

And the Synod further commission and empower Dr. Burns, as their Professor of Theology, to collect books or moneys, or philosophical apparatus, amongst the friends of the Presbyterian Church in Europe, so that every facility may be furnished for the education of candidates for the ministry; and they enjoin the Moderator to transmit an extract of this minute, with a suitable letter to Dr. Burns, pressing it upon him, to close with, and accept of this appointment; and they further request the Rev. J. Macnaghtan, to take with him, a duplicate of this minute, and use his influence with Dr. Burns, to repair to Canada at as early a day as his arrangements will admit of.

N. B. The Synod afterwards fixed £200 p. y. per annum, as the salary of the Professor of Literature and Science.

#### VII. Respecting the Education of Students in Canada East.

The attention of the Synod was called to the importance of making arrangements for the education of students in Canada East, when after deliberation, the following resolution was adopted. That the Synod, sympathizing with the spiritual destitution of Canada East, and recognising the duty of exercising a watchful care over the young men that may be led through grace to devote themselves to the work of the ministry there; yet not contemplating, at present, the establishment of two distinct and separate Theological Institutions in Canada, and considering that Toronto is in all respects the preferable locality for the temporary institution, though there may be some students in Canada East who, on account of their great distance from Toronto and other circumstances, could not avail themselves of the institution; therefore do authorize the Presbytery of Montreal to make the best arrangements they can, for training promising young men, residing within their bounds, in the studies usually regarded as preparatory to the study of Theology, it being hereby declared that the students who shall follow the direction of said Presbytery and evince, on examination, a due proficiency in their studies, shall be regarded as on the same footing with the students who shall have attended the institution which the Synod is now about to originate.

#### VIII. Respecting Correspondence with the Presbytery of Niagara.

The Synod appointed the Moderator, Mr. Gale, Mr. Cheyne, and Mr. Mackintosh, a committee to meet with the Niagara Presbytery, and to carry out the recommendations in the report of that Presbytery, adopted by the Synod at the fourth Session.

The report referred to is as follows:—

The committee beg leave to report, that after much friendly communing and inquiry as to the principles and procedure of the Presbytery, they are enabled to state that that body consists of seven ministers, having the charge of fifteen congregations: that they hold, in common with ourselves, the Westminster confession of faith as their standard; and as a Presbytery, maintain and uphold its doctrines in what is usually termed the Calvinistic sense, holding fast by the great cardinal doctrines of the divine sovereignty, the decree of election, and the imputation of the righteousness of Christ, as distinguished from the views which on account of their extreme character, are usually styled Antinomian and Arminian; in all matters connected with the admission of members, the administration of discipline, and the ordination of ministers; their practice is substantially the same with our own, and that of the Free Church of Scotland. They do not question the obligation of civil governments as such, to honour Christ as the King of Kings, and the Governor amongst the nations; although on the propriety of the Church's accepting endowments from the State, in the present divided state of the Church, and its relationship to the world, they have great difficulties. In submitting this information, the committee earnestly recommend to the Synod, that

measures should be adopted for immediate co-operation with this Presbytery in all matters of common interest relative to the conversion of souls; that copies of the Protest, and of the resolutions on which the Protest was founded, should immediately be forwarded to the Presbytery; and *quoad ultra*, that a committee be appointed to attend their next meeting, with power to arrange such terms of union as may be agreeable to that Presbytery, to be submitted to the Synod at the next meeting, for their approval."

THOMAS ALEXANDER,

Clerk of Joint Com.

#### IX. Respecting Synod Fund and its Treasurer.

The Synod appointed James Shaw, Esq., merchant, Toronto, Treasurer to the Synod fund; and the clerk was instructed to furnish Mr. Shaw with a roll of the Synod, that he may apply to ministers or congregations who have not yet contributed to the Synod fund, it being understood that the year commenced with the month of July.

#### X. Respecting the revising of the bounds of the several Presbyteries, by deputations.

The Synod agreed to direct the attention of Presbyteries to the recommendation of the Commission issued at their meeting on the 5th day of August last, and contained in the Report No. 2, page 13, to the effect that Presbyteries should have their bounds revised without delay by suitable deputations, for expounding fully the reasons for our coming off a connexion with the Established Church of Scotland, and assuming an independent position; and also for receiving the adherence of those who approve of our position, for forming new congregations where necessary; and recommending the support of the sustentation fund.

#### XI. Respecting the Sustentation Fund Scheme.

The Synod called for the report of the committee on the sustentation fund. The committee reported progress; whereupon, on motion made and seconded, the Synod resolved that the committee should give in their report to the commission, and that the commission be authorized to adopt such a plan of a sustentation fund, in accordance with the general resolution passed at the sixth session of the present meeting, as to them may seem fit; and to publish and recommend the same to the support of congregations. The Synod further resolved, that it be recommended to all ministers of this Church to relinquish any engagements which they may have with their congregations for stipends, in so far as they may stand in the way of the common sustentation fund scheme coming into operation, and to recommend said scheme to their people.

#### XII. Formula and Questions for Ministers, Elders, Deacons and Probationers.

The Committee of Bills and overtures, reported drafts of a Formula to be signed by Ministers, Elders, Deacons and Probationers of the Church, also of Questions to be put to these severally at their ordination. The same were considered and amended and unanimously adopted, and are as follows:

#### FORMULA

TO BE SIGNED BY MINISTERS, ELDERS, DEACONS, AND PROBATIONERS.

I \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby declare that I do sincerely own and believe the whole Doctrine contained in the Westminster Confession of Faith, as approved by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, in the year one thousand six hundred and forty-seven, to be the truths of God, and I do own the purity of worship presently authorized and practised in this Church, and also the Presbyterian Government and Discipline established therein; which Doctrine, Worship, and Church Government I am persuaded are founded on the Word of God and are agreeable thereto: and I promise that, through the grace of God, I shall firmly and constantly adhere to the same, and to the utmost of my power shall in my station assert, maintain, and defend the said Doctrine, Worship, Discipline, and

Government of this Church, by Sessions, Presbyteries, and Synods: that I shall, in my practice, conform myself to the said Worship, and submit to the said Discipline and Government, and never endeavour directly or indirectly the prejudice or subversion of the same: and I promise that I shall follow no divisive course from the present order in this Church; renouncing all Doctrines, Tenets, and opinions whatsoever contrary to or inconsistent with the said Doctrine, Worship, Discipline or Government of this Church.

#### QUESTIONS TO BE PUT TO A MINISTER AT HIS ORDINATION.

1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the word of God, and the only rule of faith and manners?

2. Do you sincerely own and believe the whole doctrine contained in the Confession of Faith, approved by the General Assembly of the church of Scotland, in the year 1617, to be founded upon the word of God; and do you acknowledge the same as the confession of your faith; and will you firmly and constantly adhere thereto, and to the utmost of your power assert, maintain, and defend the same and the purity of worship as presently practised in this Church.

3. Do you disown all Poppish, Arrian, Socinian, Arminian, Erastian, and other doctrines, tenets, and opinions whatsoever contrary to or inconsistent with the aforesaid Confession of Faith?

4. Believing, as you declare, that the Lord Jesus as King and Head of the Church, hath therein appointed a government in the hand of church officers that act from the civil magistrate, are you resolved to maintain, and that, at all hazards, that in the administration of spiritual things, the church is bound to act ministerially under Christ her head, as responsible in such administration to him alone; while, in all things secular and civil, her officers and members are subject to the laws and rules that govern civil society?

5. Are you persuaded that the Presbyterian government and discipline of this Church are founded upon the word of God, and agreeable thereto, and do you promise to submit to the said government and discipline, and to concur with the same, and never to endeavour, directly or indirectly, the prejudice or subversion thereof, but to the utmost of your power, in your station, to maintain, support, and defend the said discipline and Presbyterian government by sessions, presbyteries, and synods, during all the days of your life?

6. Are you persuaded that the pastoral relation can be legitimately founded only on the free consent of the people, and that no pastor should be intruded on a congregation contrary to the will of the majority thereof, with or without reasons assigned?

7. Do you promise to submit yourself willingly and humbly, in the spirit of meekness, unto the admonitions of the brethren of this presbytery, and to be subject to them and all other presbyteries, and the superior judicatory of this Church, where God in his providence shall cast your lot; and that according to your power you shall maintain the unity and peace of this church against error and schism, notwithstanding of whatever trouble or persecution may arise, and that you shall follow no divisive course from the present established doctrine, worship, discipline, and government of this church?

8. Are not zeal for the honour of God, love to Jesus Christ, and desire of saving souls, your great motives and chief inducements to enter into the functions of the holy ministry, and not worldly designs and interest?

9. Have you used any undue methods, either by yourself or others in procuring this call?

10. Do you engage, in the strength and grace of Jesus Christ our Lord and Master, to rule well your own family, to live a holy and circumspect life, and faithfully, diligently, and cheerfully to discharge all the parts of the ministerial work, to the edification of the body of Christ?

11. Do you accept of and close with the call to be pastor of this church, and promise through grace