

All orders, payments, and communications to the Editor, are requested to be sent to the Post-office to the Rev. JOHN JENNINGS, Toronto. We intend, in the meantime, to publish the Magazine on the 15th of every month, and have to request that all literary contributions be forwarded ten days previously.

The Canadian Presbyterian Magazine.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER, 1851.

NOTICES.

To Correspondents.—"Annals," of course welcome; but we do not like contributions in the style of letters, and perhaps our friend may not object to have the present communication correspond to the former, and be an article, or sketch. "Zephiah's" views are very good, but we must decline inserting the article. As a Church, we are perfectly at one on the divine authority of the Sabbath, and its obligations; and thoroughly orthodox too, as the Synod's memorial shows, and in every sentiment of the Dissentists agreed; the only difference being whether as a Church Court we ought to petition Parliament; and therefore we cannot allow discussion in our columns, on this subject, to be carried beyond what appears in this number.

Some Books received, but notices of them must be postponed.

We have only a few copies of the first number on hand, and as we wish all intending subscribers to begin with the first number—as far as can be supplied—early application on their part is necessary, to prevent disappointment. We are again obliged to renew the notice of last month to those to whom we sent parcels of No. 1, that they will have the goodness, without delay, to return all the copies they are not likely to require.

PRESBYTERY OF DURHAM.

The Synod of the United Presbyterian Church, at the annual meeting at Hamilton, in June last, having adopted an overture from the Presbytery of Toronto, to constitute the eastern half of its members into a separate Presbytery, "ordered, in terms of said overture, that the following ministers, with their congregations, should be formed into a Presbytery, under the name and title of the Presbytery of Durham, viz.—Rev. Mr. H. H. Thompson, Whitby; John W. Post, Hope; George L. Cameron, Clarke; John Fawcett, family; William Oulton, Newton; and Alex. Kennedy, Darlington, with their respective clerics. The first meeting to be held at Newton, on Tuesday, after the first Sabbath of July.—Mr. Thornton to be moderator.

In accordance with the above appointment, the United Presbytery of Durham met at Newton, in the Township of Clarke, on the 8th of July, on which occasion there was a full attendance of members, and a considerable number of persons belonging to the congregations in the vicinity, evidently taking a lively interest in this taken of prosperity, in regard to the cause of Christ in their midst. Amongst other unwelcome, were all, or nearly all, the clerics constituting the session of Port Hope, (the oldest congregation in the Presbytery,) some of whom were pioneers of the Presbyterian Church in this part of Canada—its steady and devoted friends through many difficulties incident to a new country and mixed population; and we trust they may yet be long spared to continue their valuable aid, and to have their hearts gladdened by the increasing prosperity of Christ's kingdom in those localities, where they first "displayed their banner in the name of the Lord."

Mr. Thornton having taken the chair, as moderator, and referred to the Synod's minute above alluded to, proceeded to constitute the meeting by prayer, after that appropriate and sweet song of Zion, the 100th Psalm, had been sung. The moderator then observed, that time, and other circumstances, would render it improper to follow the promptings of his own heart on that occasion, by addressing them at length, upon the new and interesting position in which, under Providence, they were now placed. Still, he said, he could not but advert in a few sentences to the past progress of the Church in the district, embraced in the bounds of the Presbytery now formed, and to the continuing extension, rendering such formation expedient and necessary. Mr. Thornton remarked, that it was with no common interest that he contemplated these circumstances at present, and especially that he could look around upon so many associates in the work of the Lord. It had just occurred to him, (and it was with deep emotion he adverted to the fact) that it was just eighteen years that work, since he had entered the missionary field in Canada, and, under the guidance of Him who "fills the bound, of our habitation," first commenced in that vicinity to preach the gospel, and to seek out and gather together the followers of Christ, then "few and far between," attached to the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Presbyterian Church. Throughout the whole district now embraced in their operations, the Township of

Hope alone, at that time, presented any thing like a congregation; and there alone, was there a Presbyterian place of worship. It was not, however, occupied by any regular dispensation of ordinances; the flock was scattered, without a shepherd, few in number, and feeble, like almost all in those times, in regard to ability to support the gospel. And when he "looked back upon all the way by which God had led" the Church in this district, he had been powerfully struck by the important question, "who shall dispense the day of consolations?" "Not by might or power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts." "For the day of small things" had truly passed away. When he settled down, the sole representative of the cause in those bounds, and at fully eighty miles distance from his nearest fellow labourer, and while "the darkness in the words" were but few, yet one society after another, with a little attention, presented the genius of Congregations, and eagerly desired a supply of the gospel. "Thus every town after evangelization had been organized, and before long we were met by the 'Lord of the Armies' till at length a large, and even of the most important and interesting districts in the country, had been embraced in the operations. Many of these congregations were now large and flourishing, and many commodious places of worship had been erected. And much to comfort near his feelings, the same comfort, which raised to preside at this first meeting of the Durham Presbytery, composed of congregations of which, under God, he had, with one exception, been the founder; and that, virtually the brethren of the Presbytery, and the congregations under their oversight, were gratefully bound to acknowledge "the good hand of God upon them"—"to thank him and take courage."

The moderator was so animated that he could not be proceeded with, and suggested that the first step should be to choose one to fill, for the ensuing year, the place he occupied by appointment of Synod. The Rev. Mr. Cassie was then unanimously chosen as moderator for the ensuing year, and took the chair accordingly. Mr. Thornton was then elected unanimously, as clerk of the Presbytery, and the Moderator, and the President, although of considerable interest, it would not be proper to notice further. The Presbytery agreed to hold its meetings quarterly, viz. on the Tuesdays after the first Sabbath of July, October, January, and April, and during the current year, alternately at Newton and Newcastle.

May the brethren of the Presbytery receive an abundant supply of those blessings of "peace and prosperity," invoked by them in their opening exercise of prayer. May "the beauty of the Lord their God be upon them."—Commented.

PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.

At a late meeting of the Presbytery of London, held in Ingersoll, on the 25th August, on such things, in relation to the property of our Church, and the increasing plurality of our principles, we are informed, were brought before that Court. Among them, we notice particularly, and with pleasure, the formation of a congregation in connection with the United Presbyterian Church in Canada. This infant congregation is composed of twenty four members, and is countenanced and encouraged by a considerable number of highly respectable adherents. Its members were formerly in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Canada. Under the auspices of that Church they, with a considerable more, were formed into a congregation, about the time of, or at least, shortly after, the disruption in the Church of Scotland. From that period, up to the time of their application for admission into the fellowship of our Church, they seem, as a Christian community to have enjoyed little rest. During the whole of that period they do not seem to have had a regularly constituted session at all. Elders, indeed, had been elected, but they could not be called to represent to the nation Church of the Confession of Faith, and of course, they were never ordained. The fundamental evil which occasioned so much confusion, and which ultimately caused the Free congregation of Ingersoll, and compelled the most pious and exemplary of its members to sever themselves from it, was the attempt to erect a thorough voluntary church, upon the very questionable and equivocal principles, which are held by the Presbyterian Church of Canada. Its members were abundantly active and zealous. Many of them were distinguished by their Christian character, and their high and exemplary deportment; still their minds could not get any ground on which to rest, and their consciences to repose. They had been led to believe that on abandoning the Church of Scotland they had abandoned altogether Establishment principles. At true, indeed, is this, that many formerly in connection with the United Secession joined them at once, and cooperated with them most heartily in the erection of a church, and in the support of religious ordinances. Can you imagine, then, their amazement and mortification, on a case occurring involving a question upon the constitution of their church, when they were given to understand that their principles must still be Establishment principles, and that their practice alone should be voluntary? The truth at once flashed upon their minds. They had been grievously mistaken or misled. No compromise of views—no tampering with truth—no mental reservation could satisfy them. They at once dissolved their connection with the Presbyterian Church of Canada, and sought it with a Church whose principles and practice are both alike voluntary.

The Rev. Mr. Murray was appointed to preside at the election of elders on the 15th inst., and the Presbytery is to meet at Ingersoll, on the 20th inst., at 11 A. M., to ordain them if they shall see cause.—Com.