

From which there has been paid one half year's Annuity to Widows, and another half yearly payment will be due on 1st July,— say in all..... £134 0 10
Expenses paid and to be paid,—say... 10 0 0. 144 0 10
£3662 18 11

The proportions of this total amount applicable to the two Funds will be:—
Ministers Contributions..... £1547 17 4
Congregational Collections..... 2115 1 7
£3662 18 11

The Managers have again to express their regret that so much delay occurs on the part of many Congregations in taking up their Annual Collection, and remitting them to the Treasurer for investment, while up to this late period of the year, there have been no returns from the following:—West Gwillimbury, (Rev. Alex. Ross;) Hemmingford, (Rev. John Merlin;) Wawanosh, (Rev. James Stuart;) Smith's Falls, (Rev. Solomon Mylne.)

In view of the heavy and constantly increasing claims upon them, the managers trust that a vigorous effort will be made at the next Annual Collection to add materially to the amount of Funds. If the claims of the Widows and Orphans of the departed Ministers of our Church were frankly and fully laid before the various Congregations it can scarcely be doubted that a marked increase would take place in the amount of contributions. Sometimes it happens that Ministers feel a delicacy in broaching this subject to their people, and in such cases it would be well that one or more Members of their Congregations should advocate the cause in their stead.

ALEX. MATHIESON, *Chairman*,
HEW RAMSAY, *Secretary*.
Montreal, 30th May, 1855.

Rev. Mr Muir thought the scheme would be more largely supported if the Committee brought them selves into direct communication with the congregations themselves. If the Elders took up the matter also it would be of great service.

Rev. Mr. Haig thought that there ought to be no fatigues on the part of the ministers in pressing its claims on the people. He had examined the accounts for some years carefully, and was surprised at the smallness of some of the contributions from some congregations. Why, if all the heads of families gave but 7½ each, the effect would be wonderful. He thought it a duty incumbent on ministers, in view of the large number of annuitants, to press it upon the people.

Rev. Mr. Urquhart testified to the assiduity and zeal of the Managers. He also stated that he did not think delicacy of feeling, any just reason on the part of Ministers for refraining from the performance of their duty, with respect to this fund and urging its claims.

Mr. Hew Ramsay said that the Managers, in view of the recent addition of five annuitants to the number previously on the list, had it in contemplation to issue a statement of the position of the fund, accompanied by an appeal to the people for its support, intending to circulate it widely.

The thanks of the Synod were then given to the Managers for the care, prudence, and disinterested zeal with which they had managed the Fund entrusted to their care.

The Synod then adjourned and was closed with prayer.

DIET II.

Thursday, 31st May.

The Synod, met according to adjournment, and was constituted with prayer.

The Rev. George Bell conducted the devotional exercises of the Synod.

The Synod proceeded to the election of three Trustees for the management of the Ministers Widows' and Orphans' Fund, when the Rev. Dr. Mathieson, Hew Ramsay, Alexander Morris, and Archibald Ferguson, Esquires were elected.

The Synod appointed a Committee to attend to the Financial concerns of the Synod.

The Synod appointed an Examining Committee.

The Synod appointed the Committees to revise the Records of Presbyteries, and report on them.

The Synod appointed the Rev. Dr. Skinner, the Rev. John Robb, and Alexander Morris, Esq., a Committee to draft an address to her Majesty the Queen, for the adoption of the Synod:—the Rev. Dr. Skinner, Convener.

The Rev. John Barclay, D. D., of Toronto, and other members, were appointed to draft an Address to his Excellency the Governor General.

Objection having been taken by Mr. Whyte, to the validity of Mr. George Malloch's election as a Representative Elder in the Presbytery of Bathurst after long discussion and a counter motion, the Synod sustained the election of Mr. Malloch.

CHURCH PROPERTY.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee of Bills and Overtures, an Overture from Dr. Mathieson, to the effect that the Synod would appoint a Committee to enquire into the condition of the fixed property of the Church,

such as glebes, town lots, lot for building churches and school houses, and for burial grounds, and report concerning the 'enures by which glebes or lots are held, and how far the Trustees by whom these glebes or lots are held in trust for Congregations have implemented the duties of their office. The Rev. Dr. Mathieson supported the overture in an appropriate and forcible manner—pointing out its necessity, and referring to cases requiring attention.

The Rev. Dr. Machar thought the matter deserving of serious consideration. It was highly important than an efficient Committee should be named, and he would be glad to see laymen forming a large proportion of it.

Judge Malloch said it was no new matter; it had frequently been considered. He had been a member of a former committee which had proved inoperative. He then explained the position of the law in Upper Canada with reference to the manner of holding Church property. He thought some action in the matter desirable.

The Rev. Mr. Burnett detailed the action of the Hamilton Presbytery in the matter. The Rev. Drs. Skinner, McGill, Williamson and Barclay, and Rev. Messrs. Bain, Urquhart McKerras and Mann, and other members, took part in the discussion. And after lengthened deliberation, it was resolved that the Synod appoint the following Committee to enquire into the condition of the public property of the Church, to correspond with Presbyteries, with Legal Agents, and others, and to take such action as may be expedient for the preservation of that part that may be in jeopardy, or recovering such, as may be illegally in possession of others, viz: *Central Committee in Montreal* Alexander Morris, Esq., Convener; Hew Ramsay, Esq., William Edmonstone, Esq., John Greenshields, Esq.; *Corresponding Members:* John Thompson, Esq., Quebec; J. F. Pringle, Esq., Cornwall; George Malloch, Esq., Brockville; John G. Malloch, Esq., Perth; Alexander Campbell, Esq., Kingston; John Bell, Esq., Belleville; John Cameron Esq., Toronto; John Young, Esq., and J. D. Pringle, Esq., Hamilton.

The Synod then adjourned till half-past nine o'clock to-morrow morning, and was closed with prayer.

DIET III.

The Synod met and was constituted with prayer, the Rev. Kenneth McLennan conducting

the devotional exercises of the Synod, in praise, reading the Scriptures, and prayer.

CONTROL OF CHURCHES.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee of Bills and Overtures, an Extract Minute of the Presbytery of Bathurst, bearing that the Committee of Management of one of their Congregations had brought before them, for their opinion the following question:—"Who is it, that has the right or authority to grant the use of a Presbyterian Church, not including the pulpit to such as Bible Society Agents, or for any benevolent and Religious purposes?" And it appearing that there was a diversity of opinion on the point in the Presbytery, the Presbytery had agreed to refer it to the Synod for their opinion. After mature consideration, on motion of the Rev. Dr. Skinner, the following deliverance was agreed to viz: "In regard to the reference from the Presbytery of Bathurst, this Synod declare it to be a general principle that whereas the acknowledged use of a Church is for the public worship of God, and the Minister, with the Session, is responsible to his Presbytery, and to the Synod, for the use that is made of the church edifice, therefore it is the prerogative of the Minister and the Kirk Session to hold the key of the place of worship, and exercise their own discretion, under the Superior Church Courts, as to the uses to which it shall be applied."

APPLICATIONS FOR AID.

An application from London, C. W., for aid in defraying the expenses of a Chancery suit, in which the Church there was concerned, was referred to a Special Committee.

An application from the congregation at Westminster, C. W., to the Colonial Committee of the mother Church, for aid in the erection of a Church recommended by the Presbytery of Hamilton, and submitted to the Synod for its recommendation, was assented to, upon the condition of a deed of the land for the site in due form, being submitted and approved of by the Hamilton Presbytery.

APPOINTMENTS FOR SABBATH.

The Synod made the following appointments for the public services of the Sabbath, viz: in St. Andrew's Church, Dr. Skinner to preach in the forenoon, Mr. Walker in the afternoon, and Mr. James McEwen in the evening; in St. Paul's Church, Mr. George McDonnell to preach in the forenoon, and Mr. Gordon in the evening; Mr. Thomson to preach at Lachine, Mr. Mann at Laprairie, Mr. Peter Lindsay, at Durham, Mr. John Lindsay at North Georgetown, and Mr. Sim at Russelltown.

DISPUTED COMMISSION.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee of Bills and Overtures, a Protest and Complaint to the Synod, by the Rev. John Whyte, against the name of Mr. George Malloch, Elder, being entered upon the Sederunt of the Presbytery of Bathurst, of date 26th July, 1854; also Mr. Whyte's reasons of Protest and Complaint, and the Presbytery's answers to the same. The said papers were read, and Mr. Whyte and several members of the Presbytery of Bathurst were heard. After due consideration and voting on several motions which were lost, it was declared by the casting vote of the moderator in terms of the motion of Mr. Burnett viz: "That the Synod sustain the Protest and complaint of Mr. Whyte, in respect of there being no election on Judge Malloch as Representative Elder for the Session of Brockville, for the Synodical year then current, and declare that Judge Malloch was not a member of the Presbytery at the time referred to in the said Protest: nevertheless, in the circumstances of the case, the Synod declare, that their decision on this point shall not be held to