

MAURITIUS.

The Rev. Patrick Beaton still continues to labour in this important colony with zeal and success, notwithstanding the many difficulties peculiar to his situation which he has to encounter.

AUSTRALIA.

From recent accounts, the committee are able to report that, with one exception all the ministers sent out last year are now settled in different parts of that vast country, and are usefully and acceptably employed in the service of our common Master. The exception referred to is Mr. Boag, who is said to have connected himself with a body under the pastorate of Dr Lang.

The committee deem it right to bring under the notice of the Assembly, a communication received in November last, apprising the committee of certain steps that had been taken, with the view of effecting a union with the Separatist Synod of Eastern Australia. It was stated that an amicable conference had been held at Sydney between committees of the two Synods, and the general impression seemed to be, that the time had arrived for the establishment of an independent Presbyterian Church in Australia, having no denominational connexion with any Church in the United Kingdom.

This communication though not official, was deemed by the committee of sufficient authority, to justify them in not sending out additional ministers, until further and satisfactory intelligence should be received. They can now report that, at the meeting of Synod held in October last, it was unanimously agreed, that no union should be consummated which did not receive the sanction of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

From the most recent intelligence, the committee are satisfied that they are now fully warranted, in inviting the attention of licentiates to this great and deeply important sphere of ministerial labour.

The Rev. John Dougall, Sydney, states that everything connected with his own charge goes on encouragingly; that many respectable Presbyterians are returning to the communion of the Church; that the number of his own congregation is nearly doubled, and the amount of collections quadrupled; while £700 have been expended on his church and manse: and concludes by hoping that God would lead him and his brethren, and enable them to build up the Church of Christ in that land; and solicits our prayers and sympathies.

The committee beg to assure the Assembly of their desire to have all their proceedings conducted in this spirit of humble, earnest prayer, and warm Christian sympathy with their expatriated countrymen. Their only regret is, that they are unable to accomplish all the good they desire; but their duty to use every endeavour in their own allotted sphere to advance the Redeemer's kingdom, is plain and imperative, and their hope and encouragement lie in the assur-

ance, that "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord" as the waters cover the sea," and that Messiah "shall see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied."

The committee cannot close their Report, without recording the expression of their deep sorrow at the loss of their late secretary. For a period of seventeen years, Mr. Young most ably and zealously discharged the duties connected with his office. His truly Christian character, his devoted attachment to the Church, his kindness of heart and urbanity of manners, endeared him to every member of the committee; while the counsels suggested by his experience and sagacity were of the utmost value, in enabling them to carry on the business of the scheme. Mr. Young's labours were as disinterested, as they were assiduous, and were continued up to the time of that severe illness by which the Church was at last deprived of one its worthiest members, and one of its most faithful and useful office bearers.

In name and by appointment of the Committee,

D. MACFARLAN, D.D., *Convener*.

DAVID ARNOT, D.D., *Vice Convener*.

THE CHURCH IN THE COLONIES.

Synod of the Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia.

(Concluded.)

Thursday, 5th, July, 1855.

MORNING SEDERUNT.

The Synod met, according to adjournment and was constituted. Sederunt as before. The roll was called. Devotional exercises were conducted by Messrs. McLean, and Pollock, Mr. McKay, suffering from indisposition. This duty was assigned to Messrs. Sprutt, and McKay, to-morrow morning. The minutes of last sederunt were read, and after corrections, sustained.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Reports of Committees were allowed to be given in. Committee on overtures reported that they had met, with leave of the Synod, and had agreed to transmit an overture, submitted by the Moderator, anent the institution of a Home Mission Fund. The Synod agreed to consider this overture, the next after the overtures already intimated.

PRESBYTERY RECORDS.

Mr. Pollock, as clerk of the committee appointed to revise Presbytery Records, reported as follows:—Revised the Records of the Presbyteries of Halifax, Pictou, and P. E. Island, and found them all correctly kept—The Records of the Presbytery of Pictou, bear evidence that a usage prevails in said Presbytery, by which the practice of the Church to moderate in a call previous to induction is not attended to. No evidence appears of any examination or revision of Session Records and Registers having been made by any of the Presbyteries during the past year. The Synod having heard the report of the Committee, ordered a minute to be made as follows:—The Synod approve of the Report; enjoin the Presbytery of Pictou henceforth to observe strictly the law of the church in the moderation

of calls; and order Presbyteries to call for, from each session, to revise and attest in every year, before the meeting of Synod, the Session Minute book, the Birth, the Baptismal Register, the Marriage Register, the Register of Deaths, and the communicants roll Book. Members having been heard, and explanations given, the records were, with these instructions ordered to be attested.

REV. A. MACKID RECEIVED, AS CORRESPONDING MEMBER.

At this stage of the proceedings the Rev. John Scott, introduced to the Moderator and the court the Rev. Alex. MacKid, of Goderich, Moderator of the Synod of Canada, who was cordially welcomed, and invited to take his seat as a member.

OVERTURE ANENT MORE FREQUENT CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.

This overture was introduced by Mr. Snodgrass, who, in support of it, spoke of the propriety of commemorating the death of Our Blessed Lord, oftener than is now done within the bounds of the Synod. Having briefly stated his views, he said that, with the present smallness of their number, he was aware of the difficulties which stood in the way of an alteration, and, that after having conversed with some of his brethren upon the subject, since they had last met, he would be satisfied if, in the mean time, the Synod agreed to the following resolution, leaving sessions to carry it out as they might have opportunity viz: the Synod deem it desirable, that a more frequent celebration of the Lord's Supper, than now exists, be observed within their bounds. This motion was seconded by Mr. Sprutt, and passed unanimously.

REQUISITION FROM CONTRACTORS AND RAILWAY LABOURERS.

The Moderator here intimated that he had just received a requisition, numerously signed, (there being upwards of 60 names attached to it), by Railway Contractors and labourers at present working and residing at the Grand Lake, praying the Synod to grant them the occasional services of a Gaelic minister. The Synod appointed the Rev. A. McKay, to preach at Grand Lake on Sabbath first at 11 o'clock, and to explain to the requisitionists the inability of the Synod to grant the amount of Gaelic services required, the Moderator having intimated that an English service would be performed there every third Sabbath during the summer months.

OVERTURE ANENT SUPERINTENDENT OF MISSIONS.

The overture met with much discussion, there being a considerable variety of opinion expressed, upon the different aspects in which it was viewed by members. The object of its prayer, as explained by Mr. Sprutt, was the appointment in the meantime of one of their number, whose duty it should be to travel among the destitute congregations, giving services, and directing the services of others, ascertaining their wants, and generally, securing such information as might be useful and interesting, superintending Home Mission operations, and furnishing Missionary Reports to the Synod; after some time spent in the consideration of the matter, Mr. Herdman submitted the following resolution.

That the Synod approve of the overture; express their sense of the advantages that would result from the appointment of a Superintendent of Missions, and, aware, that there is a member of this court willing to accept, and well-qualified to fill the office; and,