

confirm the validity of the proceedings of the Presbytery of Bathurst in case of Mr. Whyte."

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee of Bills and Overtures, a Protest and Appeal, by Mr. John Whyte, against a sentence of the Presbytery of Bathurst, of date 27th September, 1864, finding the Wbel against him, as submitted to the Presbytery by the Synod, last year, proven,—suspending him, *sine die*, from the exercise of the functions of the Holy Ministry, and dissolving the pastoral connection between him and the Congregation of Brockville; also, Mr. Whyte's reasons of appeal, and the Presbytery's answers to the same. The papers were read. The Synod also had read the Records of the Presbytery of Bathurst, in regard to the whole proceedings, and then entered upon the reading of the Minutes of evidence taken by the Presbytery.

The Synod adjourned, and was closed with prayer.

DIET IV.

Saturday, the Second day of June.

The Synod met, according to adjournment, and was constituted with prayer, the Rev. George D. Ferguson conducting the devotional exercises of the Synod.

The Synod resumed hearing the Minutes of Evidence taken by the Presbytery of Bathurst in the case of Mr. Whyte; and the whole having been read over, parties were then called to the bar, when there appeared Mr. Whyte on the one part, and the Presbytery of Bathurst on the other.

Mr. Whyte was heard at length in support of his Protest and Appeal, and his reasons for the same.

There were heard, on behalf of the Presbytery of Bathurst, Mr. Morrison, Mr. Mann, Mr. Malloch, and Mr. Bain.

Mr. Whyte was heard in reply.

The Synod then adjourned until Ten o'clock on Monday morning, and was closed with prayer.

DIET V.

Monday, the Fourth Day of June.

The Synod met, and was constituted with prayer. The Rev. Thomas Scott conducting the devotional exercises of the Synod.

It was, on motion of Mr. Urquhart, unanimously agreed that the thanks of this Synod be given to the Rev. Dr. Williamson, their late Moderator, for the excellent Sermon with which he opened the Synod, and that he be requested to permit the publication of the same in the *Presbyterian*, which was done by the Moderator accordingly.

The Synod proceeded to the consideration of the case of Mr. Whyte's Protest and Appeal against the sentence of the Presbytery of Bathurst, and having had lengthened deliberation thereon, agreed to defer coming to a decision until tomorrow.

The Synod heard from the Rev. Dr. Cook, on behalf of the Commissioners, appointed by the Synod at their meeting in January last, to effect a Commutation of the stipends of Ministers derived from the Clergy Reserves, a lengthened Report of the proceedings of the Commissioners in regard to the same; and the consideration of the said Report was deferred.

The Synod adjourned, and was closed with prayer.

DIET VI.

Tuesday, the Fifth Day of June.

The Synod met, and was constituted with prayer, the Rev. Peter Lindsay conducting the religious exercises of the Synod.

The Synod having resumed consideration of the Report, given in yesterday by the Commissioners appointed to endeavour to effect a Commutation of the Stipends of Ministers derived from the Clergy Reserves, approved of the same, and requested them to persevere in their efforts to bring the whole business to a satisfactory conclusion.

The Synod resumed consideration of the case of Mr. Whyte's Protest and Appeal against the

sentence of the Presbytery of Bathurst, when, after mature deliberation and the consideration of several motions and amendments, the Synod, by a majority of votes declared in terms of the amendment moved by Mr. James Bain and seconded by Mr. McPherson, i. e. that "The Synod having examined the evidence of the several counts contained in the libel against Mr. Whyte, and parties having been heard, sustain the general charge of misconduct as libelled, and confirm the sentence of the Presbytery of Bathurst, suspending Mr. Whyte from his ministerial functions and dissolving the Pastoral relation between him and the Church at Brockville;—but, on a general view of the whole case, the Synod agree that the sentence of suspension may be removed whenever this Synod or their Commission shall receive from Mr. Whyte satisfactory evidence of repentance, and assurance of becoming conduct for the future."

An agreement was come to as to the appointment that should be made of the time and place of the next meeting of Synod.

LONDON CHURCH.

The Synod called for the report of the Committee appointed to consider and report upon the application of the Congregation of London, for aid from the Church generally in liquidating the debt incurred in carrying on the Chancery suit, in regard to their Church, lately terminated, which was given in and read. The Synod, having considered the same, agreed to a deliverance, protesting against the decision in the suit instituted by certain members of Congregation of London for the recovery of the Church there, erected by members of the Church of Scotland, and authorized Dr. Skinner to be guided by legal advice, as to such measures of appeal or otherwise as may be requisite, and, further, authorized the said Rev. John Skinner, D. D., to apply to the members of the Church in this Province for their countenance and pecuniary support, commending the Congregation to their sympathy.

PRESBYTERY OF QUEBEC.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by the Presbytery of Montreal, an Overture from Dr. Cook, in relation to the re-organization of the Presbytery of Quebec, and the Synod re-organized the Presbytery, adding thereto Three Rivers, and appointed the first meeting to be held at St. Andrews Church, Quebec, on the first Wednesday in October next.

LAY REPRESENTATION.

The Synod had transmitted to them, an Overture from Dr. Mathieson as to the necessity for a declaratory enactment, in reference to the Act of 1845, in order to produce a greater uniformity in the manner of electing Representative Elders. It was then moved by Dr. Mathieson, that the Synod in order to produce uniformity in the election of Representative Elders, and remove doubts respecting the time for returning them—declare in reference to the Act of 1845 that the Synodical year shall terminate at the rising of the annual ordinary meeting of the Synod, and the Synod enjoin all Kirk Sessions to elect their respective Representative Elders with all convenient speed after the rising of the Synod, and give in their commissions to the Clerks of their respective Presbyteries within two months at the farthest from the rising of the Synod, to be by them laid before the first meeting of Presbytery, occurring after the receipt of such Commissions, and in case of neglect or irregularity in this matter, Presbyteries are empowered to take order and inquire at their first meeting after the expiry of the two months into, the cause of such neglect or irregularity, and provide such a remedy as in their wisdom and in accordance with the laws of the Church, may seem meet, and the Synod further instruct their Clerk to furnish Kirk Sessions with printed forms of Elders commissions.

The Rev. Dr. Mathieson supported the Overture. His object was so to define the Act of 1845 as to prevent any mistakes in the future about the date of the expiring of their charge.

It was moved in amendment by Dr. Machar,

That whereas it is necessary to define the terms of office of Representative Elders, the Synod enact that all Representative Elders elected in conformity with the Laws of their Church shall hold office from the period of their election until two months shall have elapsed after the rising of the annual meeting of Synod, unless within such two months, such elders shall be re-elected or a successor shall be re-appointed. He contended that this was necessary, in order to prevent congregations being in many cases unrepresented for a greater or less period, an evil which should above all things be obviated, for he was satisfied that nothing would tend more to promote the interests of the Church, and extend her influence than that the laity should take an active interest in the administration of her affairs. It had been said the present rule had been adopted to prevent the packing of the Synod by compelling elections at periods long anterior to its sitting, and preventing any one from being elected with a view to any particular question then impending, but he thought it desirable that where any important question was to be decided, the congregations should send such a representative as would most faithfully support their views. He therefore would be willing to go still farther, and change the law so that the elections should take place within forty days before the meeting of Synod, instead of within two months after.

Rev. Mr. Muir, advanced the same views as Dr. Machar.

After a few words from Dr. McGill,

Dr. Mathieson said, there need be no difficulty in having the congregations represented, if the Ministers did their duty. They only required distinctly to define the law, that all might understand precisely what they had to do, and enjoin on Presbyteries to enforce the rules of the Synod. He thought great inconvenience would result from the adoption of Dr. Machar's proposition.

On a division being taken, the amendment was lost, and the original overture adopted.

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION.

Rev. Mr. Sinclair, an Ordained Missionary, originally from the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, being recommended by the Presbytery of Bathurst for examination and admission, and the petition of the congregations of North and South Huntly, to whom he had ministered for some time as a missionary, being submitted to the Synod, together with Mr. Sinclair's statement and application, he was directed to be examined by the Examining Committee.

CORRESPONDENT MEMBERS.

The Committee reported, recommending the proposed measure, and after deliberation the Synod appointed the Rev. Dr. Mathieson and Rev. Professor George, correspondents to the Synod of Nova Scotia, and the Rev. Dr. McGill and Professor Weir to that of New Brunswick, and the Moderator (Rev. A. McKil), and Synod Clerk (Rev. A. Bell), as Alternates. And the Synod with all affection and sympathy invited the Synod to receive with brotherly kindness the correspondent members, and to appoint on their part, correspondent members to next meeting of Synod; and the Synod instructed their delegates, with the sanction of the respective Synods, to spend such time as might be at their command in visiting the congregations and in stirring up a greater degree of fraternal and Christian sympathy. The Synod also invited members of the Church throughout the Province, who are friendly to the measure to make such special contributions to the Synod Fund, as might enable that Fund to meet the expenses of the Deputations.

REV. MR. SINCLAIR.

The examining Committee reported favourably with regard to the Rev. Mr. Sinclair, who was then received as a Minister of the Church, and the Presbytery of Bathurst were authorised to proceed to a settlement in the event of his receiving a call, if they thought fit in the exercise of a wise discretion.

The Synod adjourned.