

the has been connected with Grand Frere, the consideration of the petitions was postponed. Meanwhile, the Rev. A. F. Kemp was appointed to visit Grand Frere, and endeavour to effect a satisfactory arrangement regarding a balance of stipend found to be still due to the late pastor.

The following missionary appointments were made:—Rev. W. Windell, to St. Therese, St. Eustache, and Grand Frere; Rev. A. Young, Indian Lands; Rev. A. Allan, Martintown and Williamstown.

Collections for the Presbytery's Mission Fund were handed in from the congregations of Winslow, Cornwall, Vankleek Hill, and Loehel; also, from the mission station at Harrington.

A letter from the Convener of the Synodical Committee on Colportage and Publication having been read and considered, the following deliverance was unanimously agreed to.

The Presbytery having received and considered a communication from the Committee of Synod on Publication and Colportage, agree to reply thereto:—that, in the opinion of this Presbytery, the prosecution of a centralized system of Publication and Colportage, involving the employment of a salaried agent, and a large expenditure of money, was not contemplated by last Synod, and is not expedient, in the present circumstances of the Church, when other objects, having prior claims, are yet struggling for support. Further, that this Presbytery, while cordially admitting the great importance of the diffusion of a sound literature throughout the country, do not find themselves in a position to attempt, at present, any extensive scheme of Colportage in their own bounds; and they feel the need of this the less, because a large section of their field is now well traversed by Colporteurs of the Presbyterian Board of Philadelphia, free of expense to this Presbytery. As to future proceedings of the Synod's Committee, this Presbytery think it advisable, that they confine themselves, meantime, to the encouragement of Presbyterial efforts where they exist, and to the duty of reporting them, with suggestions for the future, to the ensuing meeting of Synod.

The afternoon Sederunt, on the 22nd Oct., was spent in devotional exercises, and conference on the state of religion in its bounds. All the brethren present took part in the conference, and stated their encouragements and difficulties in their several spheres of labor.

On the evening of the 22nd, a service of Presbyterial Visitation was held in the Free Church, Cote Street. In the absence of the Moderator, the Rev. J. Crombie presided, and preached an excellent sermon from Mark xvi. 16. Thereafter, the pastor and office bearers were examined in regard to the spiritual and financial condition of the congregation. A deliverance, of an approving and encouraging character, was agreed to, and ordered to be remitted to the Kirk Session.

On the evening of the 23d, a similar service was held in the St. Gabriel Street Church.—The Moderator, Rev. W. B. Clark, delivered an able discourse on the duty and blessedness of systematic giving, founded on Acts xx. 35.—After sermon, the pastor and office-bearers were examined in regard to the welfare of the congregation. The Presbytery then came to a deliverance similar in its nature to that of the previous evening, and ordered a copy of it to be remitted to the Kirk Session.

The next ordinary meeting was appointed to be held in the Cote Street Church, on Wednesday, 28th January, 1857, at 10 A. M.

D. FRASER, *Prr. Clerk.*

#### ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STUDENTS' MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF KNOX'S COLLEGE.

Another year of the Society's existence has

now come to a close, and all that remains to be done, in connection with the past year, is to recount the various movements and proceedings of the Society during that period. It is surely cause for gratitude to Almighty God, that we have been permitted to assemble again within these walls, under such favourable circumstances, this night. After several months of dispersion, we are again brought together, in the good providence of God, with a large accession to our numbers. Let us resume the good work cordially and unitedly, and with a strong determination to be more zealous and faithful, for the future, than we have been in time past.

Several changes have taken place in the operations of the Society since our last annual meeting. It will be recollected that Mr. Vessot took charge of our mission in the West, in November last. He labored there, with occasional interruptions, till the beginning of April, when, we regret to say, we were, for reasons which it is unnecessary here to specify, under the necessity of dissolving our connection with him. His place was at once filled by Mr. Fortune, one of your own number. Your Committee have great pleasure in testifying to Mr. Fortune's energy and efficiency. He was selected as our missionary, not only on account of his known prudence and devotedness, but because he could speak the French fluently, and had had considerable experience of the manners and habits of the French Canadians. He commenced his labors at Amherstburg, in the month of April, and continued to labor zealously and successfully till the middle of August, when, owing to personal illness and family afflictions, he was compelled to leave the field and return home—hoping, however, to be able to resume the work ere long. This hope, we regret to say, has not been realised, and our esteemed missionary is still at home on account of ill health. The field is therefore vacant at present, and we would strongly urge upon the attention of the Society the desirableness—yea, the necessity—of procuring a successor at once, if they desire to increase, or even preserve, the measure of good which has been done. Of Mr. Fortune's labors, an account has already been given, in the September number of the *Record*; but as this purports to be a report proper of the Society's operations during the past year, it will not be out of place to repeat the account here with some further details.

Amherstburg, in the county of Essex, was the place where Mr. Fortune labored principally. He was also in Sandwich and Windsor, and the various townships along the Detroit river.—There are a great many French Canadians in that locality, and nearly all Roman Catholics. Some of them are *habitans* from Lower Canada, but the great majority are descendants of French families that settled in early times on the Detroit river, and formed one of the first settlements in Canada. It is pleasing to notice the state of feeling which exists there. They did not maltreat our missionary or order him away without a hearing; nor did they even receive him with indifference. On the contrary, they welcomed him as a benefactor. Many declared openly for him and his work, and many now, altho' deterred by dread of priestly indignation from expressing their sentiments openly, gave him to understand that he had their cordial sympathy. We do not mean by this to say that he met with no opposition at all. Of course there were many who opposed him, and not a few who were determinedly hostile. This was to be expected. But his reception was, on the whole, such as to give the greatest encouragement—such, that while it invited missionary labor by affording one great facility towards its success, it, at the same time, showed the wisdom of the step which this Society had taken, as having selected that locality for its

future missionary field. Letters were received regularly, during the summer, from Mr. Fortune, stating, in detail, all his proceedings. The following extracts from his letters, will give an insight into his manner of procedure, as well as indicate the nature and prospects of the mission generally. He says:—"My plan is to go round with the books to the French families, offer to them the Testament, recommend it as the best of books, show to them the propriety of reading and studying the Scripture and read passages to shew God's will concerning the same. I frequently get good attention without opposition; but I met with some who listen neither to reading nor speaking. With such, I sometimes reason successfully, but in most cases to no visible advantage. On the whole, I am encouraged. The majority receive me hospitably—many receive me cordially and invite me back. They generally take my tracts at once, but hesitate to take Testaments. About the town of Amherstburg, all that I have visited can read; but, back in the country, they are very ignorant. They have schools and seem willing to send their children to school. There is one family of twelve who have left the Papists and are fine people. The father is a persevering and well-informed man, and is active in spreading the light around him." Writing a month later, he says:—"Since I last wrote you, I have visited 138 families; I have lent 18 Testaments and sold 6, I have given away about 250 Tracts; read and explained portions of Scripture to 26 families, and had a large number of happy conversations. About one-half of the people in the township of Malden have the New Testament. I feel that the Lord has been with me, for I have had easy access to the people." But, besides stating general results, our missionary gives account of some interesting individual cases. One may suffice here as illustrating the quiet leavening influence which the Bible exerts. "Mrs. C. was brought up a strict Roman Catholic. She obtained a copy of the Scriptures and has been reading it for some time. She now loves it and prefers its instruction to those of the priest; consequently, she generally stays at home on Sabbath reading the Bible, not only to herself, but to her husband, family, and neighbours. I am satisfied that she has a right understanding of the way of salvation through Christ." There are many other interesting accounts of interviews with individuals and with families—of encounters with priests, and the like—which might be related; but enough has been adduced to shew the position of matters in the west. It must be felt by all that the field is vastly important, and that it cannot be long left vacant without suffering injury, while, if a zealous and able person were immediately sent thither, many happy results might be brought about in that whole community. Your Committee cannot allow the opportunity to pass without expressing the high sense of the services and generous co-operation of the Rev. W. McLaren, of Amherstburg. Our missionary frequently refers to Mr. McLaren's kindness, and his assistance will ever be of the highest importance to the progress of our mission there, as well as to the comfort and happiness of our missionary.

During the last session, the subject of procuring a young French Canadian to study in Knox's College, with a view to taking charge of our mission, was brought before the Society. The principal reason for proposing this scheme was the apparently inadequate qualifications of such missionaries as we were likely to get from Lower Canada. It was thought desirable, if possible, to procure a young French Canadian of talent and piety, to be trained in Knox's College, under the immediate supervision of the Society. Besides being better qualified, he would be better known by us—there would be more fellow-feeling and confidence. Accord-