

time the Synod felt that however ready the ministers were for Union, the *laity*—the *people* were not by any means prepared for such a step.

On motion the Report was received, and the Committee was re-appointed.

Rev. G. Patterson called the attention of the Synod to an oversight committed by the October Synod in not communicating with the parent churches—thanking them for past support and countenance, and soliciting a continuance of their kindness to the United Body. Professor King coincided with Mr. Patterson's remarks, and hoped the matter would be attended to now. Professors Ross and King were then appointed to draft a letter to be forwarded to the Scottish Churches.

Rev. N. McKay read the Temperance Report, which reflected severely on the liquor traffic and on the drinking habits of society. After a lively discussion in which Professor King, W. Murray, A. Sutherland, A. James, R. McGregor, Professor Lyall, Dr. McLeod and others took part, the hour of adjournment arrived and proceedings were closed.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The consideration of the Temperance Report was resumed, and it was received and adopted. The Report took high ground against the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, and the Synod expressed its mind plainly on the sin and danger of engaging in a soul-destroying traffic for filthy lucre's sake.

Rev. Mr. McGregor introduced a resolution about selling and drinking intoxicating liquors on the Railway property. He called attention to facts that were new and startling to many members present, and it was unanimously resolved to adopt Mr. McGregor's resolution, and to send a copy of it to the Provincial Secretary. Rev. Mr. Cameron and others denounced very warmly the abuse of permitting rumshops to exist on public property,—tempting officials to indulge to the injury of their own health and the risk of passengers' lives. The universal sentiment of the Synod is that the Liquor Traffic as it prevails is a nuisance to be checked and put down by every legitimate means. Some would make total abstinence a term of communion. Others who do not admit the propriety of this step would still rejoice to see our churches purged from every man who gives license to his appetite for strong drink.

The Synod then took up the Report of the Seminary Board. The Board was authorized to draw up rules and regulations for the students—also to do what they can to promote the study of Rhetoric—to secure punctuality and regularity, and to enforce strictly the orders of Synod with regard to the qualifications of students seeking admission to the Seminary.

The Board was authorized to procure such books and apparatus as may be essential for the efficiency of the classes.

Rev. D. B. Blair reported from the Committee on Statistics. Of the 85 organized congregations in the Church, 67 had made returns and 18 made no returns. Of these 18 there are 8 in Cape Breton, 4 in P. E. Island, 3 in Halifax, 2 in Truro, and 1 in Pictou. 12 congregations have Deacon's Courts. Several interesting items of statistical information were brought out by the Convener. The thanks of the Synod were given to the Committee, and the Report is to be printed.

An interesting discussion arose on the proposal that Dr. Smith's term for teaching in the College be extended. Professor King urged the necessity for his term being extended from three months to five months yearly. Other members thought it would be better to extend the course to four years. After mature consideration of all the circumstances of the case it was resolved to leave matters in their present condition in the meantime, and to refer the subject to a Committee for mature consideration, to report to next Synod. The following Committee was nominated: Professors King and Ross, Rev. Messrs. McGulloch, McGregor and Murdoch.

The Special Effort for the Seminary was taken into consideration. It was intended to provide for endowment, building, apparatus, and so forth. A portion of the funds has been expended in current expenses. The Board urged that the Special Effort should be continued. The Synod agreed to