

The minutes of the last stated meetings in Toronto,—of the Commission, in October, in Kingston, and of the *pro re nata* meeting, in January, in Montreal,—were read by the Clerk, and the usual Committee of revision appointed.

SPECIAL DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES.

The Rev. Dr. Mathieson then invited attention to the names on the Roll, which had recently been read. Names of those with whom they had been wont to meet in sacred fellowship had been pronounced in their hearing, recalling the old familiar countenances of friends; but, alas! they were not. Since the last annual meeting, death had been busy in thinning their ranks. The stroke of the Destroyer had fallen heavily; and five of their number, including the Father of the Synod, the Rev. J. McKenzie of Williamstown, had taken their departure to the courts of the upper sanctuary. He faithfully portrayed the characters of the departed; and feelingly alluded to the circumstances attending their respective removals. He said, that these events addressed to all of them a loud and importunate call,—1st, to earnestness in prayer unto God for help,—“ Help Lord; for the godly man ceaseth”;—and 2ndly, to increase exertions in the work of their ministry, and more prayerful dependence on Him, “ with whom is the residue of the Spirit.”

At the close of Dr. M's. solemn address, and, on the nomination of the Moderator, the Rev. Mr. Urquhart, of Cornwall, led the Synod in prayer;—Rev. Dr. Mathieson, R. v. Mr. Urquhart, and the R. v. George Bell, of Simcoe, were appointed to prepare a minute expressive of the sense of the Synod, under its bereavement and of its humiliation before God;—and further, to suggest the measures requisite for supplying the Congregations left vacant, and those of them especially who desire Preachers in the Gaelic tongue.

SPECIAL MINUTES.

In directing attention to the following Minute, and concurring in the sentiments therein expressed, our readers will bear in mind that another member of the Synod the Rev. A. McLeau, has been since removed by death.

The Synod adopted the ensuing minute reported by the Committee.

“ While this Synod desire to humble themselves before God, and to recognise in the present afflictive dispensation His righteous, all wise, and sovereign decree, they, at the same time, with entire submission and resignation to the Divine will, desire to give expression to their poignant sorrow under the heavy bereavement that has thus come upon them, and at the same time to record their deep sense of the high personal and ministerial character of their departed brethren, and of the great loss sustained by them as individuals, and a Synod, as well as by the Church in general, in the dissolution of those sacred bonds of affection, of Christian brotherhood, and ministerial co-operation, which many years of mutual fellowship had strongly confirmed and united.

And this Synod with sincere sorrow would take this opportunity, while recording the deaths of their deceased brethren, also to record their deep sympathy with the bereaved widows and families, commending them affectionately to the grace and consolation of their Heavenly Father; and with the congregations that have thus been deprived of their pastors, guides and faithful friends for a long series of years.”

And, further, the Synod instructed their Moderators to correspond with the Colonial Committee of the General Assembly, in reference to the Churches made vacant by the lamented death of these brethren, and to set forth in the strongest light the sad spiritual destitution of that portion of them requiring Gaelic.

ROUTINE BUSINESS

A committee was then appointed to revise the minutes of the Annual Meeting.

The Synod then proceeded to the election of two Trustees for Queen's College, Kingston, when the retiring Trustees were elected.

The Synod then proceeded to the election of two Clergy Receve Commissioners, when the Hon. John Hamilton and W. Elmonstone, Esq. were re-elected.

The Synod then appointed a Committee on Bills and Overtures to meet at four o'clock in the afternoon of the same day.

Pre-bytery Clerks were instructed to place the Records of Presbytery on the table.

Leave was given to Presbyteries to sit in Montreal during the meeting of Synod when Synod was not in session.

The Synod agreed to meet at ten o'clock daily and a hour for an hour at one and five o'clock respectively, and it was further agreed, that the first part of each morning's sederunt be devoted to devotional exercises.

CORRESPONDENTS TO LOWER PROVINCES.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee of Bills and Overtures, an Overture from Mr. Morris, of the following tenor, viz:—Whereas it is much to be desired, and would contribute, under God's blessing, to the strengthening and extending of this Church in Canada, and in the Lower Provinces, that a closer fraternal interchange of sentiments should be had with the Synods in connection with the Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; and whereas it is believed that friendly commencing and mutual counsel would materially contribute to the advancement of the interests, in these Provinces, of that portion of the Church of Christ with which this Synod is connected.—It is hereby overtured that the Synod appoint a Deputation of Members of this Synod to be Correspondent Members of the Synod of Nova Scotia in connection with the Church of Scotland, which will meet at Halifax on Tuesday, the 3rd day of July, and also a deputation of the Members of this Synod to be Correspondent Members, on behalf of this Synod to the Synod of New Brunswick in connection with the Church of Scotland which will meet at St. Johns on Thursday, the 16th day of August, willing them provided said Synods approve of the appointment, to have in view in all their actings said Synods the best interests of the Church and the Glory of God; and the Synod further, with all affection and sympathy invite said Synods respectively to receive with brotherly kindness the said Correspondent Members and to appoint on their part correspondent members to attend the next Annual Meeting of this Synod, in order that feelings of attachment and regard may be the more enkindled and cherished between the Members of the Church in Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.”

Mr. Alex. Morris earnestly supported the overture. He referred to the position of the Church in the Lower Provinces, detailed its exertions and struggles and pointed out some of the advantages which would be derived from interchange of sympathies. Queen's College would be benefitted. Already three students from Nova Scotia were at that institution; and instead of attempting to organize a college of their own, the people of the Lower Provinces should in the meantime take advantage of Queen's college. He also referred to close re-union as likely to be the result.

Rev. Dr. Mathieson seconded the motion—he thought fier inter-course with the brethren in the Lower Provinces very desirable. Pre-byterianism was peculiarly catholic in its spirit, but there were special reasons for cultivating friendly relations with the Lower Provinces. Why should we be separated—nursed in the same Church, and come forth to plant the Gospel of Peace in these colonies? Our hands would be encouraged and we would be helpful of our brethren. He referred to a letter of the Rev. Mr. Henderson, advocating this measure which he had received.

The Rev. Mr. Muir briefly addressed the Synod, feeling as-sured that the overture would meet with cordial approval.

The Rev. Mr. Bain (Scarboro') was of opinion that such efforts deserved countenance, being a manifestation of Christian feeling and expansive affection; but was desirous that the result should be a practical one—that the people should be brought under the influence of the effort. He suggested that the press should be used as a vehicle of diffusion of our sentiments. If the overture led to active co-operation it would be eminently beneficial. It would be very important that the idea of a General Assembly should be kept in view. He further thought that care ought to be taken to give wide publicity to the reception given to the deputation.

Dr. Mathieson said that a General Assembly in British North America was the object had in view by the promoters of the overture, but as the time had not yet come for that movement, the present effort had been devised as an initiatory step in that direction.

The Rev. Dr. McGill sustained the overture, and suggested the appointment of a committee to take the matter into consideration and report as to the men who should be sent, and as to the best mode of carrying out the scheme with efficiency. He thought that it might be well to instruct the Committee to prepare a scheme for an Assembly.

The Synod then unanimously agreed to the overture and appointed Dr. Mathieson, Dr. McGill, Dr. Barclay, and Mr. Morris, to consider and report upon the best means of carrying out this measure.

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS FUND.

The Annual Report of the Managers of the Ministers' Widows and Orphan's Fund was given in, and read by Dr. Mathieson, the Chairman, and is as follows:—

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT.

Of the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

Since the presentation of their last Report the Managers, in common with the whole Church, have to deplore the death, in rapid succession, of five excellent and zealous Ministers, namely, Dr. Mair, and Messrs. Moody, Milligan, McLaurin, and McKenzie. All of these Clergymen have left widows, whose names have been added to the Roll of Annuitants, but it is matter of deep regret to the Managers that the amount of funds at their disposal being so inconsiderable, the Annuities are much smaller than what is necessary for their becoming maintenance and support. At the end of their last Report, the hope was held out that they might be able to add to all the Annuities during the present year. The number of Annuitants, however, has so rapidly increased in the interval—(at the present time amounting to twelve)—that no addition can prudently be made from the Fund consisting of Ministers' Contributions, but the Managers expect to be able to advance something farther from the fund composed of Congregational Collections.

In their Report dated 8th March last, the Managers stated that the amount at the credit of the Fund formed from Ministers' Contributions was.....	£1385 0 0
And at the credit of the fund formed from Congregational Collections, since then there has been received a payment from the Ministers amounting to	120 0 0
Nearly a like amount from the same source will be available on the 1st July next,—say.....	120 0 0
Up to this date there have been received on account of Congregational Collections.....	286 16 8
And it is probable that there will yet be received on that account Interest on Investments received since 8th December last and to be received by 1st July next....	49 10 0
	100 2 8

£3806 19 9