

munity. Justice was meted out by him with even hand. He was also an active politician, and on more than one occasion he was mentioned as a possible candidate for legislative honors. Had he lived longer, he might possibly have been called to serve his section of the country in this way; also, and there is no one who knew him but will admit his eminent fitness for such work as our Houses of Parliament are called to perform.

Mr. Ratcliff has been called away at the comparatively early age of sixty-four, his great natural vigor scarcely abated. He leaves behind him a widow and a family of seven sons and three daughters. One of these sons, bearing his father's name, is now the respected minister of Ancaster. Others are receiving education which, we trust, may issue in their filling similar positions, with benefit to the Church and with honor to themselves. The funeral took place on Wednesday the 13th of March. The services were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Carmichael of Columbus, the Rev. Mr. Hogg of Oshawa, and the Rev. Mr. King of Toronto. The attendance, considering the state of the roads, was extremely large, testifying to the great esteem in which the deceased was held. "The memory of the just is blessed."

STUDENTS' MISSION SOCIETY.— PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE, MONTREAL.

The following contributions, received up to April 13th, are very thankfully acknowledged by the Treasurer:—Mr. Chas. McLean, \$5; Coaticook and Richby, per T. A. Nelson, \$20; Mr. John Mordy, B.A., per C. McKillop, B.A., \$5; Mr. Wm. Drysdale, per William Shearer, \$2; Missionary Association of Stanley Street Church, per A. G. MacDougall, \$25; Mr. C. E. Amaron, B.A., \$5; Mrs. Morris (Ste. Therese) per C. E. Amaron, B.A., \$5; Miss K. Fyfe, per R. McKibbin, \$3; Mr. William Shearer, \$10; Mr. S. J. Taylor, B.A., \$5; Beauharnois, per Miss Mary Kilgour, \$12; Mr. James Macfarland, \$5; Mrs. Prof. Campbell, \$10; Mr. John Wilson, L'Amable, per J. T. Donald, \$15; Chateaugay, per Mrs. R. Lang, \$21 50; Farnham and Brookside, per P. R. Ross and D. L. McCrae, \$5; Crescent Street Church, \$50; The Ridge, \$2;—in all, \$205.50.

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

THE contract for a white brick church at Queensville has been let to Messrs. Ramsay, of Sutton, for \$2,100.

At a meeting held in the Presbyterian Church, Vankleekhill, on the 1st inst., an address expressive of sincere attachment was presented to the Rev. Wm. Grant, on the eve of his departure, by the teachers, pupils and friends of the Sabbath School, accompanied by a tangible expression of their esteem in the shape of a purse containing one hundred dollars, to which he has responded in the most feeling terms. Mr. Grant, who has demitted his charge on account of the unsatisfactory state of his health, was greatly beloved by his people. After a protracted rest, his medical advisers expect that he will be able yet to serve his Divine Master for many years to come. He leaves Vankleekhill amid the regrets of all God's people among all Protestant evangelical denominations, and is followed with their fervent prayers to a throne of grace that he may soon be restored to his wonted health, and spared to do much service yet in the vineyard.—COM.

THE Rev. John Ferguson, B.A., formerly of Honeywood and Osprey, was, on the 3rd of April, inducted into the pastoral charge of Lobo and Caradoc, in the Presbytery of London. The Rev. F. McRae, of West Williams, preached on the occasion; the Rev. J. Renzie, of Ailsa Craig, presided and addressed the minister, and the Rev. D. Camelon, of London, addressed the people. At the close of the services the managers came forward and put into Mr. Ferguson's hands the first half-year's salary. This congregation has been vacant since the retirement of the Rev. Duncan McMillan, their former pastor, over three years ago. They have not suffered so much, however, from this long vacancy, as might have been expected. The congregation have kept well together. Caradoc has built and paid for a handsome new church, and Mr. Ferguson enters upon his duties with very encouraging prospects of success.

PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL.—A Quarterly Meet-

ing of this Court was held in St. Paul's Church, Montreal, on the 2nd and 3rd of April. There was a large attendance of ministers, and a much larger attendance of elders than is usually the case here or elsewhere throughout the church. The Rev. Mr. McKay, of Brighton, England, Rev. Mr. Armstrong, Ottawa, Rev. Mr. Dey, Brockville, and Rev. Mr. Elliot, Montreal, being present, were invited to sit and deliberate at this meeting. Fourteen Session records were laid on the table for examination, and committees appointed to report on them. The order of business was fixed upon, and 3 p.m. agreed on as the time when Commissioners to the General Assembly shall be chosen. When this hour arrived it was resolved to elect nine ministers and nine elders. It was further resolved to elect five ministers by rotation, and four by ballot. It was moved by Mr. Warden, seconded by Dr. Jenkins, and resolved to form a Roll for this purpose, giving each minister a place on the Roll according to the length of time he has been connected with the Presbytery. The Roll having been formed the following ministers were found to be elected in terms thereof: Dr. Muir, James Watson, M.A., James Patterson, John Mackie, and Principal M'Vicar, LL.D. Those elected by ballot were: Dr. Jenkins, Robert Campbell, M.A., J. S. Black, and Charles A. Doudiet. The Elders chosen were: Messrs. Alex. M'Pherson, David M'Farlane, A. C. Hutchison, Andrew Boa, Andrew Somerville, A. C. Clarke, David Morrice, William Robb, and James Lillie. The report of the Committee appointed to amalgamate the two congregations hitherto meeting in Athelstane church was received, read, and adopted, and the thanks of the Presbytery given to the Committee, and especially to Principal M'Vicar, for their diligence. A Memorial from the Kirk Session of Crescent Street congregation, formerly Free Church, Cote Street, showing that the congregation, as a whole, had moved to their new church, asking the Presbytery to rescind the Minute relating to them of date 12th January, 1876, also to appoint a meeting for moderation in a Call there at an early date, was read. It was moved by Rev. R. Campbell, and resolved, 'That the Presbytery has heard with great satisfaction that the congregation has moved in its entirety to their new edifice, grant the prayer of the memorial, and declare that the resolution referred to, in the altered circumstances of the congregation, be held as no longer in force. The Presbytery also appoint a meeting for Moderation in Crescent Street Church, on Tuesday the 16th, at Eight p.m. The moderator to preach and preside; the Edict of Moderation to be served on the 7th and 14th. The Presbytery, after examination, resolved to apply to the General Assembly for leave to take Messrs. J. R. M'Leod, Chas. McKillop, B.A., and W. D. Russell, students in divinity, on trials for license. The Rev. Mr. Watson, on behalf of the Session of Huntingdon and Athelstane, asked the Presbytery to change the name of said congregation to that of the Second Presbyterian Church, Huntingdon. The name was changed accordingly. The Rev. J. C. Baxter, of Stanley Street Church, Montreal, having been appointed a delegate to the Synod of the U. P. Church of Scotland, got leave of absence for four months. It was moved by Mr. Baxter, seconded by J. S. Black, and resolved, "That this Presbytery nominate the Rev. John Jenkins, D.D., St. Paul's, Montreal, as Moderator of the ensuing General Assembly. The Presbytery concluded their examination of the Remit on Ecclesiastical Procedure, also the proposed regulations for the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund. The report of the Home Mission Committee was read by Rev. R. H. Warden, Convener, and its recommendations, with certain modifications, adopted. Principal M'Vicar introduced to the Court Messrs. Omer Camerle, George Bernard Tanguay, and Antoine Internoscio, formerly priests of the Roman Catholic Church, who had applied to the Board of French Evangelization, and had by the Board been recommended to attend the Presbyterian College, Montreal. Dr. M'Vicar expressed himself as favourably impressed with these gentlemen during his intercourse with them. Their case was referred to a committee. The committee reported that they had examined them in Greek, Latin, Church History, and Divinity, and testified to their intelligence and proficiency. The Presbytery accepted the report, and appointed another committee,—Rev. R. Campbell, Dr. M'Vicar, and Charles A. Doudiet, still further to consider their case and report to a meeting to be held in May. The report on the state of religion was read, showing the

number of Sessions that had sent in returns, and giving a classification of the replies given to the questions sent down to Sessions. The Presbytery thank the Committee, and especially the Clerk, who acted as Convener, and express the hope that more returns on this most important subject will be received within the next few days, and instruct the Clerk to embody all in his report, and transmit it to the Convener of the Synod's Committee. The Presbytery Roll was revised, and ordered to be transmitted, attested by the Clerk as the Roll of the Presbytery of Montreal.—JAMES PATTERSON, *Presbytery Clerk*.

PRESBYTERY OF PETERBORO. This Presbytery met on the 26th March. There were fifteen ministers and eight elders present. Applications for monies and missionaries to the Home Mission Committee were approved. Mr. Robertson, a member of the Coldsprings Congregation, was recommended to the Home Mission Committee for employment as a Catechist. The trustees of the Minden Mission Manse were requested to send a copy of the deed to the Clerk of Presbytery, with certificate of registration, as the first step to the obtaining of help from the Presbytery, in wiping off the indebtedness on the Manse. Leave was granted to make application to the Home Mission Committee for \$3 instead of \$2 per week, as hitherto, for the Minden mission field. In the matter of the Call from Chalmers' Church, Woodstock, to Mr. W. A. McKay, there was earnest and powerful pleading for and against the translation. Mr. McKay was heard, and stated in substance, that after much careful and prayerful consideration, he had come to the conclusion that it was his duty to accept of the Call. On motion made, the translation was unanimously agreed to, with great reluctance on the part of the brethren. Mr. M'William was appointed Moderator of the Session of Baltimore and Coldsprings during the vacancy. A committee was appointed to draw up a suitable Minute in reference to Mr. McKay. The following are the delegates appointed to the General Assembly: Messrs. Ewing, Windel, Smith, by rotation; and Messrs. M'William, Cameron, and Bell, by election. The elders appointed are Messrs. Sanderson (Springville), Russell (Coldsprings), Carnegie (Peterboro), Fotheringham (Norwood), Morrison (Omamee), and Smith (Lakefield). The resignation of Mr. Hodnett was ordered to lie on the table for three months. On the part of delegates from Mr. Hodnett's charge, there was an expression of great unwillingness to part with him. It is earnestly hoped, on the part of the Presbytery, and on the part of the congregation, that the difficulties in the way of retaining Mr. Hodnett will be removed before next meeting of Presbytery. The next ordinary meeting of Presbytery was appointed to be held in Millbrook, on the first Tuesday in July, at Eleven a.m. A communication was read from the Lindsay Presbytery, asking that steps be taken to make a rearrangement of the stations along the boundary line between the two Presbyteries. It was agreed that Mr. Bell, Mr. Ewing, and Mr. Bennett, ministers, with Mr. Carnegie, elder, be a deputation to confer with the Lindsay Presbytery on the subject, at its next meeting, on the last Tuesday of April. Mr. Fotheringham was appointed Convener of the Presbytery's Sabbath School Committee, in room of Mr. McKay. The other members of committee are Mr. Clarke, of Lakefield, and Mr. Henderson, of Cobourg. Mr. Carnegie was appointed Treasurer of the Minden Mission Fund. It was agreed that the remit from the General Assembly on the subject of a Widows' and Orphans' Fund, be approved, with the recommendation that in the 11th clause \$2 be substituted for \$1. It was agreed to recommend that the present arrangement in relation to the Colleges, should continue for another year. The appointment of an agent for the Home Mission Work of the Church was thought to be inexpedient. Anent retired Ministers it was declared as the mind of the Presbytery, "That the names of Ministers retiring by leave of the Assembly and living within the bounds be retained on the Presbytery Roll." Messrs. Donald, Cameron, and Cleland, Ministers, with Mr. Craick, Elder, were appointed a Committee to examine the paper on Ecclesiastical Procedure, and to report to a meeting of Presbytery to be held at Kingston during the meeting of Synod. It was agreed that the names of Ordained Missionaries, referred to in the remit, be put on the Roll of Presbytery. Questions to office bearers, and the formula, were agreed to *Simpliciter*. Mr. Cameron was appointed to declare the pulpits of Baltimore and Coldsprings vacant on the 14th of April.—WM. BENNETT, *Presbytery Clerk*.