MINUTES OF THE SYNOD AT HAMILTON, 1853.

With talents, accomplishments and manners, which fitted him for taking a leading place in society as a gentleman, and a man of business, Mr. Fraser united the humility, the warm affections, the spirituality of mind, and the devoted zeal for the glory of God, by which the character of the true disciple of Christ is at once distinguished and adorned. In every undertaking which seemed likely to promote the cause of Christ, Mr. Fraser, with true Catholic spirit, was ready to cooperate; but of our own Church, in particular, he was a discriminating and zealous friend, and to her he was enabled to render services which are deserving of special commemoration.

During several years, in which the Congregation were looking out and waiting in hope for a pastor, Mr. Fraser did the duties of an Evangelist among them with a prudence and singleness of purpose which gained him universal acceptance, and united the congregation around him until the desire of their hearts was obtained.

As might be supposed, from the qualifications ascribed to him, Mr. Fraser excelled in the exposition of Scripture and in prayer; but the secret of his influence was his deep piety—a piety which, nourished in close secret communion with his God, made itself manifest to others in the works of faith and labors of love in which he habitually abounded. And his case may well be held forth to the Elders of our Church as an example of the services which, in this land of spiritual destitution, many of them might be able to render to the cause of Christ.

The loss of these honored individuals is indeed a loud call to humiliation and searching of heart and prayer. May He who has applied the rod, sanctify the blow. May we be enabled to enquire, in a becoming spirit, why the hand of the Lord is thus stretched out against us, and to learn aright the lessons which he is seeking to convey. And may the fruits of fatherly chastisement, in the holier lives and more devoted labors of Ministers and Elders, and people, make it manifest that the Lord has not cast us off in his anger, but chastened us for our profit, and that we might be made partakers of his holiness.

On the Report of the Committee appointed at a previous diet, the Synod adopted the following minute, with reference to the right of free discussion, and the late riotous proceedings in Quebec and Montreal.

This Synod having heard of the riotous proceedings at Quebec and Montreal, accompained in the latter of these cities with the melancholy deaths of eight innocent and unoffending citizens, cannot but give expression to a feeling of deep concern and righteous indignation.

As citizens and as Christians we prize the blessings of civil and religious freedom, and we look upon these blessings as most seriously imperilled if such proceedings as those now referred to are perpetrated and winked at. That distinguished Italian refugee, whose visit to Quebec and Montreal was the immediate occasion of the painful events referred to, had a right to fair and free discussion, and it does not appear that he went beyond the bounds which that right has prescribed to it; and if he is to be put down by lawless violence, what will the result be, but a breaking up of the very framework of the social system.

Holding as we do that the system of the Papacy, both in principle and in spirit, is hostile to God's glory and men's spiritual interests, we claim a right for ourselves and others to expose the evils of the system, and to plead for the great principles embodied in what is commonly known as the Protestantism of all the Reformed Churches; and we assert the right of every man to vindicate these principles, when in doing so he does not disturb society, nor violate liberty of conscience.

This Synod farther calls upon the Government of the land to take effective measures to protect the rights of all British subjects, and of strangers within our gates so long as they do nothing against law and social order. Yea, this Synod feels itself called on to go a little further, and to press on men in power the duty

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of the Legislatur conscience which are based on alleg the rights of loyal safety.

While the Syno bers are reminded sening the influence evangelical truth.

The Synod a Burns, Dr. Wi and Clark, Minis Redpath, Court a dation of the de to be Convener o

The Synod far an appeal in rega as many of the c the view of bring notice of our peop

The Synod app Commission of Sy the second Wedn Clerk of Synod, 1 J. W. Smith, Greg Wardrope, Duncan T. McPherson, Irv. Smellie and Young, Casement, Matthews Gibb, Clark of Lond McLellan, Stewart a

On motion made a record the thanks of of Knox's Church, H provided in that Chu time.

On motion made a record the thanks of t hospitality so kindly e. Synod on this occasion

The business being that the next ordinary Church of Canada wou Knox's Church there, o three o'clock, P.M.

After prayer, and the Synod was closed with

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