

Mission Committee to distribute the services of Mr. Bethune between Walpole, Oneida, Cayuga, and Wellandport, giving a service every second Sabbath at Walpole, on the express understanding that such exertions will be made at these stations to contribute to the mission fund as will justify the Presbytery in continuing this arrangement, and instruct the Clerk to communicate this to the parties concerned.

Mr. Gale and Dr. Ferrier were appointed, in consequence of an application from Dunnville, to visit that place at their earliest convenience, for the purpose of examining persons nominated for the eldership, and organizing the congregation there, as also for the purpose of examining candidates for membership, and making up a communion roll, and taking steps to have the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper dispensed there as soon as possible.

An application was made from Wellington Square for additional supply of preaching, and also for the dispensation of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper there, when it may be convenient for the Presbytery. In answer to which the Presbytery resolved to appoint Messrs. Cheyne and Stark to visit that place and Waterdown, to preach, and ascertain the state of matters as to the supply of preaching, and report to the next meeting of Presbytery, and also to make such arrangements for dispensing the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper as may be found most suitable.

An application from the Deacons' Court of the congregation at Hamilton, for information as to the duties of the deacons' office, together with extracts from the minutes of that Court and of the Kirk Session, in reference to this subject, was given in and read. The Presbytery agreed to transmit the document to the Synod, with the request that the Synod will take up the subject of the duties and privileges of the deacons' office generally, and prepare an Act for the information and guidance of congregations.

The Presbytery then agreed to adjourn till after evening service.

The Presbytery resumed after service, when Mr. Bayne took his seat.

Mr. Mackintosh gave in the following overture to the Synod, which was adopted:

"That the Presbytery of Hamilton, deeply impressed with the destitution of divine ordinances which prevails throughout this land, and how incalculably important it is that a remedy for this evil, in so far as practicable, should be speedily afforded—and encouraged by the deep and parental interest which the Free Church of Scotland has manifested, and is still manifesting, towards us—and aware of the desire she has expressed that we would tender whatever advice or suggestions we might regard expedient to guide her as to the most efficient means for alleviating the evils under which we suffer from a want of the means of grace—would humbly overture the Synod to take this matter into their early and serious consideration, at its present approaching session, with the view of making to the parent Church such suggestions and recommendations as they may, after deliberation on so important a subject, judge most conducive, if followed, to the promotion of our spiritual interests; and also that the Synod would give its early and serious attention to the whole subject of home missions, with the view of adopting such measures as may be most calculated to diminish the evils flowing from so great a spiritual destitution as prevails, and to increase the supply of divine ordinances."

The subject of a Book and Tract Association in connection with the Presbytery was brought up, and the Committee formerly appointed to consider this matter was continued, with the addition of Dr. Ferrier, and enjoined to prepare a constitution for such an association, and present it at the next meeting of Presbytery.

It was moved by Mr. Gale, seconded by Mr. Bayne, and unanimously agreed to, that the thanks of the Presbytery be given to Mr. Fraser for the valuable discourse delivered by him this evening, which were accordingly conveyed to Mr. Fraser by the Moderator.

The Presbytery adjourned till to-morrow, at 10 o'clock A. M.

At the meeting on the following day, besides other routine business, Mr. Gale, Mr. Bayne, Mr. Stark, Dr. Ferrier, ministers, and Mr. Ewing, elder, were appointed a committee to prepare an

overture to the Synod on the subject of the Sustentation Scheme, in order to the promotion of its more general adoption and its more efficient operation.

The next ordinary meeting of Presbytery was appointed to be held at Hamilton, on Wednesday, the 3rd June ensuing, at 10 o'clock A. M.

The Presbytery was then closed with prayer.

Home Missions.

THE DUTY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA, AT THE PRESENT CRISIS, RESPECTING MISSIONS.

(Continued from our last number.)

Again recommending to our readers the suggestions of our correspondent on this subject, contained in our last number, we now lay before them the substance of his further observations in regard to it. We sincerely regret that we must give them in an imperfect form, from a private communication,—the remainder of the copy having disappeared, through the carelessness of the compositor, in whose hands it was left. The loss was not discovered until it was too late to have it replaced by the writer.

Another suggestion I would offer is this,—That the Church take it into her serious consideration whether some, perhaps a considerable proportion, of those who are employed as home missionaries in Scotland might not be advised to transfer themselves to this field of labour; thus expenditure would be saved to her, and benefit would accrue to us. What proportion are employed now in that capacity I know not; but previously to the Disruption I believe it was about 200. If even a fourth part of this number are now employed, a few of them might be spared; for though it is certainly of importance for missionaries to labour where there is a settled minister, it may be regarded as still more important that they should labour where the people are deploring silent Sabbaths: better that they should supply the want of a gospel ministry than be merely auxiliaries to it where it exists. This consideration we would not urge as a reason for a great diminution of home missionaries, but only as vindicating our claim to a small proportion of them; of such of them, for example, as may be labouring in localities where they can most easily be dispensed with.

I would still further suggest that the Church be solicited to do a little more for us, if possible, in the way of supplying Gaelic ministers; and in urging this it might be proper to express satisfaction and gratitude for the kind interest in our behalf the Church has shown in providing bursaries for such Gaelic students as shall, when qualified to preach, be at the disposal of the Church.

Lastly, I would suggest that such ministers as are sent to visit us might be permitted or enabled to remain with us for a longer period; and while we have reason to be grateful for those visits, however brief, still many benefits would accrue from their being more protracted. Our destitute settlements would be more fully supplied with their services, and they would, by attending our Synod, and otherwise, afford us the benefit of their counsel and advice. They could communicate more full information to the Church regarding our condition and circumstances. It would be well indeed if one well adapted for the task were sent for the express purpose of making a deliberate and thorough tour throughout all our destitute settlements, that the Church might have a complete view of our wants, and a more full idea of the urgency of our claims on their liberality and exertions.

Although in the foregoing suggestions I have expressly referred only to the Free Church of Scotland, I by no mean overlook the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, to which we lie under considerable obligation for their aid, and hope to be still further indebted. Though both the Church at home and ourselves have been of late more fully awakened to the wants of our expatriated countrymen, and led to still more strenuous efforts, still we may be said to come far short of what the exigency requires. It can scarcely be said of us in the language of scripture, that "We have done what we

could." We fervently hope the Synod, at its next meeting, will give to a subject of such vast and paramount interest that prominence in their councils to which it is entitled, and which, we fear, has never yet been assigned to it. We hope they will set themselves vigorously both to the adoption of means, which we ourselves can prosecute for the upholding of missions, and to the using the influence they possess with the Church at home, bearing in mind the circumstances to which we adverted in the commencement of our remarks, which are so favourable to the success of those applications. Let the Church both here and at home do her utmost, great destitution will still prevail; congregations will, ere they be supplied, be lost to us; and on others all inroads shall have been made by irreligion and indifference ere they obtain a gospel ministry. How much need is there, therefore, that we should strain every nerve in a cause, which, with the most persevering and indefatigable exertions will be but inadequately served, to remedy evils which, with all that can be done, will be but partially alleviated. And to our exertions we should add, prayers that the Lord would "send forth labourers into his harvest." He must provide them as well as bless their labours. In regard to the labourers themselves, as well as the good seed sown by them, it may be said, He must "give the increase;" and perhaps one reason why our efforts to repair the desolations of Zion, and to set more watchmen on the walls, have not been more successful, is, because pains have been too much divorced from prayers; because we have too much forgotten that "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it;" and that the "wilderness" will not be "a fruitful field" until the spirit be poured upon us from on high.

T.

M.

Letter from the Secretary of the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland to the Rev. John Clugston, of Quebec:

April 1, 1846.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—Dr. Buchanan only received your letter of the 26th January. As the College Session is just closing, and his labours are at present very arduous, he has requested me to acknowledge receipt of it, and to apologize for not replying to it himself.

Your letter was duly laid before the Colonial Committee, and it gave them a more distinct statement of the great destitution which exists in the eastern part of Canada, of which they were already generally informed. I need hardly assure you how affecting this destitution appears to them, and consequently how much they regret they are not yet able to send a sufficient number of men, in whom they have confidence, to supply that destitution. We have hopes, however, that we may be able to supply some of these ere long from the students in the Hall, who are directing their attention to the Colonial portion of the vineyard.

In the meantime, the Rev. Messrs. Fraser, of Kirkhill, and Mr. McLachlan, of Mo., are to sail for North America by the steamer of this month; and I have no doubt that you may be able to arrange to get them to visit some of those stations mentioned in your letter before they return home. Mr. Fraser will, I believe, be principally stationed in Canada West, but will still have some time, I hope, to visit your district. Glengary is the station assigned to Mr. McLachlan, but he also will not be there exclusively. Whatever arrangements, therefore, you can make with these gentlemen, the Committee will be glad if they can have an opportunity of visiting and encouraging those places which you mention.

I am,

Rev. and dear sir,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

JAS. BALFOUR, Junr.

Secretary.

A FUND FOR MINISTERS' WIDOWS, &c.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE RECORD.

SIR,—I have read with interest and approbation both the communications of your correspondent "Philadelphia," in regard to a Fund for the Widows and Orphans of the Clergy; and, agreeing entirely with him as to the propriety of the mea-