

The other was in regard to a complaint of certain members of the Session of Keene and Westwood as to the refusal of Mr. Andrews to sign, as Moderator of Session, a certificate of church membership to one James Russell, and his preventing the question of granting such certificate to be entertained by instantly closing the meeting of Session whenever it was proposed to enter on the consideration of the subject. Mr. Laing was heard in explanation of the subject.

In both cases the Synod sustained the scheme, declaring in the first case that the action of the Presbytery was competent, and in the second case instructing the Presbytery to proceed in the case according to the laws of the Church.

An appeal of Mr. Andrew McLean against the finding of the Presbytery of Guelph was deferred until next meeting of Synod.

ERECTION OF A NEW PRESBYTERY.

The Synod, on application transmitted by the Presbytery of Toronto, agreed to divide said Presbytery, and to form a new Presbytery to be called the Presbytery of Simcoe, embracing the County of Simcoe—with the exception of the Township of Mono—and also with the Townships of Melancthon and Osprey in the County of Grey.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

On the subject of a General Assembly, the Synod appointed a Committee to take immediate action to mature an act for the formation of a General Assembly, so that it may be in the hands of Presbyteries with the view of its being reported on at the next meeting of Synod.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

The Synod, in re-appointing the Committee on Sabbath Observance, agreed to instruct said committee to take such steps as they may deem necessary to arrest the desecration of the Sabbath by the running of trains on the railroads on the day of Holy Rest, or in any other public manner; and at the same time empowered the Moderator to sign, in name of Synod, and forward any paper prepared by the committee for the above purpose.

REPORTS OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES.

The Committees on the Finances of the Church, on Statistics, on the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and the Fund for aged and infirm Ministers, and on the Home and Foreign Record, presented reports which were all satisfactory. The funds of the Church were all in a satisfactory condition, and there was cause of thankfulness at the advance made in most of the departments of the work of the church during the past year. The report of the committee on the augmentation of stipends was submitted by the Moderator, and in connexion with it a paper agreed upon at a meeting of Elders attending the meeting of Synod. The report was adopted, and the thanks of the Synod given to the Convener—the attention of Presbyteries directed to the suggestions therein contained, and a committee appointed to watch over the matter, to aid Presbyteries in regard to any visitation that might be deemed necessary, and generally to prosecute the work in connection with them.

The recommendations contained in the report were as follows:—

1. That Presbyteries should follow the movement by making special inquiry as to the result of the same in every particular congregation visited.
2. That Presbyteries should at some suitable time during the year take special cognizance of the nature of stipend, so as to secure the regular payment of the same, and that arrears be not allowed to accumulate.