

Bayne, Ministers, and Mr Henderson, Elder, a Committee for obtaining legal advice in any case in which that may be required, for the civil interests of congregations.

The Synod appointed the Moderator, Mr. Gale, and Mr. Rintoul, a Committee for correspondence, with instructions for them to intimate to the Colonial Mission Committee of the Free Church of Scotland, and the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the formation of this Synod, and to represent to them the need of Missionaries, and to make such communications to other Churches respecting the formation of the Synod as they shall see fit.

The Synod resolved to receive any Minister now on the roll of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connexion with the Church of Scotland, and in good standing in said Synod, who shall within two months of this date signify in writing to the Moderator or Clerk of any of the Presbyteries of this Church his adherence to either of the Protocols made by the members of this Synod in withdrawing from the aforesaid Synod.

The Synod resolved that a Commission be appointed for attending to the general interests of the Church, and for conducting and determining such business and causes as may be devolved on it by this Synod; and that such Commission shall consist of the following brethren:—The Moderator, Mr. Rintoul, Mr. Gale, Mr. Cheyne, Mr. Bayne, Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Allan, Mr. Meldrum, Mr. Roger, Mr. Esson, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Smellie, ministers; and Mr. Webster, Mr. Henderson, Mr. Davidson, and Mr. Westland, elders;—to meet at Hamilton on the 7th August next, at 3 p. m.

The Synod agreed to recommend Presbyteries to enquire after young men of pious character and suitable gifts who may be aiming at the ministry, and to use all competent means for directing and forwarding their education. The Synod also agreed to write to students who adhere to this Church, to report their adherence as soon as possible to the Presbyteries within whose bounds they reside.

The Synod resolved that their thanks be tendered through the Clerk to the Minister and Trustees of the Wesleyan Methodist Church for the accommodation enjoyed therein by the Synod, during its sittings in Kingston.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Synod be held at Toronto, on Wednesday the 9th of October next, at the hour of 7 p. m., and in such place as the Commission may direct.

It was agreed that the Commission shall give their attention to the following subjects: the education of students; a scheme of the various objects for which funds are required by the Synod, and the best mode of raising the same; a Home Mission Scheme; and arrangements for the next meeting of Synod.

The Synod devoted a portion of the day to praise, prayer and exhortation: Mr. Gale and Mr. Bayne engaged in prayer, and Mr. Smellie gave an address.

It was agreed that the minutes be printed in an early number of the Record.

The Synod was then closed with the Apostolical blessing.

Attested by Wm. RINTOUL, A. M.
SYNOD CLERK.

NOTES OF MEETING OF COMMISSION

AT HAMILTON ON THE 7TH AND 8TH AUG. 1844.

For the Record, by the Clerk of Synod.

Present ten Ministers and three Elders. Rev. MARK Y. STARK, Moderator.

Regulations respecting adherence of congregations were passed, founded on a report and reference from the Presbytery of Hamilton and Toronto. [These were given in our last, see page 4, No. 1.]

The draft of a Pastoral Address to Congregations was submitted, revised, and ordered to be printed in the Record.

The Scheme of a Sustentation Fund was con-

sidered, and the following Resolutions were adopted:

1. That to superintend the collection and distribution of the Sustentation Fund, there shall be instituted a Board of Trustees, who must be in full communion with the Church.

2. That the members of this Board, shall be elected by the Synod at its annual meeting—all the members being capable of re-election.

3. That this Board shall consist of a President, Vice-President, and seven members, four of whom shall be a quorum.

4. That the duties of this Board shall be:—1st To make arrangements for the raising of contributions for the Sustentation Fund, by the organization of local associations,—the making of annual collections, and such other means as they may deem advisable under the sanction of the sessions and managers in the several congregations. 2nd. To provide for the annual visitation of all the congregations in connexion with the Synod, for the purpose of inquiring into their financial affairs, of ascertaining the operation of the system instituted by them in each for the support of the fund,—of extending that system as they may see opportunity, and generally of stirring up the people to a sense of their duty in the matter committed to their care. 3d. To distribute the amount realized by them, (after payment of the expense of management,) among the members of the Synod half-yearly,—allotting for the present an equal share to each. 4th. To give into the Synod an annual report of their proceedings, and a statement of the Treasurer's accounts, which shall be received and examined before the election of the members of the Board for the ensuing year.

5. That the Board shall have power to choose a Treasurer and Secretary, who need not be members of the Board,—to make by-laws and prepare the necessary forms for the use of congregations.

6. That the following individuals constitute the Board for the present year, and hold office from this date until the ordinary meeting of Synod in 1845, viz.:—Isaac Buchanan, Esq., President; A. Jeffrey, John McMurich, James F. Westland, James Shaw, and James McIntyre, Esquires; Rev. Mark Y. Stark, Rev. William Rintoul, Rev. Alexander Gale, together with the Chairmen of all Local Boards, ex officio. And in the event of any of these not accepting office, or of vacancies occurring by death, resignation, or otherwise, that the remaining members shall have power to fill up such vacancies.

The Commission agreed to issue the following Statement and Recommendations:

STATEMENT.

1. The object of the proposed Sustentation Fund, is to supplement, and in some measure to equalize the stipends of Ministers, and, in particular, to raise the stipends of all Ministers to a respectable minimum, it being well known that there in not a few instances, will be seriously affected by the recent disruption of the Synod, and that they have heretofore been almost universally insufficient to secure comfort and respectability, according to the standard of the country.

2. For the purpose of superintending the collection and distribution of the fund, the Commission have nominated a Board of Trustees.

3. This Board has been instructed to obtain contributions for the sustentation fund, by means of local associations and periodical collections, and otherwise as they may find expedient.

4. With a view to the efficient operation of the scheme, it has been assigned to this Board as part of their duty to provide for the visitation of congregations—to inquire into the state of their financial matters, to give counsel as to the best modes of accomplishing the object committed to them, and generally to stir up the people to the discharge of their duty in relation to the support of the scheme.

5. The fund raised under the superintendence of

this Board is to be distributed by them, at least in the meantime, in equal portions to every minister of the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

6. The supervision of this Board by the Synod will consist in the review of an annual report of their proceedings and accounts, to be given in by them at the ordinary annual meeting of the Synod, when the Board for the following year will be appointed, with such instructions as may be deemed advisable from time to time.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

I. In the meantime Congregations are respectfully urged to organize Local Associations, and to take such other steps as are found necessary for the collection of contributions for the proposed fund,—and in particular, it is requested, that the Sessions and Managers in the several Congregations will adopt measures to this effect.

II. In organizing Associations, it is recommended that Congregations keep in view the importance of appointing a large number of Collectors, and of assigning a small number of individuals or families to be visited by each Collector, as also of making it their object to obtain small contributions, collected at short intervals, rather than large sums less frequently.

III. Congregations are also recommended to keep it in view, that in many cases arrangements might very advantageously be adopted for rendering contributions in kind available.

IV. With the view of promoting regularity and efficiency in their operations, Associations, as soon as formed, are requested to report their formation to the Board of Trustees, and to open a correspondence with them for the purpose of obtaining more minute instructions, and also to remit the sums collected by them to the General Treasurer, monthly or quarterly.

V. When Congregational Collections, or any other similar means of obtaining contributions are adopted, the sanction of the Session ought previously to be had.

VI. It is urgently recommended to the consideration of Congregations, that if the plan of a Sustentation Fund is to be made available for promoting the efficiency of the Church in the present emergency, it must be entered into with cordiality and energy by every Congregation, and that there ought to be no delay in organizing Associations, and adopting such other steps as have been recommended.

On the subject of Home Missions the Commission resolved:—That Presbyteries be instructed to appoint Home Mission Committees in their several bounds, and exert themselves to establish and maintain a fund for Home Missionary labour—visit their several Missionary fields—divide them into convenient districts, and report annually to the Synod on such topics as these:—The number of Missionary districts and stations—their condition as to religious ordinances—the number of adherents and members of our Church in them—engagements made towards the support of Missionaries—the number of such, and of Catechists employed by Presbyteries.

On the subject of the education of students, the Clerk was instructed to write to the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland, seeking their aid towards furthering the studies of the Divinity students—Presbyteries recommended to look out for pious youths, and encourage them to devote themselves to the Ministry: also to take into consideration, and report their views to the Synod, on the expediency and practicableness of having one Seminary for liberal education, with a boarding establishment, under prudent and christian management, founded within the bounds of each Presbytery—and one or more Theological Professorships within the bounds of the Synod.

On the subject of a general Financial Scheme, the Presbytery of Cobourg was appointed to prepare and report to the Synod, with a view to their recommending a scheme of the various objects re-