

tributions—their influence and example, or by encouragement of customs and practices decidedly Popish, or of Seminaries of education connected with the Popish Church; and further with the view of this, appoint a Pastoral Letter to be drawn up and circulated among our members in Canada, East, and wherever Popery prevails in the Province, warning them of the evils of the system, pointing out their duties as Protestants, and admonishing all the members of this Church to be specially cautious in appearing to give any encouragement to Popery. They further resolved to give all countenance to the proceedings of the French Canadian Missionary Society, and to aid them in such ways as may be found most effectual for promoting these great and benevolent objects.

At the evening meeting of Monday, the Synod heard the Report of the Home Mission Committee which was read by Mr. Gale, the convener. This report first detailed the actions of the committee in regard to the duties specially entrusted to them—their correspondence with regard to a supply of Missionaries, and a Deputation from the Free Church of Gaelic Ministers, as also respecting the act ancient the admission of Ministers and Probationers, the distribution of Missionaries throughout the bounds of the Synod, and the appropriation of the donation of £200 Sterling from the Colonial Committee of the Free Church among the several Presbyteries. It appeared from it that two Missionaries had been sent out during the year by the Free Church—Mr. Melville and Mr. Fraser—both of whom were specially designated; and that two Probationers of the Irish Church had been received: the one, Mr. McDowall, possessing testimonials equivalent to designation; the other, Mr. Reid, a satisfactory Presbyterian certificate; and giving, besides, full satisfaction as to his qualifications on examination, according to the act of Synod; and that all of them had been settled over pastoral charges, except Mr. Fraser, who is still labouring in the Missionary field with great zeal and acceptance. It then went on to give a view of the extent and necessities of the Home Mission field; pressing on the Synod and Presbyteries the duty of extending the Missionary labours of Ministers as widely as possible, and the desirableness of following out the suggestions formerly issued by the Committee for the division and superintendance of the field, and in regard to the supply of ordinances and the conducting of the financial arrangements connected with the work. Detailed Reports of Missionary proceedings by the several Presbyteries were also read. Along with this Report an overture on the subject of Home Missions, from the Presbytery of Hamilton, was taken up, containing a series of suggestions as to the means of obtaining a more adequate supply of Missionaries from the Free Church and the Presbyterian Church of Ireland. Several members having stated their views on the Report and overtures, the Rev. Mr. McLachlan, at the request of the Synod gave an interesting account of the Home Missions of the Free Church of Scotland. Thereafter, the Synod, on the motion of Mr. McLachlan, approved of the Report, and of the diligence of the Committee, and resolved—1. That the Committee be instructed to prepare and publish a digest of the Report. 2. That the overture from the Presbytery of Hamilton be referred to the Committee, with instructions to bring the various suggestions annexed to it, before the Free Church of Scotland and the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, in such form as they may see meet. 3. That Presbyteries be recommended to carry out according to the suggestions formerly issued by the Committee the system of arrangement of the Missionary field, within their several bounds, into Missionary Districts and Stations; each District to be placed under the superintendance of a Minister of the Presbytery. 4. That the Committee be authorized to distribute such Missionaries as may be at the disposal of the Church, according to the wants of the several Presbyteries; to offer suggestions from time to time for the more effectual conducting of Home Missionary operations, and to call for reports from Presbyteries in regard to the same; the Missionaries being subject to the direction of the several Presbyteries during their residence within their bounds.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9.—The overture from the Presbytery of Montreal, on the Sustentation Scheme,

was considered, and, after lengthened discussion, the following resolutions were agreed on:

The Synod having considered the overture from the Presbytery of Montreal, agreed without any interference with the existing Sustentation Scheme to remit the overture to the Sustentation Board, with instruction to them to take the whole subject of the sustentation of the ministry into consideration, to call for reports of Presbyteries on the subject, and report their views thereon at the next meeting of the Synod. The Synod also agreed to recommend to the Sustentation Board to provide, as soon as possible, a suitable agency for promoting the sustentation of the ministry among the several congregations of the Church. And further resolved: That it be an instruction to Presbyteries to call for an annual statement, from each of the congregations within their bounds, of the number of members and adherents connected therewith; of all their receipts and disbursements on behalf of the Gospel Ministry, including the sustentation of their minister, of all collections for missionary purposes, buildings, &c., according to a schedule to be furnished for that purpose by the Sustentation Board, and that the Clerks of Presbyteries transmit the same to the Synod Clerk and the Secretary of the Sustentation Board, in sufficient time each year to be laid before the meeting of Synod, for their information, and in order that they may be better enabled to judge of the resources of each congregation, and of the number that may require aid for the support of the Ministry; and also that the Presbyteries be instructed to remonstrate with such congregations as they may consider are not doing their duty in that respect to the extent of their ability.

Mr. Burns gave in a Report on the funds of the Church, and it was unanimously agreed that the Report be received and sustained, that the diligence of the Committee be commended, and that the Report be recommitted with instructions to the Committee to complete their digest of the accounts, for publication in the Record, including the account of the Visitation Fund; as, also, to prepare forms and directions for keeping the accounts of the various funds of the Church. That the Synod adopt the conditions suggested by that committee, in regard to the grant for Church building; and appoint them to see the same carried into effect.

Dr. Burns, in behalf of the committee on Synodical visitations, gave in an interim Report, and committees were appointed to complete the visitations. The following visitors were appointed:

Mr. Roger and Mr. Reid, Ministers, and Mr. Redpath, Elder, to visit the Presbytery of Toronto. Mr. McLachlan, Deputy, and Mr. McIver, Elder, Perth and Montreal Presbyteries. Mr. Bayne and Mr. Alexander, the Presbyteries of Kingston and Brockville. Dr. Burns and Mr. Fraser, Deputy, the Western part of the Presbytery of Hamilton.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10.—The Report of the committee for revising the Records of Synod was received. The Clerk was instructed to prepare a full abstract of the Minutes of the present Session, and extracts from the Minutes of 1844 and 1845. A committee was also appointed to assist the Clerk in this duty.

The Act of last Synod on the admission of Ministers and Preachers was amended, and now stands as follows:—

That Ministers and licentiates of Churches strictly and intimately in connection with this Church, and who shall have come in the way of orderly translation, or who shall have been expressly designed or commissioned as Ministers or as Missionaries, by such churches to this church, shall on application to any Presbytery and on producing the proper documentary evidence, be at once received and admitted as Ministers or Probationers of this church. And that in respect of all others making application to any Presbytery for admission into the church, and producing at the time of such application satisfactory testimonials of their good and regular standing in the churches with which they have previously been connected, they shall be dealt with as the Presbytery may see fit, in the way of private conference, examination and hearing them preach, with a view of fully ascertaining their personal piety, soundness in the faith, their ministerial gifts and efficiency, and their probeness and propriety of deportment; and when the Presbytery shall deem it to be necessary

for greater satisfaction in regard to any or all of these points, they shall communicate with parties who may be able to communicate the information required as to the applicants; And that when the Presbytery shall have been fully satisfied, and are agreed to record their satisfaction;—they shall cause circular letters containing duly certified copies of such deliverance, with reference to the specific grounds of it, to be transmitted to the Synod Clerk, as also to the several Presbyteries; that the Presbyteries shall record a deliverance thereon at their first ordinary meeting within three months of the date of the circular letter, and if not, at a special meeting to be called within that time, and transmit a copy of such deliverance without delay to the Synod Clerk who shall lay these documents before the commission of Synod at the first stated meeting thereof; and in the event of the deliverances of Presbyteries being favourable, the commission shall, hear the applicant preach, and if they deem it necessary, examine him, and if satisfied in the whole premises, shall record a deliverance to that effect and remit accordingly to the Presbytery within whose bounds the applicant resides to receive him as a minister or probationer, according as the case may be, of this Church; But in the event of any appeal being taken against the favourable deliverance of the Presbytery to whom the application for admission is made, or any objection being offered by any of the other Presbyteries, that the application shall be referred to the Synod.

There was next taken up a Reference from the Presbytery of Hamilton respecting the duties and privileges of the Deacon's office. The reference was sustained, and the Synod recommended to Elders and Deacons to manifest all forbearance in regard to the performance of their respective duties, and in the meantime, in consideration of there being some difference of opinion respecting the peculiar duties of Elders and Deacons, remit to the committee on calls and a code of discipline to consider the whole subject, and draft a series of regulations on the respective duties of Elders and Deacons, and report to the Synod at its next meeting.

An Overture was received from the Presbytery of Kingston for the adoption of measures for promoting the order, purity and spirituality of the church. This was considered in connection with an interim Report of the Committee on calls and a code of discipline. The Synod instructed this Committee to proceed with all diligence in preparing a draft of Regulations on the order, discipline and government of the Church; and agreed to issue a pastoral letter to be prepared by the Moderator, and signed by him in name of the Synod, which letter shall embody in it the suggestions of the Overture of the Kingston Presbytery.

The Synod had then under consideration an overture on the subject of intemperance, and agreed to enjoin all its members to discourage by their influence and example the ordinary use of intoxicating liquors; and those drinking usages which have so long proved the bane of Society.—Presbyteries and Sessions were also enjoined to use their best endeavours to the same effect in the exercise of faithful scriptural discipline.

The Synod next called for the reports of the two special Committees to whom separate portions of the suggestions of the College Report were referred, and entered upon the consideration thereof. After mature deliberation on this important subject, several conclusions were unanimously come to; the principal of which were, the name of the institution, which is to be styled Knox's College, it being necessary to fix a designation with reference to the purchase of a site for buildings and the holding of other property; the obtaining of a suitable site at Toronto,—on which point correspondence was ordered to be opened with the Trustees of Knox's Church, Toronto; the appointment of another Professor of Theology,—which duty it was agreed to devolve on the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland,—a list of divines having been agreed to by the Synod, from which they wish the selection of a Theological Professor to be made; and the establishment of an Academy, or High School, in connection with the College, having attached to it, if practicable, a boarding-house, placed under such thoroughly Christian superintendence as should secure the confidence of