

which they were instituted would be more successfully attained.

Is the measure contemplated practicable? The obstacles which stand in the way are chiefly the expense of travelling and the want of direct communication—obstacles which are rapidly giving way. With the prospects of improvement that are opening up, the difficulties of intercourse between the remotest points of the present bounds of the Synods proposed to be formed into a General Assembly, it is conceived, will not be greater than existed in Scotland at the time of the Reformation. The existing differences in the conditions of the several parties may present to some minds great obstacles to a desirable and complete union. Such, for example, as the Widows' Fund and the partial endowment of your Synod; while the Synods of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are as yet without the benefits resulting from such institutions. It is to be hoped that from the negotiations entered on between the Board of Managers of the Widows' Fund and these Synods, such arrangements may be made that the Ministers may be permitted to participate in the benefits of the Widows' and Orphans' Scheme, on such an equitable basis as may be determined on hereafter. The obstacle arising from partial endowment is such as must exist in every Church having fixed benefices and that is extending her bounds; and the discrepancy that would exist is perhaps not greater than what now occurs in the Parent Church between the Parochial and Quoad Sacra charges. The voluntary principle must be called into action in relation to all; while the benefits arising from partial endowments may be a stimulus for the individual exertion and encouragement of others in securing for themselves similar advantages. Your Committee are of opinion that it would neither be expedient nor equitable that the benefits of the Temporalities Fund be participated by the Ministers of the Lower Provinces, even could they be legally extended beyond Canada.

In present circumstances, your Committee are of opinion that the General Assembly should be composed of all Ministers and Representative Elders, leaving it afterwards to be determined by the Assembly itself what the nature of the constitution shall be.

In taking a conjunct view of the whole matter, the obstacles to the formation of a General Assembly appear in your Committee to be chiefly in the way of including the Synods of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in the arrangement, while the advantages are so numerous and important as to render the adoption of the measure exceedingly desirable. Your Committee are, therefore, of opinion that it would tend to facilitate the accomplishment of the contemplated object were the Synod to instruct a Committee to frame such measures as they may think to be practicable for the formation of a General Assembly in Canada, and to report to next meeting of Synod—leaving it to the Synods of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to fall in with the scheme whenever they considered it practicable and advantageous, and on such a basis as may be mutually agreed on.

Your Committee merely report progress. If it be the pleasure of the Synod to continue their investigations on the subject, they recommend that a committee be appointed composed of such members as may be fitted for the work, with such instructions as they may deem necessary.

All which is humbly submitted.

ALEX. MATHIESON, *Convener*.

Address to Her Majesty the Queen.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY :

We, the Ministers and Elders of the Presbyterian Church in Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, now in Synod assembled, beg leave to express to your Majesty our sincere and unabated attachment to your Majesty's person and government.

We deeply deplore the misfortune which has befallen your Majesty's empire by the wicked revolt of a portion of your Majesty's Indian army, and the cruel suffering, loss of life, and injury sustained by your Majesty's European subjects residing in India; and the loss sustained by the Church of Christ in the death of many zealous and efficient missionaries and ministers of the Gospel. While we have thus much to deplore in the past, we sincerely rejoice in the success which is now attending your Majesty's forces in the suppression of that revolt, and we pray God that he may continue to prosper your Majesty's arms, until the blessings of peace be again restored to that country, and especially that these disturbances may be so overruled by the Almighty Governor of all things as to consolidate the strength and secure the permanence of your Majesty's Indian Empire, and to promote the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom in that large portion of your Majesty's dominions.

We congratulate your Majesty on the marriage of your august daughter, and rejoice in the prospect she has of happiness in the honorable estate into which she has entered; and we trust that thereby a more intimate union may be effected between two great Protestant nations of Europe, which will conduce to the advancement of their mutual interests.

We thank God that He has cast our lot in a land where we enjoy all the blessings of civil and religious liberty under your Majesty's rule; and while it is our chief aim and object to advance the cause of Christ in this land, and to promote the spiritual welfare of the people under our charge, it is and shall ever be our endeavour to inculcate, as we have opportunity, sentiments of loyalty and attachment to your Majesty's person, family and government.

That God may continue to pour out in rich abundance His blessings upon your Majesty, your Royal Consort, and the members of your Majesty's family, and especially that He would bestow that happiness which cometh down from above, and which the world can neither give nor take away, is our fervent prayer.

Signed in name and by appointment of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, at Montreal, this First day of June, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight years, by

GEORGE BELL, *Convener*.

EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Nova-Scotia—Past History and Present Condition of Public Education.

The first Act of the Legislature connected with Education was passed in 1811. The main feature of this Act was the granting of £25 per annum to every school sustained by a contribution of £50 from the people. This Act continued for fifteen years, when it was superseded by one passed in 1826, which provided a special sum for each county, to be administered according to certain conditions by a board of School Commissioners. The

sum of £2600, granted in 1826, was raised in 1831 to £4000. This remained till 1835, when a bill was passed by the Legislature, which, with other provisions, granted the sum of £11,170 for the Common School Education of the country, with about £2000 for more advanced schools. This bill continued in force till 1850, when another came into operation, and which is the one under which we are now acting. In this enactment the sum granted for common and advanced schools continued the same, but there was some additional grants made, such as £600 for the purchase of school books for poor children, and £500 per annum for school libraries. Along with some other improvements, this enactment made provision for the appointment of a Superintendent of Education. J. W. Dawson, Esq., of Picton, now Principal of McGill College, Montreal, a gentleman possessed of no ordinary tact, rare sagacity, good business habits, and high scientific attainments, was appointed to the office. Mr. Dawson's official visits throughout the Province imparted a mighty impetus to the cause of Education. At his instigation, George Young, Esq., as chairman of the Educational Committee, reported a bill to found a Normal School, which was thrown out on the third reading. Mr. Dawson continued in office for about two years, when he resigned. In 1853, substantially the same Normal School Bill was introduced into the House of Assembly by Samuel Creelman, Esq., the then Financial Secretary, and passed. Amongst other arrangements this bill provided that the Principal of the Normal School should be *ex officio* Superintendent of Education, and be released altogether from the inspection of schools. The present incumbent was appointed to his office in 1855; and since then has lectured or taught on an average four hours every day during each session of the Normal School, visited almost the whole Province three times, delivered public lectures on Education in all the most important settlements, held teachers' institutes within the bounds of each Board of School Commissioners, and, in the absence of inspectors, visited a goodly number of schools.

The Normal School was opened at Truro in November, 1855. The attendance since then has averaged 100 pupil teachers per annum, and this without any encouragement from the Legislature save £100 for scholarships to the most deserving students, which sum was withdrawn last session of Legislature. About 140 of the pupil teachers have graduated, receiving either first or second class certificates; and of these about 120 are laboring as teachers in different parts of the Province. The teachers in the Normal School are—Rev. A. Forrester, D. D., Principal, who lectures on Education as a profession, on Natural Science, &c.; C. Randall, Esq., teacher of English and Classical Literature; W. E. Mulholland, Esq., teacher of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy; Mr. Somerville Dickie, teacher of Music. The whole annual cost to the Province of the Normal School, including the contingencies of office of the Superintendent of Education, is £900, being several hundred pounds less than any similar institution in Britain or the Colonies.

Since the Normal School was opened, a suite of Model Schools, as practising schools for the pupil teachers, has been built a few yards from the Normal College by a grant of £500 from the Legislature, supplemented by £200 raised by the inhabitants of Truro and neighborhood. These Model Schools were opened in June, 1857, and are now attended