

Grafton, members of the Sabbath School committee, were appointed to draw up a series of questions, to be submitted to the respective sessions, in order to obtain information on the state of Sabbath school instruction within their bounds; and, if possible, to stimulate the various congregations to engage with energy in the work of Sabbath-school instruction.

The same ministers, with the addition of Mr Rogers, Peterboro'. and Mr. Morgan, elder, were appointed the Mission committee of Presbytery for the current year.

The next meeting of Presbytery was appointed to be held at Cobourg, on the second Tuesday of November, at 12 o'clock.

JOHN W. SMITH, *Pres. Clerk.*

COMMISSION OF SYNOD.

The meeting of the Commission took place in Knox's College, according to appointment of Synod, on Wednesday, 12th ult., at 12 o'clock, noon. A very considerable number of ministers from various Presbyteries, were present.

Dr. Willis, on the part of the committee appointed to prepare a Book of Discipline, reported progress to the effect, that considerable advancement had been made in the preparation of the work which, in all probability, would be ready for being submitted to Presbyteries in the course of a few months.

The Commission sustained the Report, and instructed the committee to proceed with their labours, and, if possible, to have the manuscript ready for being submitted to Presbyteries by the first of January.

The attention of the Commission having been drawn to the partial and inadequate manner in which the appointments of Synod, in matters of general interest, are frequently carried out by Presbyteries and individual ministers, agreed earnestly to recommend to Presbyteries to attend to such matters within their respective bounds.

In the view of an apprehended visit of pestilence, the Synod appointed a committee to take all competent steps for the appointment of a Day of Public Humiliation and Prayer, to Almighty God, if the events of Providence shall seem to call for or warrant such an appointment:—The committee to consist of Dr. Burns, Dr. Willis, Mr. Irvine, Mr. Reid, Mr. Wightman, Mr. Ure, Mr. M'Murich, and Mr. Shaw.

Thereafter, the meeting of Commission was closed.

MINISTERIAL DEVOTEDNESS.

The substance of an Address delivered at the induction of a minister, and published by request.

Not on ministers alone, but on every individual believer, rests the obligation to devotedness and self-dedication to God. The Apostles often and distinctly state God's claims upon us, and his expectation of our willing

service and entire devotedness. "I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service." "Ye are not your own, for ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit which are God's." As the first believers, rejoicing in pardon and the love of God, counted nothing they possessed their own, so ought we to sit loose to the world, and to rise above it, living by faith not by sight.

Ministers are called to a peculiar work, and devotedness to that work is the business of their lives. To glorify God in the salvation of souls, is the minister's work; and it will be seen at once that this is a holier work than others. There is nothing in the character of a sacrificial priesthood in the Church of Christ. Christ is our great and Holy Priest, and this sweeps away at once all priestly absolutism as forming a part of the ministerial office. It is not to priest or prelate that the sinner is to be brought. But the Gospel brings men directly to Christ, as prophet, priest, and king. Christ in the midst of the church is all in all; and Christ, in the believer's faith and hope, is the One Mediator between God and man. The Christian ministry is not a divine order, in the Roman sense of the word; but the minister's is a divinely appointed work, and ministers are appointed and sent forth by Jesus Christ himself. Neither Prelate nor Presbytery may claim the right of giving this commission. The Presbytery doth, in accordance with Christ's own appointment, ordain to the work, by the laying on of hands; but no ordination of the Presbytery can make a true minister of Jesus Christ. The call and commission must come from Christ our king, who gives some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. Men may claim an infallible episcopal succession of the gospel ministry. Satan laughs this dogma to scorn. Bring men after any formula you please, into the work of the ministry, uncalled and uncommissioned of Christ and you do Satan good service.

The ministerial work, and devotedness to it, are the two topics to which I now ask the reader's attention.

1. *The Work.*—We have already seen that the minister's aim is the glory of God in the salvation of his hearers. In order to this, he must unveil to them their relation to God; he must seek to convince them of their alienation and ruin, of their guilt and misery; he must endeavour to shew the nature of the change which they must experience; and he must preach Christ in his fulness and freeness, and insist upon the specific acceptance of Christ, as he is freely offered to them in the Gospel. All this he must do, acknowledging every time he preaches from the pulpit, or teaches in the homes of his people, that the Spirit alone can give efficacy to the word. The proclamation of the Gospel,