

lieved she was not ashamed to confess. She was not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, which was the power of God unto salvation to her. Attached to her own church, she was ever ready to receive into her affections all in whom she recognised a love to the Saviour. As cold water to a thirsty soul, so was to her good news from a far country of the progress of Christ's cause and kingdom. She was deeply grieved in hearing or witnessing irreligion and ungodliness. Her death was such as might have been anticipated from her life. Her health and strength gradually failed her. She was conscious that her end was approaching, and her confidence that He in whom she had believed would keep that which she had committed unto Him, was unabated. Suffering but little, if any pain she calmly yielded up her spirit unto God. Her name will not soon be forgotten by those who knew her, and to her surviving children, who were so long witnesses of her walk and conversation, she has left a name fragrant with recollections of what she was, and of what she did. She has left a character to admire, and an example to imitate.

PRESBYTERY OF WHITBY. This Presbytery met in St. Andrew's Church, Whitby on the 18th inst. The following items of business were disposed of:—Mr. Drummond, Newcastle, was appointed Clerk of Presbytery; Mr. Peattie was appointed Moderator for the next twelve months. The Records of the Kirk Sessions of Dunbarton, Claremont, Erskine Church, Whitby, and Oshawa, were examined and attested. Those sessions that had not yet produced their Records were ordered to do so at next meeting. Mr. Kennedy gave in his resignation of Dunbarton and Canton, and the Presbytery summoned his congregation to appear for their interests at next meeting of Presbytery, when the resignation will be considered. A committee was appointed to make arrangements for Missionary Meetings in all the congregations, at which the claims of the Foreign Missions would be specially presented. The Sessions were instructed to forward their reports on the State of Religion to Rev. W. M. Roger, Ashburn P.O. The congregation of Enniskillen and Cartwright petitioned for assistance from the Home Mission Fund; after a careful examination of their financial state, it was agreed to apply for \$150 per annum, provided they have a settled pastor. The College Fund was referred to a committee. The first hour of next meeting is to be occupied with a Conference on the state of Religion. Business from the Assembly and some other items were left over till next meeting which is to be held in Whitby, on the third Tuesday of March 1878. A. A. D.

PRESBYTERY OF PARIS.—The Paris Presbytery met at Tilsonburg, on Tuesday the 18th December, the Rev. R. N. Grant, Moderator, *pro tem*. The Presbytery after having been formally constituted and the minutes read, resolved itself into a conference on religion, when addresses were delivered by Dr. Cochrane on Home and Foreign Missions; by Mr. McEwen of Ingersoll, on Sabbath Schools, and Mr. D. D. McLeod of Paris, on Evangelical life. A large congregation was present and deep interest manifested in the subject of the addresses. Among the more important items of business transacted were the following:—The clerk read letters from Rev. Hugh Thompson, relating to certain moneys alleged to be due him from St. Andrew's Church, East Oxford, and the Home Mission Committee. In Mr. Thompson's absence the matter was left over for consideration, until next meeting of Presbytery. The committee appointed at last meeting to prepare a scheme for Presbyterial Visitation reported a series of questions to be put on such occasions, to the ministers and office-bearers of churches. The questions having been read by Mr. Grant the convener of the committee, and considered *seriatim*, were, after a few slight amendments had been made—ordered to be printed, and circulated for the information of members—final action to be taken on the whole subject at next regular meeting of Presbytery. Mr. McMullen was appointed to visit the stations at Beachville, Sweabour and Old St. Andrew's, East Oxford, and enquire into their condition and prospects. A committee consisting of Mr. Lowry and Dr. Cochrane was appointed to arrange for the deputies of the Foreign Mission Committee and the Missionary Meetings of the various congregations within the bounds. Reports on the state of religion, not yet handed in, were ordered to be sent to the Rev. James Little, Princeton, on or before the 15th January, 1878. The committee to

prepare the Annual Report is as follows:—Messrs. Little, McLeod, and J. Thompson, ministers; and Messrs. Lillico, and Ronald, elders. Extract minutes of the congregations of St. Andrews, East Oxford and Shavers' Corners, were read, to the effect that a "Basis of Union between said congregations had been agreed to." The Basis of Union having been considered, the Presbytery after deliberation agreed to express its gratification at the proposed union, and give its cordial assent to the same, and further agreed to instruct Mr. Aull formally to announce the action of Presbytery, and declare the congregations of Shavers' Corners and St. Andrew's, East Oxford, united in one pastoral charge, to be known as St. Andrew's Church, Blenheim, and St. Andrew's Church, East Oxford, in terms of the Basis of Union submitted to and approved by Presbytery. A circular was read from the Convener of the Assembly's Committee on Sabbath Schools, proposing certain questions for consideration regarding the advancement of the work. On motion the matter was left over until next regular meeting. A committee consisting of Messrs. Grant, McMullen, and Little, ministers, and Mr. J. Rutherford, elder, were appointed to report to next meeting, on the Book of Forms. The Presbytery then adjourned to meet at Paris, and within River Street Church there on the first Tuesday of February, 1878, at 11 a.m. —WM. COCHRANE, Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF OWEN SOUND.—This Presbytery held its last regular meeting in Division Street Church, Owen Sound, on the 18th inst. Mr. Somerville read his report on the Scottish National Bible Society, and the obligations of this Presbytery thereto, which was received, and a committee appointed to correspond with the different Depositories with the view of having the accounts closed, and the books on hand disposed of. A petition was read from the session and congregations of Kilsyth and North Derby, asking for a moderation in a call. The request was granted and Mr. Currie was appointed to preach at Kilsyth and moderate in a call on the 3rd prox. On the matter of the collection ordered to be taken up by the several congregations within the bounds, to aid the Warton Church Building Fund the following sums were reported: Division Street Church, Owen Sound, \$18; Latona, \$7; Chatsworth, \$12.70; Leith and Annan, \$13.25; Sydenham, \$1.50; Meaford, \$7.90. The Treasurer was instructed to forward to Warton what funds are on hand for this object, and Mr. Dewar to continue his diligence till, if possible, the sum of \$150 be raised by this Presbytery for the Warton Church. Messrs. Cameron and Stevenson were instructed to carry out the instructions of Presbytery at its last regular meeting, anent Ravenna and Collingwood Mountain Stations, as soon as possible. The Thornbury and Heathcote congregations, applied through their Moderator for leave to have a call moderated when they are ready therefor. The Presbytery instructed Mr. Whimster to procure and lay before it information as to the state of the Communion Roll, and the amount of stipend they are prepared to pay, before the request be granted. Professor McLaren's circular anent Foreign Missions was read, whereupon it was resolved, that having heard the circular anent the proposal of certain brethren to visit our congregations, with the view of stirring them up to give more liberally toward Foreign Missions, the Presbytery express the opinion, that in our circumstances we could not ask them to undertake such a journey with the hope of raising the contributions to that Fund, to an extent worthy of such a visit, but in the absence of these brethren, the Presbytery engage to do their best, each minister in his own way, toward the object in view, and in order to carry it out more efficiently appoint Mr. McDiarmid to take the oversight of our congregations doing their duty to this Fund. Mr. Somerville was appointed to discharge a similar duty in behalf of the ordinary College Fund. Mr. Currie was appointed to receive and tabulate answers to the questions on the State of Religion within the bounds of the Presbytery. Rev. Mr. Reeve intimated to the Presbytery that he would quit the Parry Sound Mission Field after the last Sabbath in May next. The Presbytery accordingly instructed its Home Mission Committee to look out for a suitable missionary for this Field. Mr. Stevenson was appointed Moderator of the Griersville Session. Mr. John Creaser gave in the report from the committee anent Mr. McNaughton's arrears, and the clerk read a letter from Mr. McNaughton. The report was received and the committee

instructed to continue its labors. The clerk's salary was fixed at \$50 per annum. A committee was appointed to draw up resolutions anent the present position of the temperance cause in this county. Messrs. Dewar, Cameron, Somerville, and McGill, to compose said committee. Messrs. Morrison, Somerville, Dewar, and Creaser, were appointed a committee to examine the remit sent down by the General Assembly anent Ecclesiastical Procedure, No. 7, and to report at the next regular meeting. Anent the remit regarding an agent for the scheme of the church in connection with the Home Mission Fund, the Presbytery resolved, that in the present position of the church's finances, it would not recommend such an appointment. The principle of a Common Fund for the maintenance of the Colleges in Toronto, Kingston, and Montreal, as set forth in Remit, No. 3, was approved of. Anent the status of retired ministers, the Presbytery resolved to recommend the General Assembly to enact that ministers who are allowed by the General Assembly to retire from ministerial work, and to have their names retained on the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, shall have their names (if they wish it) on the roll of their respective Presbyteries, provided they engage in no secular calling. In reference to the 5th Remit, the Presbytery recommended that ordained missionaries who are in active service in Mission Districts have their names on the roll of the Presbytery within whose bounds they are laboring. In compliance with the injunction of the General Assembly the Presbytery instructed each of its congregations either to form a missionary association, or an equivalent thereto, for the systematic maintenance of the various schemes of the Church. The Presbytery then adjourned to meet in the same place, on Tuesday, January 15th, 1878, at 2 o'clock p.m. —D. B. WHIMSTER, Presbytery Clerk.

PARTIES who have not completed their canvass for THE PRESBYTERIAN are requested to notice that the time is extended till 1st FEBRUARY NEXT. Subscriptions for 1878 remitted by that date will entitle the subscriber to a copy of the YEAR BOOK.

THE Education Society of East Ontario met at Brockville, on the 27th ult. Professor Riddell of the Ottawa Normal School was elected President. From the reports given in the daily papers we gather that the subjects discussed were important, and that much ability and intelligence were displayed in their treatment. The benefits accruing to a school from the use of examination papers to which written answers must be given by the pupils, were well brought out. There has, of late, been a tendency to resort to this method, and it is undoubtedly of great value in so far as it secures accuracy on the part of the pupils, and tends to promote good penmanship and composition; but it should not be overdone. The oral method is best for teaching—using that term in the sense of communicating knowledge—and written answers to questions are quite as useful, in their own place, and for their own purpose, which is to test the pupil's knowledge and fasten it more firmly in his mind. In the course of the discussions, the evil of "cramming," or charging the pupils' memories with matter which they do not understand, was thoroughly exposed. Principal Dawson of McGill College, Montreal, was present and delivered an able address on "Discipline." We hope the address will be published. Professor Macoun made some telling remarks regarding the excess of legislation in educational matters. Some of the speakers expressed the opinion that inspectors ought to have power to make third-class certificates perpetual when the teacher who possesses such, shews himself to be gifted with talent greatly above the average. We think this suggestion ought to be acted upon. The natural talent for teaching is scarce, and ought to be secured wherever found. There are many men in the profession who can shew a very high certificate, but who have not this natural talent for communicating knowledge, and who are therefore laboring under a disadvantage; while there are perhaps quite as many who are in possession of the natural talent, but are destitute of the capacity for acquiring knowledge necessary to enable them to take anything higher than a third-class certificate; and who, under the present system, are on that account, turned out of that profession which is best suited to their peculiar mental conformation, and in which they would be found much more useful than many men of much greater attainments.