

## PRESBYTERY OF BROCKVILLE.

To the Editor of the Record.

SIR,—

The Presbytery of Brockville having finished its annual visitation of the congregations and mission stations within its bounds, has devolved on me the task of making out a short report for the Record.

It may, no doubt, be gratifying to the Church at large to know, as it has been to the Presbytery to witness, the marked and increasing interest taken by our settled congregations in the Presbytery's Home Mission operations. As an evidence of the growing spirit of Home evangelisation, it may be observed that, the contributions to this scheme, for this year, have been in some cases double, and in others treble the amount realised last year. The mission stations, too, have evinced, by their very cheerful and respectable contributions, the warmest interest in the good work. Besides the sums subscribed towards the support of a catechist or missionary to labour among them, they have, in all cases, come forth with handsome collections, as a response to our appeals; thus testifying their high sense of the value and importance of the work of Home evangelisation. It is due to the generous and christian spirit of several of the friends in those stations, to which reference has been made, to state that, in addition to very liberal sums subscribed for the direct support of the Gospel among themselves, single individuals have thrown into the Presbytery's funds four and five dollar bills at the collection taken up on these occasions. The example thus set by individuals will, doubtless, produce a good effect in stirring up others in the exercise of a commendable emulation to "do likewise," not only in mission stations, but in old, wealthy, and long and highly favoured congregations, connected with our Free Presbyterian Church. The principal stations that require the immediate services of a catechist or missionary, and that are entitled, from their position and the just claim they have upon the Presbytery, by their very liberal efforts to sustain a labourer among them, are, Charleston, South Crosby or Elgin, Newboro', Westport, and Bedford. The Presbytery has passed a resolution expressive of its intention to apply to the Home Mission Committee to send, at the close of the session in Knox's College, two missionaries or catechists for these places. And that no obstacle may stand in the way of fully meeting the salaries of those missionaries, at the expiration of the time which they may be allowed to remain within the bounds of the Presbytery, provision is already made—the Treasurer of the Presbytery having in hand the greater part of the sum that will be required for this purpose. This the Presbytery considers not the least important and pleasing feature of the case, as no disappointment either on the part of the Presbytery or the missionary, on the score of the want of funds, can take place.

There are, besides the places already noticed, within the Presbytery's bounds, several other stations, the most important and flourishing of which are at present occupied by a most indefatigable and acceptable missionary. Merrickville, Burrit's Rapids, Bishop's Mills, &c., &c., are, and have been for six months past, supplied by a devoted and highly popular minister, and the good work of evangelisation progresses at a rate that surprises many, and that cannot but be gratifying to all the friends of a sound Presbyterianism. Bellamyville is supplied by the members of Presbytery in turn; and it is hoped that matters may, ere long, assume an aspect that will warrant the Presbytery to send a stated supply to this place—for some time past, only partially favoured with the preached word. The Presbytery of Brockville has, for some time, laboured under very serious disadvantages for engaging extensively in the Mission Field, from the fact that it has numbered, for four years past, only

five settled pastors—two of whom, from long, arduous, and untiring devotedness in the cause of their Master, are well worn in the service; but neither of these "faithful servants" yet resting from want of exercise. The Rev. Wm. Smart, should a very short term be added by his Master to the period of his past services, will have completed half a century as a pastor and missionary, in connection with our time-honored and thriving Presbyterianism. Yet this venerable man still preaches, and travels throughout the district, manifesting a spirit and energy in the work of Christ that would rather indicate youthful vigour than declining physical strength. At one of our Presbyterial missionary meetings, in particular, did this aged and yet vigorous father of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, seem to gather the spirit and fire of his youthful days, and throwing his whole soul into the subject of Missions, he concluded an eloquent address, animated to enthusiasm, with the theme of his earlier days, exclaiming—in a tone that those who heard the accustomed voice of their aged pastor will not soon forget—"When I enter upon the subject of Missions, I feel as if this old heart was again warmed with the blood of my youth, and these trembling limbs now feeble and worn, had regained possession of their long-lost elasticity!" The Rev. Robert Boyd, whose years of service in the Presbyterian Church in this Province, now count one-third of a century, still preaches and travels likewise, with an energy and fervour that would commend to the praise of the Church of Christ, many a man a quarter of a century younger in the ministry than he. Both these veterans, for two or three weeks, with a slight interruption, have travelled the district in company with their younger brethren, on our missionary tour, and were present at all the meetings held at this time, with two or three exceptions. Our brother Mr. Geggie, whose heart is warm in the missionary cause, and whose tongue is eloquent when he touches on the theme, we regret to say, was, from ill health, able to attend only at two of our meetings. The Presbytery was, however, in several cases, assisted by brethren of other churches, but its principal aid was received from the Rev. Hugh Brown, of Merrickville, whose relation to the Presbytery can only, as yet, be termed that of a co-worker in the Mission Field of our Church.

I shall reserve for the May number of the Record a more special account of our mission stations. This Report is already longer than I had intended as one article. I prefer short articles, but you will pardon me for transgressing the rule in this instance.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

J. M. MURRAY.  
BROCKVILLE,  
March 11, 1853.

## PRESBYTERY OF KINGSTON.

The Kingston Presbytery met in Kingston, on Tuesday, the 1st February. On the previous evening, a missionary meeting was held in Brock Street Church—John Miller, Esq., presided—and, besides the members of the Presbytery, the meeting was addressed by the Rev. Mr. Fenwick of the Congregational, by the Rev. Mr. Lavell of the Wesleyan, and the Rev. Mr. Gardner of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The meeting was one of the best we have had in Kingston.

The Presbytery having met merely *pro forma* in Kingston, adjourned immediately to Gananoque, where Mr. Chesnut delivered two trial pieces, a lecture and exegesis. In the evening a missionary meeting was held, at which the Hon. John McDonald presided. The meeting, as in former years, was very spirited and successful. The friends there are very busy making preparations for building a new church. A lot of ground, in a most eligible situation, has been presented by Mr. McDonald—a large sum of money has been subscribed—part of the work has been con-

tracted for. The building is to cost about £1000, and will probably be finished during the summer.

On the following day, Wednesday, the 2nd, Mr. Chesnut was examined in Hebrew, Church History, Theology, &c. The Presbytery agreed to record their satisfaction with the result of his examination, and on a conjunct view of all the circumstances, agreed, and proceeded to license him as a preacher of the gospel. In compliance with a petition from Madoc, Messrs. Rogers and Gregg were appointed to moderate in a call to a pastor for the congregation there.

In consequence of the extremely unfavorable state of the weather, the missionary meeting appointed to be held in Storrington, did not take place. Various circumstances also prevented the meeting at Ballinahinch from being very large, or encouraging. There had been some mistake about the time of meeting.

On the 24th February, the Presbytery met at Belleville. Messrs. Rogers and Gregg reported that the congregation at Madoc had given a unanimous call to Mr. Chesnut, to become their pastor. The call was sustained, and presented to Mr. Chesnut, who declared his acceptance of it. Subjects for trial were prescribed to him, with a view to his speedy settlement.

A letter was read from Mr. Reid of Kingston, tendering his resignation of the pastoral charge of Brock Street Church. Mr. Rogers also tendered his resignation of the pastoral charge of the Church in Demorestville. The Clerk was instructed to write to both congregations, requesting them to appear by deputation, before the next meeting of Presbytery, which was appointed to be held in Melrose, on the 2nd March.

On the 2nd March, the Presbytery met in Melrose, and heard Mr. Chesnut's trial pieces, and examined him on the usual subjects, and on a conjunct view of all the circumstances, agreed to proceed with his ordination on 10th March.

The Clerk reported that he had written to the Brock Street congregation, but had received no reply, and no objection being otherwise made, the Presbytery agreed to accept Mr. Reid's resignation, and appointed Mr. Rogers to preach in the Brock Street Church, on next Sabbath, and proclaim from the pulpit this act of Presbytery.

A deputation from the session of Demorestville congregation appeared before the Presbytery, and stated various reasons why Mr. Rogers' resignation should not be accepted. The farther consideration of the subject was deferred till the 9th instant, when the Presbytery agreed to meet in Demorestville.

At Demorestville, March 9th, the Presbytery met and resumed the consideration of Mr. Rogers' resignation, in the presence of the session and congregation. A very earnest desire was expressed on the part of all, that Mr. Rogers should be continued as their pastor. It appeared that, hitherto, there had been considerable remissness in the collection of the minister's stipend; but that means had now been taken for securing greater regularity for the future. Mr. Rogers stated that he was willing to leave the whole matter entirely in the hands of the Presbytery, who, to the great satisfaction of the people, decided that the resignation be not accepted.

The Moderator and Clerk were authorised to grant to the Rev. Robt. Reid a certificate of his ministerial character and standing.

On the 10th of March the ordination of Mr. Chesnut took place in Madoc. As one of the brethren has promised to furnish an account of this auspicious settlement, it will be unnecessary to give the particulars here.

WILLIAM GREGG, Pres. Clerk.

MELROSE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SOIREE. —On Tuesday evening last, a Soiree was held with great eclat in this Church, the proceeds of which are to be applied to the purpose of liquidating a small debt due on the building. The in-