

health, gave an account of the work in the South Seas. His address will be found in another column.

A resolution of sympathy and congratulation was moved by Mr. Hogg, seconded by Dr. McCulloch, and passed by acclamation. After singing a part of the 72nd Psalm, Rev. G. Christie led the Synod in prayer for the returned missionary and his family and his fellow workers in the field.

One of the most important matters before the Synod, was the Supplementing Fund and an overture from the Presbytery of Lunenburg and Yarmouth with regard to its more effectual working. Rev. E. D. Millar was heard in support of the overture, after which it was referred to a special committee for further consideration. Dr. Macgregor stated that this fund was a year ago about \$1000 in debt, now it is over \$2000 in debt. The principal reason of the deficiency this year is the withdrawal by the Scottish churches of yearly grants which they have hitherto made. The Supplementing Committee has been obliged to reduce by one-fourth, the grants to congregations, and as about forty of our weaker charges receive supplements this reduction will be severely felt by many. Presbyteries were directed to call the attention of congregations specially to the needs of this fund.

Rev. Dr. Burns gave the report on the College, shewing the need of earnest efforts to meet our obligations.

The Synod directed the College Board to use diligence in collecting the outstanding balance of the Endowment Fund, \$105,000 has been subscribed, \$62,000 is already paid, and the balance is urgently needed to maintain College efficiently. At the conclusion of the discussion Dr. Burns moved and Mr. Robert Murray seconded the following resolutions:

"The Synod, having heard the report of the Board with reference to public education, resolves as follows:—

*First*, It approves of the course pursued by the Board in conferring with the Government in accordance with the Synodical deliverance of the Act of 1876.

*Second*, The Synod expresses satisfaction with the cessation of grants to denominational colleges out of the Provincial treasury, and trusts that they may not be revived.

*Third*, The Synod, while feeling unabated interest in Dalhousie College, and

rejoicing in the evidences of its growing prosperity, and specially the munificent generosity extended towards it by one of Nova Scotia's sons in New York, would very gladly be relieved as soon and as far as practicable of the financial responsibilities we have for many years cheerfully borne, in connection with that institution.

*Fourth*, This Synod would further give expression to its gratification at the indications now presented by the friends of higher education throughout the Province, favoring University consolidation, and trust that the ideas so long cherished by our church, of one general teaching university, may at no distant day be realized."

The Committees on the Widows and Orphans Funds gave in their reports and recommended the union of the two funds in the Maritime Provinces. When united there will be an invested capital of \$30,000 the interest of which will meet all existing demands while the annual payments of the members go to the increase of the capital fund. It was thought inexpedient to ask collections from congregations for the Widows and Orphans Fund.

Rev. J. Hogg submitted the report of the Committee on Temperance. After discussion of the matter, Synod came to the following finding: Instruct the Committee to keep a watch over the Legislature on this subject and take such steps as they may see to be necessary for advancing the cause of Temperance.

The Report on the State of Religion was read by Rev. Jno. Murray. This Committee, like all the other reports, had to complain of the meagre response of presbyteries to its enquiries and the scanty material upon which its report had to be based but it shews on the whole cheering progress. The following recommendations of the Committee were adopted by Synod:

1st, That sessions be recommended to hold a special meeting soon after the receipt of the circular of the Assembly's Committee, to consider the state of religion within their bounds and also to answer as fully as possible the questions submitted in reference to this subject.

2nd. On the next Sabbath thereafter to read the questions and also the answers, which they have given in the hearing of the congregations, and make such improvement thereof as may best serve to stir up the graces of our people.

3rd. Inasmuch as several presbyteries have failed to report on this subject last year to your Committee, recommend all the presbyteries to give special attention