

## MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF SYNOD.

We have already published the addresses to their Excellencies the Governor General and Lieutenant Governor, adopted at the meeting of the Commission, holden in Toronto on the fifth and sixth days of February. The following farther particulars will prove interesting :

At the suggestion of the Rev. WILLIAM RINTOUL, (the Moderator *pro. tem.*) the Commission unanimously resolved—That viewing as they do, with deep concern, the peculiar difficulties and trials to which the parent church is at present subjected, in asserting and maintaining her spiritual independence, they will set apart a portion of time on this occasion, for special prayer in her behalf. A diet for special prayer was accordingly held on the morning of the 6th February. On the same day the report of the Commission appointed to superintend the introduction into the Legislature of the College Bill was given in by Mr. Rintoul, together with a copy of the bill, as it had recently passed the Legislature. The report and bill having been read and considered, the conduct of the committee was unanimously approved of, and an address to the church in regard to the exertions still necessary in behalf of the College, was ordered to be drawn up and circulated. It was specially resolved, that this address should convey an earnest recommendation, that prayer be offered up throughout the church for light and direction to those who have been entrusted with the chairs of the first principal and professor.

The Clerk gave in a copy of a bill which had been recently passed by the Legislature for the sale of the Clergy Reserves and the appropriation of the proceeds thereof; and stated on behalf of the Moderator, that the rapid progress of this bill through the Legislature had precluded the possibility of calling a *pro re nata* meeting for the consideration of it, before the final determination of Parliament, respecting it; but that strong representations had been made to His Excellency the Governor General, and to several members of the Legislature, as to various objectionable provisions contained therein, according to the views expressed by the Synod on the subject, and that his best exertions had been applied (but without effect) to obtain such modifications in the bill as might render it accordant with these views. The

Commission had read the bill for the sale of the Clergy Reserves, and having maturely considered its provisions, adopted the following resolutions:—

1. That the Act recently passed by the Legislature of this Province, for the disposal of the Clergy Reserves and the distribution of the proceeds thereof, is at variance both with the great principles on which a christian government is bound to proceed in extending its encouragement and support to the interests of religion, and with the original constitutional object for which the reserves were set apart—inasmuch as in determining the religious denominations among which the proceeds of these reserves should be distributed, the truth or error of the doctrines held and taught by such denominations is wholly overlooked or disregarded, and no provision made to limit participation in these proceeds to a Protestant Clergy.

2. That the said Act, in its practical operation, will not even effect an equitable distribution of the proceeds of said reserves according to the relative numbers of the several churches and religious denominations which it admits to a participation therein; and that it contains no provisions for adapting the distribution to a more extended unity in the condition of the church, but has rather a tendency to perpetuate the present divisions therein.

3. That as the said Act contains no provisions for the repeal or modification of the clauses in the 31 Geo. III, Chap 31, respecting the establishment of Rectories of the Church of England in this Province—some of the principal causes of jealousy and contention among the religious denominations, remain unhappily unmitigated, and the rights of the Church of Scotland insecure.

The commission appointed the Moderator to communicate these resolutions to the committee of the General Assembly on Colonial Churches, intimating to them, that in the opinion of the commission, no beneficial effects could result from the farther agitation of the subject of the aforesaid act in this country, in the present circumstances thereof, and respectfully and earnestly requesting the committee to direct their attention to such clauses affecting the Ecclesiastical interests of this Colony, as may be introduced by the Imperial Parliament into the bill for the re-union of the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada.

After the transaction of some routine business, and instructing the Moderator to bring the cases of the unendowed Ministers before