

The Presbytery then adjourned to meet in Queen's Square Church, Charlottetown, on the last Tuesday of June, at 7½ P. M.

JOHN MACKINNON, Clerk.

Presbytery of St. John.

ST. DAVID'S CHURCH, {
St. John, June 15, 1870. }

The Presbytery of St. John met here today. Present:—The Rev. James Gray, A. M., Moderator, together with Rev. Messrs. James Bennet, N. McKay, S. Houston, J. R. Bearisto, and J. C. Burgess.

Presbytery took up the remit of Synod anent the Fund for Aged and Infir m Ministers. The rules for the management of the Fund, as printed in the *Record* for Nov. last, were read, and also a letter from the Rev. G. Patterson, referring to the subject. On motion it was resolved to approve the rules as they stand, and to defer action in the matter of subscriptions till further information is obtained at the meeting of Synod.

The Rev. Dr. Donald, Rev. G. J. Caie, and Rev. R. J. Cameron, of the Presbytery of St. John, in connexion with the Church of Scotland, being present, were cordially welcomed and invited to take part in the deliberations of the Presbytery.

Rev. J. C. Burgess brought before the Presbytery the spiritual necessities of the people of Musquash. Mr. Burgess and Mr. McKay were appointed to visit Musquash, Prince of Wales, Dipper Harbor and Lepreaux, and to report as to the number of persons or families desiring service in connexion with our church in those places.

On motion, it was agreed to hear any communications the brethren of the other Presbytery might have to make. Whereupon the Rev. Dr. Donald addressed the Presbytery, expressing feelings of deep personal regard for the members of this Court and of the Synod to which they belong. He warmly advocated an early Union of the two bodies, and, pending the negotiations for Union, he advocated co-operation in country districts where weak interests in connexion with both bodies exist side by side.

Rev. G. J. Caie followed in an earnest address upon the same subject, instancing several localities in which at this moment co-operation would enable districts which are now without the means of Grace, to support Pastors very comfortably. He suggested that simultaneous action towards Union be originated by the two St. John Presbyteries in their respective Synods at their approaching meetings.

Rev. R. J. Cameron also spoke earnestly and effectively upon the same subject,

showing that Division was, in the circumstances, unwarrantable, and that Union was not impracticable—that many who but recently spoke strongly against Union, now spoke as strongly in its favor. Mr. Cameron closed a very pleasing address by pledging himself, as long as he labored in these Provinces, to do his utmost to bring about a Union of all the Presbyterian bodies in these lands.

Rev. J. R. Thompson said he had always been an earnest advocate for Union; and he knew that although there might be little said on the subject for some valid reasons, yet the desire for Union was all but universal among the ministers of the church to which he belonged. Although there might be, here and there, one who was not very cordially in favor of Union, yet he did not think that even these would do anything to oppose such a movement. He would greatly prefer incorporation to co-operation, and would approve of co-operation only as an immediate precursor of corporate Union.

Rev. James Bennet then addressed the Presbytery, expressing his cordial reciprocation of the fraternal sentiments uttered by the brethren of the other Presbytery, his cordial desire for Union, and his willingness to work for the attainment of so desirable a result. He closed by moving:

1. That this Presbytery have had the greatest pleasure in receiving the brethren from the Presbytery in St. John in connexion with the Church of Scotland,—in hearing their fraternal sentiments and especially in learning their desire for co-operation with a view to the Union of the two bodies of Presbyterians in these Provinces.

2. That a committee of this Presbytery be appointed to co-operate with the brethren of the Presbytery of St. John in connexion with the Church of Scotland, to whom it shall be committed to take such measures as may lead to Synodical co-operation in Home Mission work, and to consult as to a proper basis for a Corporate Union.

Other members of Presbytery spoke in terms expressive of the most cordial desire for Union. The Moderator then addressed the Presbytery, declaring himself highly gratified with the visit of these brethren, and entirely in sympathy with the sentiments which they and the members of Court had expressed. He then put the motion of Mr. Bennet, which was carried unanimously.

It was further resolved that the members of Presbytery resident in St. John be the Committee in terms of the said resolution.

The Presbytery then adjourned to meet in St. David's Church, St. John, on the 1st Wednesday of August, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

N. McKay, Clerk.