

Laws of the Church; namely, Act anent the examination and reception of students of Divinity and probationers and ministers coming from other churches; Act anent the course of study to be pursued by students for the Holy Ministry, with the amendment proposed by the Trustees of Queen's College. This amendment provides that shortening the length of College sessions, and increasing their number, shall take place only in the case of such students as are specially recommended thereto by their respective Presbyteries.

The subject of Sabbath Observance, brought up by an overture from the Presbytery of Montreal, engaged the attention of the Synod. Ministers were enjoined to preach on the subject soon, and a petition against public Sabbath desecration to the three branches of the Legislature was adopted by the Synod.

The Managers of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund presented a highly satisfactory Report, and means were directed to be used to increase the congregational collections in aid of the Fund.

From the Report of the French Mission Committee it appeared that the mission in Quebec was in a prosperous condition; but that in that at Montreal a misunderstanding had arisen between the missionary and the Committee, which had retarded the working of the mission. The Synod appointed a committee to investigate the whole matter and arrange the existing difficulty.

Addresses were adopted, as usual, to Her Majesty the Queen, and to his Excellency the Governor General.

There were many other matters of importance which came before the Synod; but which may not be of so much interest generally to the public.

The next meeting of Synod is appointed to be held in Montreal on the 1st Wednesday of July, 1851.

CHURCH IN LOWER PROVINCES.

HOME MISSION.

To us who have so long and earnestly advocated the great and important cause of Home Missions, and have so frequently lamented the apathy and indifference which appeared to prevail in many places respecting the spiritual interests of our fellow-men, and even our fellow-colonists and fellow-Christians, living under our own eye and at our very doors, it must be a source of much gratitude and joy, to learn that this mark of reproach is now about to be speedily and entirely wiped away. The night of coldness and indolence is now, we hope, completely past, and a season of life, and zeal, and activity is about to commence. A better and a healthier feeling, more consonant with the dictates of humanity itself, and with the principles of our Holy Religion, begins to make its appearance, and efforts in some degree commensurate with the exigencies of the case are about to be made. Now it must be evident to every reflecting mind that an enterprise of this nature, in order to be successful, must be conducted on a general scale, and must extend over the whole Church. A work of much importance and magnitude, which could not be done at all, or done with extreme difficulty, by one or a few individuals, can be easily and successfully accomplished when a great number of persons lend their assistance. It was exceedingly fit and proper that a movement of the kind in aid of Home Missions should commence in Halifax, the capital of the Province, in the oldest and most prosperous congregations; but it should not be confined to that spot, or to any one locality. The addresses and correspondence of the Rev. Messrs. Herdman and Macnair, which from time to time appeared in the periodicals, and the unwearied exertions of the Lay Association, had in some measure prepared the minds of the people for such an effort; and the visit of the last named Clergyman to Halifax, was considered the best occasion for making an appeal to the people, and exciting their sympathies and liberality in support of Home Missions. Last Lord's Day that Rev. Gentleman advocated the

cause of the Church of Scotland and the claims of our destitute countrymen and fellow-Christians throughout the Province, with his usual ability and eloquence in the pulpits of the two city churches, and he did not plead in vain. He showed from personal knowledge and observation that there was yet much land to be possessed, that the spiritual destitution in the Presbyterian settlements was extensive and truly lamentable, that the inhabitants not only felt their need of the Gospel and welcomed the visit of its ministers, but were anxious to do what they could for the support of the ordinances of Religion; that in Wallace, one of the branches of his mission, in a congregation which has been vacant for a number of years, there is a strong desire for public worship, as testified by the attendance at the different Churches and by the formation of a Lay Association, consisting at first of 40 members, now increased to about 100, and by the subscriptions in aid of a new church amounting to the sum of £350; that in Pictou the destitution was as great in many places as in Wallace itself, and far more extensive, there being a number of congregations vacant; that the attachment of the people to the Church of Scotland was as enduring as ever, as manifested by their urgent and renewed applications to the Colonial Committee for ministers, and by the attendance of thousands at the dispensation of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in the town of Pictou and at McLennan's Mountain last autumn. Mr. Macnair was enabled to give a still more full and particular account of the wants of the Presbyterians in P. E. Island, having spent the last winter in Charlottetown. By the last census of the population there were 9000 persons who professed themselves adherents of the Church of Scotland in the Island, a larger number than adhered to any other Protestant communion. Missionaries are much needed in many places, more especially in Belfast, Georgetown, and New London, all of which he had visited. The congregation of St. James Church, Charlottetown, had received the largest share of his Missionary labours, and as an evidence of their attachment to the Church and their willingness to support the Gospel, he stated that at the dispensation of the Lord's Supper, about two months ago, between 70 and 80 communicants joined in the observance of that solemn ordinance, and the congregation had raised during the last year in subscriptions, collections, and otherwise, the sum of £250 currency, for the support of Religious ordinances, and for repairs on their church. The statement of this young, and zealous, and devoted Missionary, from personal knowledge and recent observation, evidently produced a deep impression upon the minds of his audience, and a cheerful and ready response was given to the earnest and powerful appeal for Missionary aid. Collections were made in both churches for the Home Mission Fund at the conclusion of Divine service, the collection in the morning at St. Matthew's Church amounting to £21 7s. 6d., and in the evening at St. Andrew's Church to £10 12s. 3d. It is devoutly to be wished that the good impression then produced may not be soon effaced. Arrangements, we are happy to learn, are now in progress for making collections and obtaining subscriptions to the Mission Fund in the country as well as in Halifax; and it is to be hoped that before the close of the summer additional travelling Missionaries, some of them speaking the Gaelic language, will be found in this extensive field of usefulness.—*Halifax Guardian*.

Mr. Macnair, we learn, has since accepted the charge of the congregation in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, where there is a large congregation who have learned to devise liberal things, though they have long been without the regular services of a pastor.

THE SYNOD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NOVA SCOTIA.—This Synod met in Prince St.

Church, Pictou, on Tuesday, 25th of June, at 4 o'clock P. M., after an appropriate sermon from the Rev. James Ross, of West River, retiring Moderator, from Daniel vi. 3. "An excellent spirit was in him."

After the Synod was constituted, the Presbytery of Truro reported, that the Rev. George Christie had been loosed from the Pastoral charge of the congregation of Gay's River, Shubenacadie, and Lower Stewiacke, and inducted into that of the congregation of Yarmouth—that the Rev. R. Sedgwick had been inducted into the Pastoral charge of the congregation of Musquodoboit—and that Mr. E. F. Ross had been ordained over the congregation of Upper Londonderry.

The Presbytery of Pictou reported that Mr. Geo. Patterson had been ordained to the Pastoral charge of the congregation of Salem Church, Greenhill.

The Rev. James Bayne was chosen Moderator, and, having briefly addressed the Synod, took the chair. The evening sederunt was occupied with devotional exercises.

WEDNESDAY.—After the opening of the Synod yesterday morning, the Rev. James Ross, late Moderator, laid upon the table a paper received shortly after the close of the last meeting of Synod from the Synod of the Free Church, addressed to the Moderator and Members of this Synod; and also a letter addressed to him as Moderator of this Synod, signed by the Rev. Andrew King, Moderator of the Free Church Synod, covering the same. The farther consideration of these documents was deferred till the Report of the Committee on union be brought up.

Mr. Ross also laid upon the table a deeply interesting letter from the Rev. Messrs. Nisbet and Turner from Upolu, Samoa, giving an account of the commencement of our Foreign Missionary operations at Aneiteum, and of the co-operation of the brethren of the London Missionary Society. The Synod heard the letter with much interest, and referred it to the Board of Foreign Missions.

The Synod next received the Reports of the Financial Secretaries of the Presbyteries of Truro and Pictou. They contained in a tabular form answers to the questions regarding the financial affairs of congregations, agreed upon at last meeting of Synod. They were referred to a Committee, consisting of Rev. Messrs. Campbell, Watson, and Mr. Jas. McGregor, with directions to examine them and to report to Synod as soon after receiving the answers from the Presbytery of P. E. Island as possible and making such suggestions as they may think necessary to carry out the object contemplated.

The Rev. Mr. Trotter reported verbally from the Committee appointed to prepare a memorial to the Legislature on the injustice of Sectarian Institutions supported by the State Government. He stated that the Committee had drawn up a petition, copies of which had been forwarded to the several ministers to be signed in their several congregations.

Mr. Trotter reported verbally from the Committee of the United Presbyterian Church, that they had applied to the Church in Scotland for another preacher, to which application no reply had yet been received. The diligence of the Committee was approved, and they were re-appointed with their former powers.

The Committee appointed to prepare rules of procedure for the guidance of our Church Courts, gave in their Report. It stated that the Committee had examined several documents of the kind, and that in general they approved of the Rules and Forms of the Secession Church; but that there were many points requiring consideration, and, as the United Presbyterian Church are publishing an amended set of Rules, they recommended delay until this be received, when the object can be more easily and more successfully accomplished. The Synod received the Report, approved of the suggestions it contained, and reappointed the Committee, with the addition of the Rev. Mr. Roy, to carry these suggestions into effect.—*Eastern Chronicle*.