

PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.

The Presbytery of London met on the 10th of May, and owing to the amount of business before it, continued in session for two days. The following is an abstract of the more important parts of business transacted by the court:—

The induction of the Rev. W. Porterfield, late of Dunnville, over the congregation of Plympton, was appointed to take place on Tuesday, the 30th of May. The Rev. W. McLaren and the Rev. W. King were appointed a committee to conduct the induction services—the former to preach and preside—the latter to address the pastor and people.

The copy of an address on the subject of 'Temperance,' was read by the convener of a committee previously appointed to prepare it, which address the Presbytery approved of, and directed the committee to get 3000 copies of the same printed, and put into circulation among the congregations within the bounds.

A petition was presented from the Presbyterians of South Dorchester, requesting the services of a missionary every alternate Sabbath, and promising to pay an annual amount of £50 to the Home Mission Fund for said services; expressing at the same time their gratitude for the services of Mr. Duncan McColl, catechist, whose exhortations they had the privileges of attending for several years past. The Presbytery agreed to meet the request of the petition so far as their limited number of missionaries would allow them.

A similar petition was presented from the settlers of Bear Creek, township of Moore, containing interesting particulars respecting their condition, and requesting a supply of missionary service. The Presbytery agreed that, as they could not possibly send a separate laborer to Bear Creek, a certain amount of supply should be given to that station, by the missionaries who might be appointed to Sarnia and Wallacburgh.

A petition was presented from the Lobo branch of the Rev. L. McPherson's charge, in which the members there requested, that they should share their pastor's services equally with the Williams' branch of the congregation, and not be limited as they were at present, to one-fourth of his services. The Presbytery agreed to delay coming to a decision respecting the petition, and to summon both the Lobo and Williams portions of the charge to appear for their respective interests at next ordinary meeting.

The pastoral relation between the Rev. John Fraser and the united congregation of St. Thomas and Yarmouth, was dissolved.

Mr. James Ferguson and Mr. Peter Currie, students of Divinity, presented themselves before the court, and requested that they might be taken on trials for license, when the Presbytery, after having examined them on the different subjects of study included in the course, agreed to apply to the ensuing meeting of Synod, for leave to take them on trials for license.

The Rev. W. McLaren proposed, that the Presbytery overture the Synod respecting the importance of establishing a religious newspaper in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Canada. Mr. McLaren and Mr. King were appointed to prepare an overture, and support it in Synod.

The following distribution was made of the missionaries and catechists at the disposal of the Presbytery:—

Mr. James Ferguson was appointed for four weeks to Fingal, and for the rest of the summer half year to Wawanosh, Kincardine, and the neighbouring townships; Mr. Peter Currie, till the end of July, to Dorchester, Thamesford, and Yarmouth, and during the rest of the season to Fingal and Dunwich; Mr. Nicholson to divide the season between Caradoc and Bosanquet; Mr. Straith to Tilbury and other stations in the Chatham district; the Rev. James McNaughton—now at Saugeen—after the meeting of Synod,

to St. Thomas and Port Stanley. To supplement in some degree the scarcity of missionary laborers, several appointments were given to members of Presbytery. The Rev. W. S. Ball was appointed to spend four weeks at Wallacburgh, and some neighbouring stations; the Rev. A. Tolmie to preach at St. Thomas, on Sabbath, the 21st May, and the Rev. Mr. McMillan, at the same place, on Sabbath, the 28th of the same month; the Rev. R. Wallace to preach at Port Burwell, on any Sabbath most convenient to himself before next meeting of Presbytery. The Rev. D. McKenzie of Zorra, and Mr. Clarke, elder, of London, were appointed to spend four weeks, in the month of July, in a visitation to the newly settled townships of Wawanosh, Morris, and Grey. Mr. McKenzie's congregation to get a supply for two Sabbaths during his absence—on the one Sabbath by Mr. Allan of North Easthope, and on the other by Mr. McDiarmid of Woodstock.

JOHN SCOTT, *Pres. Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.—THE LATE MR. GALE.

At Hamilton, on the eleventh day of April, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four—the which day the Presbytery of Hamilton being met and constituted *inter alia*.

A committee was appointed to draw up a minute, expressive of the feelings of the Presbytery in regard to the demise of their late beloved and esteemed friend and brother, the Rev. Alex. Gale, to be recorded in the Book of the Presbytery and transmitted to the afflicted widow and family of the departed. The minute is as follows:—

"The lengthened period during which Mr. Gale laboured as a minister of the Gospel in Canada, the value of his services during that period, in fostering and developing the cause of Presbyterianism, and the prominent part which he took in the disruption, which led to the formation of the Presbyterian Church of Canada—as also in the management of the affairs of that church since its foundation, have made his character and worth familiar to our people; and, now that he is removed from among them, have we doubt not, secured for his memory that place in their veneration and esteem which is the best tribute to departed worth. At the same time his brethren of the Presbytery of Hamilton, with which he was so long connected, and which, after a temporary separation, enjoyed the benefit of his wisdom and experience, at the time of his lamented death, desire to put on record the estimate which they have been led to form of his high character and worth, and of the loss which his removal has caused both to his Presbytery and to the church at large.

By nature, Mr. Gale was endowed with varied talents of a high order, which would have fitted him to excel in any of the learned professions, or might have qualified him to prosecute with success any department of mercantile business; in particular he was distinguished for great soundness of judgment, much acuteness, and eminent practical sagacity, combined with that love of method and order, and that power of vigorous and sustained application which usually lay the foundation for what are termed "habits of business." In his youth his natural talents were carefully cultivated with a view to the sacred profession to which he had early devoted himself, and the result was apparent in his ample command of the learning necessary for the discharge of its important duties, and especially for securing the attention and respect of an educated and intelligent people. Brought up under the blighting influences of Moderatism, his attention on his first entrance on the ministry was more devoted to the mere cultivation of the literature of his profession, and to the promotion of some of the subordinate ends of the Ministry, than he afterwards saw to be right; but in the

course of his Ministry—his views opened up and enlarged under the teaching that is from above, and the character of his public ministrations and of his pastoral labours among the families of his flock, and all his private intercourse, with his brethren and friends, made it manifest that he had learned to glory only in the cross of Christ, and that his great aim, as a Minister of the Gospel, was to win others to that Saviour, who had become to his own soul, "all his salvation and all his desire." In the latter part of his Ministry in particular, sanctified affliction led to a rapid and marked development of the work of the Spirit in his heart, and none of his Christian friends but must have remarked, at and subsequent to that period, the peculiar solemnity, humility, and meekness of his prayers. In the Pulpit his discourses were characterised by much excellence in method and style as well as matter, and, but for the weakness of his voice, and the practice which he had early adopted of reading, he might have attained to high popularity—but even with these drawbacks, more felt in this country than in many others, his pulpit ministrations were, in general, highly acceptable, and especially esteemed as instructive, impressive, and persuasive. In pastoral labours he was devoted, and in this department of his work as a minister, his extensive knowledge of men, his large sympathy, and his power of adapting himself to the character and circumstances of those with whom he had intercourse, enabled him to display a skill and tact, and to exert a winning persuasive influence, which told, with happy effect, on the best interests of his people.

In the business of our Church Courts our esteemed brother not only felt, as a true Presbyterian, a deep interest, but took a leading part.—This he was peculiarly well qualified to do from his accurate and extensive acquaintance with the constitution and laws of the church, his eminent business habits, his great sagacity and prudence, and his skill and tact in debate; and considering that not only our own Church but Presbyterianism itself have been very much in their infancy in this Province during the greater part of the time over which his labours extended; it is scarcely possible to over-estimate the important services which, as a leader in our Church Courts, he has rendered to the cause of Presbyterianism in Canada.

In all departments of life Mr. Gale was distinguished for uprightness, and integrity, and for a hearty and refreshing hatred of every thing like underhand dealing, selfish manoeuvre, or that hunting after popular applause, which tends more than anything else to sink the character of ministers and to bring discredit on the church; and his disinterestedness in seeking the good of the Church was strikingly manifested in the readiness with which he responded to the call of the Synod, when asked to separate from an attached congregation and to take charge of the Academy connected with the College in Toronto—an act in which he seemed to repeat over again some of the sacrifices which, for the same cause and with the same singleness of eye, he had made at the disruption.

What he was as a friend, and in all the private relations of life, is best testified by the sincere grief with which all who knew him in these relations, mourn his loss, and the deep affection which they cherish to his memory. May God protect the Widow and the Fatherless, and may the removal of our beloved and esteemed friend and fellow-labourer be made the means of quickening and sanctifying ourselves, and of leading us more and more to the followers of them who, through faith and patience, are now inheriting the promises."

PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL.

A special meeting of this court was held on the 16th April. The Rev. Daniel Gordon, Moderator, presided.