

Took up an Overture from the Presbytery of Toronto, of the following tenor, viz:—

Toronto, 3rd June, 1851.

Inter alia. Took up and read Memorials from the following session, viz: Whitby, Port Hope, Clarke, Newton, Emily and Darlington, praying to be disjoined from the United Presbytery of Toronto, and formed into a separate Presbytery, with their congregations and stations under the name of the Durham Presbytery. The Presbytery concurred in the Memorials of the said Sessions, and agreed to overture the Synod accordingly.

Extracted from the Minutes of Presbytery.

(Signed) JAMES DICK, Presbytery Clerk

The Synod adopted the Overture, and ordered in terms thereof, that the Ministers and Congregations therein enumerated, shall be formed into a separate Presbytery, under the name and title of the Presbytery of Durham; Mr. Thornton to be Moderator, and that the first meeting be held at Newton, on Tuesday, after the first Sabbath of July, at eleven o'clock, A. M.

Read a letter from the Secretaries of the French Canadian Missionary Society, conveying to Synod the thanks of the Committee of that Society, for the interest hitherto taken in its prosperity, and soliciting a renewal of the recommendations formerly made by this Synod.

The Synod cordially agreed to renew, and hereby do renew, the recommendation, that an annual collection be made in all our congregations in aid of the French Canadian Missionary Society.

Read and received a paper from the Presbytery of Flamboro', of the following tenor:

Inter alia.

FLAMBORO', 22nd January, 1851.

The Flamboro' Presbytery met and was constituted.

Read a petition from the congregations of Guelph, Eramosa, and Elora, to be transmitted to the Synod, praying to be formed into a separate Presbytery. The Presbytery agreed to transmit the Petition.

Extracted from the Minutes of Presbytery.

(Signed) JAMES ROY, Presbytery Clerk.

On motion it was agreed, that the congregations of Guelph, Eramosa, and Elora, with the ministers of these congregations, be formed into a new Presbytery, under the name and title of the Wellington Presbytery. Mr. Barrie, first Moderator. The Presbytery to hold its first meeting at Elora, on Tuesday, after the last Sabbath of August, at 12 o'clock noon, said Presbytery to have power to receive the congregation of Esqueping upon proper application being made by them.

Mr. Jennings reported from the Committee to draft a set of Resolutions on the Clergy Reserves.

The report, with a single amendment, was received and adopted.—The Report is as follows:

1. That His late Majesty, George III., in setting apart one-seventh of the lands in Upper Canada, for the support of a Protestant Clergy, and the purposes of religious instruction, made such grant in his capacity of Monarch, and as the official executive of the nation; and thus granted not his own private property, for said purposes, but the property of the nation. Consequently, it is competent for Her Majesty, as his successor, in her public character, to repeal such grant, if the nation, or the part of nation most interested, so desire it.

2. That said appropriation of public lands, as Clergy Reserves, has never given satisfaction to the general community in the Province, and instead of promoting the interests of religion, has had the very opposite effect, and occasioned social alienations and political agitations, which have been most injurious to all our interests secular and sacred.

3. That Jesus Christ is the only King and Head of the Church, and has appointed the means for the support and extension of his religion, which are, that His Church depend on his blessing, and the liberality of its membership and friends; and the Synod hold it therefore to be an invasion of his authority for any secular government to legislate in opposition to Him; and in whole, or in part, to endow any Church from public resources; and it implies on the part of any Church that receives such endowment, a distrust of the wisdom and justice of Christ's express law, "that they who preach the Gospel shall live of the Gospel," and that they who receive the spiritual things shall return to their spiritual teachers of their carnal things.

4. That the scheme proposed by some, of a more general division of these Reserves among the several religious denominations, is impracticable, inasmuch as, at least, five or six of them, influential and growing, will on no condition accept of any portion, and thus the very same parties that now are dissatisfied, would continue the agitation in case such new division scheme were adopted; and thus the Province would still be tossed and distracted by denominational antagonisms, arising from this question.

5. Maintaining the equal civil and religious rights of the entire population, it is the decision of this Synod, that the only wise and equitable settlement of this question, is to be attained by appropriating the whole of the Reserves to the support of a Provincial system of common school education, in which all districts and families, would have equal right and privilege.

6. The Synod by no means conceive, that the proposal or decision in the Resolutions of the last Session of Parliament, granting the continuance of the endowments to present Incumbents for their natural lives, is equitable, or that such Incumbents are entitled, justly, to such an extended act of generosity.

7. That these being the views of this Synod, and they are aware, the views of the great majority of the prominent religious denominations in the country, they consider that justice, the peace of the community, and the connexion of this Province with the mother-country, demand, that the voice of the people be given on this subject, in such an unequivocal manner that it cannot be mistaken, and that the final adjustment of this long agitated and most vexatious question be made in the manner stated, with the least possible delay.

On motion of Mr. Thornton, seconded by Mr. Henderson, it was resolved that this paper be published in a circular, and extensively distributed among the people, and published in all the leading papers of the day; and further, that copies be enclosed and sent to every member of the Government and Legislature.

The Synod recommended that Congregations and Presbyteries give particular attention to the existing laws regarding the furnishing of statistics.

Mr. Henderson reported from the Committee to examine the Accounts of the Treasurers, that they had examined the accounts of Robert Christie, Esq., and found them correct; that the charge against the Treasurer for the Mission fund was £373 6s. 0d., and that his disbursements amounted to £58 4s. 6d., leaving in his hands a balance of £315 1s. 6d. That on account of the Theological Fund, the charge against the Treasurer was £104 11s., and that his payments amounted to £132 15s. 8d., leaving a balance due the Treasurer of £28 4s. 8d.

Mr. Thornton reported from the same Committee, that they had examined the accounts of the Rev. Thomas Christie, Treasurer of the Home Synod's grant, and had found them correctly kept.

Took up an application from the Presbytery of Toronto, for a grant of £30 from the Mission Fund, for the support of a Catechist.

It was moved by Mr. Thornton, seconded by Mr. Aitken, That Presbyteries employing Catechists in their bounds be authorized to draw upon the Treasurer of the Mission Fund for the support of such Catechists, to an extent not exceeding £30 yearly.

It was moved in amendment by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Henderson, that the Synod hereby authorize Presbyteries to employ Catechists within their bounds, if they shall consider such agency to be necessary; and that the Grant from the Synod Fund shall be one half of the sum contributed by such Presbytery, and paid to each Catechist, if the Presbytery shall make application for that amount.

The Amendment being first put was lost. The motion was carried by a large majority.

TUESDAY, 10th June, 1851.

The Synod met and was constituted by Dr. Taylor, Moderator.

Mr. Barrie reported, from the Committee appointed at the fifth Session, to draft a minute expressive of the mind of this Synod in regard to the bereavement which the Church has sustained by the death of the Rev. William Proudfoot, Professor of Theology. The report is as follows:—

*Resolved*,—That as the Presbytery of London has reported to Synod the recent demise of the Rev. William Proudfoot, Professor of Theology to the United Presbyterian Church in Canada, this Synod take the opportunity of expressing their deep sense of the loss which this Church in particular, and the interests of Civil and Religious liberty in general have sustained by this event. He was one of the three first Missionaries sent out to Canada in the Fall of 1832, by the United Secession Church in Scotland. As a Missionary labourer he was most indefatigable and efficient, subjecting himself to a great amount of travelling in preaching the Gospel to the destitute. He was Clerk to the Missionary Presbytery in the Canadas, subsequently to the Missionary Synod and to the Presbytery of London, and lastly, to the United Presbyterian Synod in Canada, and discharged all the duties of these offices with distinguished ability.—As a member of the Synod, and of Committees, his wisdom, counsels and knowledge of ecclesiastical business were of eminent service, especially in cases of difficulty. He was a Theologian of the first class, was distinguished for his varied acquirements in Theological literature, Logic and Ethics, and for clear, comprehensive and profound views on all these subjects; and as a Teacher or Professor of Theology, he was pre-eminent for his aptness to teach, and for the great clearness with which he expressed his views; he was very successful in communicating his well digested stores of knowledge to his hearers, and especially to the rising ministry committed to his care and training. The Synod desire to thank God for the pious zeal and varied talents for usefulness in the Church and in the world, with which the King and Head of the Church endowed him, and that he was so long spared to them; and their prayer is, that the King and Head of the Church may speedily in his good and all-wise Providence fill up his place in the Theological hall by a pious, able, and zealous Professor, and that he would endow all the ministers of Synod with a double portion of his spirit, and enable them to be faithful in the service of their Divine Master.

The Synod agreed to receive the report, and instructed their Clerk to send a copy of said minute to the Widow of our late Professor, in the name of the Synod, as expressive of the deep sympathy of the Synod with her and with the family in their affliction.

On motion of Mr. Dick, seconded by Mr. Thornton, it was Resolved,

1. That all applicants for admission into the Church as Ministers and Probationers shall present to the Presbytery to whom they apply for admission, written testimonials testifying that they have passed through