was authorized to write to them encouraging them to go forward.

Reports were received of the labours of the various probationers within the bounds of the Presbytery, and ordered to be forwarded to the Home Mission Board; and supply was appointed for the various vacancies and stations within the bounds of the Presbytery.

After transacting some other business of less importance the Presbytery adjourned to meet in James Church, N. Glasgow, on the 1st Tuesday of May, when the various remits of Synod will be considered.

### PRESBYTERY OF HALIFAX.

The Presbytery of Halifax met in Chalmers Church, in this city, on Wednesday the 7th inst., at 11 o'clock, A. M. Its meetings were continued during the whole of Wednesday and Thursday, and the greater part of Friday.

The principal matters before it were:

The visitation of Chalmers Church—which occupied both Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

The resignation of Rev. John Cameron—which resulted in Mr. Cameron's being induced to withdraw his resignation, and continue still the minister of the whole charge. The Nine Mile River section came forward with three distinct and liberal offers. 1. If the charge should be divided, they would give Mr. Cameron a salary of £155 and increase it with the increase of ability. 2. If they and the Gore be made into one congregation, they would agree to give Mr. Cameron a salary of £175; or 3. If the whole charge be left undivided they agreed to raise the salary to £200. In order to secure the division of the congregation at as early a date as possible into two charges, the Presbytery agreed to continue Mr. Cameron for one year the minister of the whole charge,—on the understanding that his salary be £200; and urged on the congregation the division into two as soon as possible.

The calls from Annapolis and West Cornwallis were found to be regular and were sustained by the Presbytery. The former came out in favor of Rev. D. S. Gordon; the latter in favor of Rev. H. D. Steele. The second Tuesday of June was appointed for the induction of Mr. Steele. Rev. P. G. McGregor is appointed to preach and preside on the occa-