

necessary enquiries and ascertained the feeling existing in these congregations, the prayer of the petition from Hespeler be granted to relieve Mr. Haigh from pastoral duty in connection with Preston, that he may be able to give all his services to Hespeler and Doon. Mr. Charles Davidson reported regarding the present position of certain church lots in Preston, after which it was agreed that the clerk, with himself, be a committee to travel still further in the matter and report at next meeting. A report was submitted by Mr. J. A. R. Dickson, along with a tabulated statement of Sabbath school statistics from the committee on conferences, and a series of resolutions adopted on the subjects which had been discussed, when it was agreed that the report be received and the resolutions forwarded to the proper quarters. A petition was granted from the congregation of Knox Church, Guelph, for leave to moderate in a call, and Mr. Torrance was authorized to proceed to the moderation as soon as may be found most suitable. A draft of a proposed constitution was presented from the same congregation, and was referred to a committee composed of Mr. Middlemiss and Mr. Fisher to examine the same and report at next meeting. It was agreed by a large majority that Dr. King, of St. James' Square Church, Toronto, be nominated for the moderatorship of the General Assembly to meet in London in June next. The agents of the different schemes of the Church in the bounds reported their diligence in attending to the duties assigned them. There was produced, at the same time, a statement from the agent of the Church in Toronto, giving the congregations that had contributed to the various schemes, and the amount in each case. The following commissioners to the General Assembly were appointed:—The Rev. J. K. Smith, A. M., D. B. Cameron, Donald Strachan, George Haigh, and A. M. Hamilton, A. M., by rotation, and Dr. Wardrope and D. Tait, A. B., by election, and Messrs. A. D. Ferrier, A. D. Fordyce, John Scott (Galt), George G. Nichol, and John Scott (Mimosa), ruling elders, by rotation, and Mr. Charles Davidson and Wm. Watson by election. Mr. D. B. Cameron brought up the subject of Sabbath desecration by the Grand Trunk Railway, which has lately commenced running a passenger car in connection with a freight train between Stratford and Toronto on the Sabbath day. A committee was appointed to draft a petition on the matter and submit it at a meeting to be held some time during the meeting of Synod, which is to assemble in Guelph in the beginning of May next. The clerk reported the names of congregations that had not paid their rates to the Synod Fund. The clerk was instructed to endeavour to procure the services of Mr. James Grant, student, for the Second Church, Garafra, during the summer months. It was agreed to ask Mr. Porteous, who had been supplying Preston for some time, to continue his services for three months longer at least. Mr. Tait reported that the First Congregation, Guelph, at a meeting duly called, had resolved to sell their property, and, after paying their debts, to hand the balance to the Presbytery, to be given to the mission schemes of the Church. A report was presented from Hawkesville for the year, and the clerk was instructed to apply to the Home Mission Committee for the usual grant to that congregation. The next meeting was appointed to be held in Chalmers Church, Guelph, on the third Tuesday of May, at ten o'clock in the forenoon. The roll having been called and marked, the proceedings were closed with the benediction.

PRESBYTERY OF MAITLAND.—This Presbytery met at Lucknow, on March 20th, Rev. J. McFarland, Moderator. Minutes of session were handed in for review and committees appointed to examine the same. The following commissioners to the General Assembly were appointed: Messrs. Sutherland, Murray, Davidson, Bickell, by rotation; and Muir and Hamilton by ballot; ministers: Messrs. Inglis, Strachan, Murdoch McKinnon, by rotation, and Dickson and Stewart by ballot, elders. The session of South Kinloss asked the Presbytery to put them in possession of the session book of Kinloss congregation, or a verbatim copy of the same, at present held by Mr. Cameron. A motion was moved that the records up to the date of separation be kept by the Presbytery in the hands of the clerk, and that each congregation keep separate records from date of separation, and that each congregation have right of access to the original records in the possession of the clerk, as occasion may require. An amendment was

moved, that the original or a verbatim copy of the minutes of the session book in the hands of Mr. Cameron be given to Mr. Mackenzie, moderator of the Kinloss session, in accordance with his request, and that the said minutes be certified by the clerk of Presbytery. Amendment carried. Mr. Davidson dissented. Messrs. Sutherland and McIver appealed. Messrs. Wilkins and Eakin were asked to deliberate with the Presbytery. At the evening sederunt a conference on the State of Religion and Sabbath Schools was held, at which excellent reports on these subjects were read by Messrs. Ross and Muir, ministers. Addresses on these topics were given by other members of Presbytery. It was agreed that all the ministers within the bounds of the Presbytery be enjoined to preach a sermon on "Home Religion" on some Sabbath before the next meeting of Presbytery, and report their compliance at next meeting. The topic for discussion at next meeting is "The Religious Education of the Young," introduced by Rev. D. Cameron. A reference from the session of Melville Church, Brussels, was taken up. It appeared that the session had passed a resolution that the ordinance of baptism should always be administered on the Lord's day, at a diet of worship, except in case of sickness, and for other reasons deemed sufficient in the judgment of the session for deviating from this rule. There was some difficulty in carrying out this rule. The session reported the matter to the Presbytery, asking whether the session did what was in accordance with the laws of the Church, or were right and wise in making and endeavouring to enforce such a rule. Mr. Ross and Mr. Stewart were heard. On motion it was agreed, that this Presbytery having heard the reference from the session of Melville Church, Brussels, express approval of the action, as said session has, in the judgment of this court, acted in accordance with the rules of the Church. An extract minute from the Presbytery of Bruce was read, regarding a request from the congregation of Bervie to be transferred to this Presbytery. Messrs. Miller and Henderson appeared and gave information regarding the congregation of Bervie. A communication from the clerk of the Presbytery of Stratford, regarding the transference of Trowbridge to this Presbytery was taken up. It was agreed that in the case of both these congregations this Presbytery will offer no objections to receiving them when sanctioned by the Synod. A deputation, consisting of Messrs D. Cameron, McQueen, Sutherland and Murray, ministers, with their Presbytery elders, was appointed to visit the Ashfield congregation, and report at the meeting of the Synod. Professor McLaren was nominated Moderator of the General Assembly. The treasurer reported that all the congregations had paid their dues except one. The remit on mode of appointing the standing committees of the Church was approved of with this exception: recommend that when committees are composed of a representative from each Presbytery, that the appointment of these representatives be left to the several Presbyteries. Also, this Presbytery recommend that the expenses of all the standing committees be paid. The remit on theological education and examination of students was considered. On motion it was agreed, "That this Presbytery strongly disapproves of the remit, but in the event of its being carried in the Assembly, the Presbytery respectively suggest that power be given to the Board to grant degrees in Divinity." It was agreed that, on account of the circular containing the questions on Temperance coming so late, this Presbytery will be unable to report to the Synod committee. A circular from the Presbytery of Sydney was read regarding the reception of the Rev. James Scott of the Methodist Church. A paper was laid on the table regarding the deed of the Kinloss manse. Agreed, to consider it at the meeting of the Presbytery at the Synod.—**ROBERT LEASK, Pres. Clerk.**

PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.—This Presbytery met on the 13th ult., in First Presbyterian Church, London, at eleven a.m. The following are some of the items of business: Mr. Mungo Fraser was elected moderator for the next six months. The resignation of Mr. A. Fraser, of Guthrie Church, Longwood, and Cooke's Church, Caradoc, was accepted. The following commissioners to the General Assembly were appointed: Messrs. Hugh Cameron, J. Johnstone, A. H. Kippen, Dr. Proudfoot, J. Rennie, Alex. Henderson, N. McKinnon, ministers; J. Gordon, D. K. McKenzie, G. W. Ross, Thos. Short, Samuel Fraser, J. W. Robson, and Elliot Grieve, elders. Sabbath

school report was given in by Mr. Fraser; about 2,400 children were reported as under religious instruction; over \$1,150 were raised by the children, of which nearly \$300 were given for missions; almost all the advanced pupils study the Shorter Catechism. The following resolution was agreed to: "That the Presbytery recommend sessions to secure that the young people of our Sabbath schools be instructed in regard to the claims of the various schemes of the Church, and suggest that the collections of a proportionate number of Sabbaths be devoted to each scheme, according to its relative importance." The Convener of the Home Mission presented his half-yearly report. A report was also given in on returns from congregations as to missionary meetings, and contributions by congregations. In connection with this report, the following recommendation was agreed to: "That all the families of the Church be urged to provide themselves with a copy of the 'Presbyterian Record' for the purpose of becoming acquainted with the mission work of the Church, and that sessions see that this recommendation be carried out." Dr. King was nominated Moderator of next General Assembly. The following recommendations of the committee on the State of Religion, together with the resolutions on the same, were adopted and ordered to be published in THE PRESBYTERIAN and "Record." Recommendations: 1. That the Presbytery give some strong declaration in regard to the hindrances specified in schedules, such as dancing, card-playing, tippling, Sabbath visiting, and excessive indulgence in amusements—even such as are in themselves lawful. 2. That the Presbytery earnestly urge parents to warn their families against the dangers of dissipating and infidel literature, and recommend that efforts be made to supply good and wholesome literature to the young. 3. That the Presbytery consider what, if any, special means might be adopted to deal with the "negative spiritual condition of Christian people," which is adduced as a main hindrance in the answer from one of the sessions. Resolutions: 1. That ministers and kirk-sessions use all wise and kindly efforts to instruct and warn our people against all those courses which the Word of God and long experience of life have shown to be most pernicious in all cases, and deadly in most cases to those who indulge in them; such as dancing (particularly in public places and assemblies) card-playing, tippling, which is but the prelude to the drunkenness to which tippling almost invariably leads. While not condemning all amusements, the Presbytery earnestly recommends those only which are truly recreating, such as music, sprightly and improving conversation, and all that large circle of lawful amusements which bring pleasure to the home, intelligence to the mind, purity to the heart, and benefit to society. 2. The Presbytery recommends sessions, families, and congregations to spare neither pains nor expense to provide for themselves and their children good selections from books of history, travel, science, discovery, and directly religious literature; such as the biographies of eminent and earnest Christians, such as the lives of McCheyne, Martyn, Williams, F. R. Havergal, and others; books of an attractive and improving character, as well as choice selections of more solid religious literature—all of which may now be procured at cheap rates and in large quantities. Such literature in our homes and Sunday school libraries would be the most effectual antidote to the pernicious and hurtful literature which is now working so much mischief among so many of our young, and which, the Presbytery believe, might, with proper care, be made as attractive to the young as is that pernicious literature against which we seek to guard those over whom we are called to watch with a truly parental solicitude. 3. In reference to the last recommendation the Presbytery state that none of the works of the power of darkness present a greater difficulty than the "negative spiritual condition of so-called Christians." We must not be discouraged if cases meet us where all efforts fail: even Christ Himself did not reach the heart of Judas Iscariot, nor did the wonders of the day of Pentecost save the Church from Annanias and Sapphira. Yet even this obstinate phase of unbelief and persistent enmity to the cause of Christ, should not be abandoned without an effort. Prayer to God, in whose hands even such hearts are, along with patient and faithful dealing, and the aggressive energy of more earnest members, may often arouse even these characters, and bear them on with the living mass to the work of Christ in the world.—**GEORGE SUTHERLAND, Pres. Clerk.**