

Presbytery of Saugeen.

The Presbytery of Saugeen met at Durban on Wednesday the 29th ult. The Moderator, Rev. A.C. Stewart occupied the chair.

Rev. D. P. Niven, Convener of the Finance Committee, submitted a report showing the amounts which had been contributed to the schemes of the church by the congregations within the bounds of the Presbytery. On the whole the contributions were found to be more liberal than they had been during the previous year. The report was adopted, ordered to be printed, and copies distributed among the congregations.

Rev. D. Fraser, treasurer reported that an assessment of ten cents per member of the congregations would be required to provide for the expenses of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly for the current year. The report was adopted and the Treasurer was instructed to make the necessary levy.

Rev. John Campbell, Convener of the Home Mission Committee, presented a report which showed that five mission fields were occupied by students during the summer, and that all are in good working condition. The following fields have asked for grants from the church: Aylton, \$200; Dundalk, \$200; Markdale, \$125; Osprey, \$100; Cotawold, \$100; Luther, \$100; Fenton, \$100; Berkley, \$3 per Sabbath. Rev. Mr. Campbell was instructed to secure ordained missionaries for Luther, Osprey and Dundalk; each offers a salary of \$600 per year.

A call was read from Chalmer's Church, Kincardine Township, in favor of Rev. C. Cameron, of Cotawold, offering a stipend of \$725 and manse. The call was laid on the table and Mr. Cameron and the congregation of Cotawold decided to appear at the next meeting.

A letter from Rev. Mr. Stewart, late of Arthur, was read, claiming arrears of salary to the amount of \$700 it was laid on the table till next meeting.

The evening sitting was taken up with the consideration of the Durham case, which ostensibly involves the introduction or non-introduction of the organ as an aid to the service of praise in the Durham church. The parties for and against the organ were heard and remarks were made by members of the Presbytery. A motion to the effect that the Presbytery decline to form a new congregation was moved. An amendment was also moved appointing a committee consisting of Revs. Donald Fraser and D. P. Niven and Mr. Jas. Murdoch, to meet with the petitioners and congregation on the 29th inst., at two P.M., to make further efforts to arrive at a peaceful solution of the difficulty, and report at next meeting of the Presbytery. The amendment was carried.

The Presbytery adjourned to meet again in St. Andrew's Church, Mount Forest, on Thursday, 21st instant.—Mount Forest Examiner.

A New Weather Theory.

The Rev. Henry Roe, F. R. A. S. (Eng) sends to the London *Times* a new theory of the weather. He claims to have determined by careful observations, extending nearly thirty years, that dry and wet periods succeed each other in alternate waves of nearly equal length. Not that this equality of duration is quite absolute, or that the wave of one period is exactly the same for each of a corresponding period at an earlier or a later period; but there is enough of regularity and uniformity about the waves to make the family likeness clearly discernible to any eye that looks for it.

These periods extend over three whole years for each, and the following simple rules will enable any one to work out the several cycles of years for himself:

1. When the number representing any given year is even and exactly divisible by three, that year is the middle one of three cold and wet summers.

2. When the number representing the year is odd and divisible by three, then that year is the middle one of a triad of dry and hot summers.

After testing by these rules the successful seasons of the past twenty-seven years, and finding the fact to conform to theory, Mr. Roe predicts that 1881 will be the middle one in a triad of hot and dry summers. What relations these dry and wet periods have, if any, to the recognized cycles of sun spots he has not made out, nor does an examination of recent seasons confirm the alleged harmony of the theory with fact.

Russia's Undeveloped Wealth.

A writer in the *Moscow*, of St. Petersburg, remarks that some of the richest territories in Russia are still almost unexplored. Although she has been in possession of Siberia—"that Russian California, which might be made an inestimable source of wealth to the whole Russian nation"—for 300 years, she has not derived any advantage from it. "We might," he says, "have become as rich through Siberia as England has through India, yet we turned it into a penal settlement instead of making it a colony and opening its natural resources to us by means of good roads with Central Russia." The immense mineral wealth of the Caucasus, too, has been scarcely touched. Extensive coal fields in the Government of Kutais, and the iron mines in the Government of Tiflis, represent so much dead capital. No iron goods are manufactured in the Caucasus, though the raw material is there in abundance. The soil and climate are admirably adapted to the cultivation of the vine, of tobacco, and of the silk-worm; yet the wine produced is of very inferior kind, there is but very little tobacco, and the silk of the Caucasus is very poor in quality. Much has been said lately about a development of the beet-root sugar industry in the Transcaucasus; but little has been done, although this has the best prospects of success. The writer concludes by expressing a hope that the promised establishment of technical and agricultural schools in the Caucasus will assist in the development of manufactures by spreading technical requirements among the people.

How Old is the Earth?

TRYING TO ASCERTAIN WHEN THE WORLD WAS FOUNDED.

(From the London Academy.)

Geologists, astronomers and physicists alike have hitherto been baffled in their attempts to get up any satisfactory kind of chronometer which will approximately measure geological time and thus give us some clue to the antiquity of our globe. It is therefore worth noting that Mr. Melard Reade of Liverpool has lately contributed to the Royal Society a very suggestive paper, in which he endeavors to grapple with the question by employing the limestone rocks of the earth's surface as an index of geological time. Limestones have been in course of formation from the earliest known geological periods but it would appear that the later found strata are more calcareous than the earlier, and that there has in fact been a gradually progressive increase of calcareous matter. The very extensive deposition of carbonate of lime over wide areas of the ocean bottom at the present day is sufficiently attested by the recent soundings of the Challenger. According to the author's estimate the sedimentary crust of the earth is at least one mile in average actual thickness, of which probably one tenth consists of calcareous matter. In seeking the origin of this calcareous matter it is assumed that the primitive rocks of the original crust were of the nature of gigantic or fossiliferous rocks. By the disintegration of such rocks calcareous and other sedimentary deposits have been formed. The amount of lime salts in waters which drain districts made up of granites and basalt is found, by the comparison of analysis to be an average about 37.3 parts in 100,000 parts of water. It is further assumed that the excessed areas of igneous rocks, taking an average throughout all geological time, will bear to exposures of sedimentary rocks a ratio of one to nine. From this and other data Mr. Reade concludes that the elimination of the calcareous strata must have occupied in all the sedimentary strata must have occupied at the least 900,000,000 of years. This, therefore, represents the minimum age of the world. The author infers that the formation of the Laurentian, Cambrian and Silurian strata must have occupied about 200,000,000 of years; the red sandstone, the carbonaceous and the dolomitic systems another 20,000,000, and all the other strata the remaining 200,000,000. Mr. Reade is, therefore, led to believe that geological time has been enormously in excess of the limits urged by certain physicists; that it has been ample to allow for all the changes which, on the hypothesis of evolution, have occurred in the organic world.

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BOOTS, BOOTS, BOOTS!

"Keep your Feet Dry."

I have just Opened Out an Immense Stock of

BOOTS,

Of all kinds, suitable for the Season,

The right kind and at right prices, to which I respectfully solicit the attention of intending purchasers.

J. H. HUNTER.

Durham, Sept. 2nd, 1880.

Bankrupt Sale of Hardware IN DURHAM.

F. J. HALL, of Walkerton, have bought the large stock of Hardware belonging to the estate of JAMES BLAIR & CO, is now offering to the Public the whole Stock, consisting of

Shelf and Heavy Hardware, Paints, oils, Varnishes, Carriage Trimmings, Glass, Cutlery, Silver Plated Goods, Mouldings,

Harvest Tools, Harvest Mitts, &c., &c., At Prices never heard of before in Durham.

Farmers, Builders, Blacksmiths, Painters, Carriage Makers, Cabinet Makers, and the General Public will find prices and goods to their satisfaction.

REMEMBER THE STAND,

One door South of PARKER'S DRUG STORE, Upper Town, Durham.

F. J. HALL.

Durham, July 24th, 1880.

Lower Town DRUG STORE.

G. C. MCFARLANE,

CHEMIST & DRUGGIST.

DEALER IN

Pure Drugs and Chemicals.

Dye Stuffs and Perfumery,

Stationery, &c., &c.

PATENT MEDICINES of all kinds constantly in Stock.

GROCERIES Cheap for Cash.

Fancy Goods at John Cameron's.

Special notice of the Ladies is called to his Stock of Goods, viz:

Lovely China Fichues, New Style of Embroidered Collars, Gretchen Bows, Muslin and Silk Scarfs, Chenille, Richings, Moto Pocket Handkerchiefs, Damask do., Hair Ornaments, Back Combs, Ladies' Neck Chaius, Lace Gloves, Coloured Lace Mitts, &c.

Frillings from 5 cents per yard up. GENTS REGATTA SHIRTS.

Wall Paper and Window Blinds.

Always noted for Good-Flavored TEAS from 35 cents up.

J. CAMERON.

FARMERS AND OTHERS

Who are anxious to have their Dwelling Houses, Barns and Contents Insured against loss by Fire, can do so at a low rate, and in a reliable Company who pay losses promptly.

Apply to JOHN CAMERON,

Agent Western Insurance Co., Durham.

J. C. JOPP,

ROCKVILLE,

MANUFACTURER and Dealer in

Boots, Shoes, and Leather.

Having received his Fall Stock of Goods is now in a position to offer a

FIRST CLASS ARTICLE

at old prices for cash, (although the raw material has advanced 10 per cent). Customers are invited to inspect anything in his store will please him.

He is anxious to do business with you, so that you will be disposed to buy his goods for his business. Superior Quality and cheapness is the basis of his competition.

Young Mr. Latehours was sitting on the porch the other night watching a seventeen-year-old girl trying to keep awake long enough to see the morning star rise. They talked astronomy. "I wish I were a star," he said, smiling at his own poetic fancy. "I would rather you were a comet," she said dreamily. His heart beat tumultuously. "And why?" he asked tenderly, at the same time taking her unwilling little hands in his own; "and why?" he repeated impudently. "Oh," she said, with brooding earnestness that fell upon his soul like a barefoot on a cold oilcloth, "because you would only come round once in every 1,500 years!" He didn't say anything until he was half way to the front gate, when he turned around and shook his fist at the house and muttered between his teeth that "it would be a good deal longer than that before he came round again."

But by that time the poor girl was in bed and sound asleep.

Sewed Work a Specialty.

CASH FOR HIDES.

Rockville Tannery, July 20, 1880.

5 to \$20 per day/home. Samples worth

to send. Address STRICKSON & CO., Rockville, Maine.

Feb. 12th, 1880.

Durham, June 25th, 1880.

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