

and usefulness of a regularly constituted Presbytery, by the name and style of the "SCOTCH PRESBYTERY OF HALIFAX," or by any other name your venerable Assembly may judge proper.

"And your Memorialists, as in duty bound, shall ever pray, &c."

(Signed by the ministers mentioned at commencement.)

As we believe this document will amply repay perusal, we offer no apology for taking up so much space by its insertion. It may occur to many readers of this, unacquainted with the particular laws of our Church, to ask what need of mentioning such trifling matters as the amount of stipend, and the validity of the bond, in a memorial of such importance to the highest Court of our Church. The Church of Scotland, with becoming zeal for its respectability, takes cognizance of the position of every clergyman under her jurisdiction; by an act of her General Assembly no preacher in her connection, except for foreign parts, is ordained as minister until the Church has sufficient guarantees that a salary is provided which shall enable him ever to maintain respectably that high position he holds, as one of her ministers. As these ministers were praying for recognition by the Church of Scotland, it was necessary they should show that they held positions worthy of her.

The above Memorial was transmitted to the late Dr. Mearns, of King's College, Aberdeen, to be by him laid before the first meeting of the General Assembly. And the Presbytery, after resolving to meet at Pictou on the second day of June next, adjourned. At which date there occurred an event, too often inevitable at the present time. Only two members appeared at the meeting, and the Presbytery could not be constituted, and became defunct. In such circumstances it was rather an advantage than otherwise, that no higher Court had given them a constitution as a Presbytery; had it been so, another application was needed, and a renewal of the power to constitute again their Presbytery must be had. But having, of themselves, assumed the name and powers of a Presbytery, by the same power they could, at any future period, resuscitate the decayed body. Accordingly we find, that after being without a Presbytery for five months, this Court again sprung into life in Pictou on the 10th day of November, 1824. RUTH.

(For the "Monthly Record.")

Presbytery of Pictou.

At St. Andrew's Church, Pictou, the 11th day of January, 1859; which day the Presbytery met, in hunc effectum, at the call of the Moderator, as resolved last meeting, and was constituted. Sederunt, &c.

A deputation appeared from Gairloch and Salt Springs, and stated that they had written

Rev. Mr. McKay, of Belfast, according to the decision of Presbytery, on the 7th December, and that Mr. McKay had in reply, in a private letter, promised to accept of their call.

After remarks from members, the Presbytery, seeing the trouble the congregation had already been put to, and the ignorance of many in reference to the law of our church on this point, agreed to accept this letter as equivalent to an acceptance of presentation. At the same time, they express their decided opinion that until the laws of our church are strictly adhered to, troubles will continue to exist. They, therefore, appoint the Rev. A. Pollok to draw up a statement of the laws and forms of the Church of Scotland on this matter as practicable in this country, and publish it in the *Monthly Record*, for the instruction of the various congregations.

The Presbytery, in accordance with the foregoing resolution, appoint the Rev. A. W. Herdman to preach at Salt Springs on the 24th January, and moderate in a call in favor of Mr. McKay, and the Rev. James Mair to preach at Gairloch on the 2d day of February, for the same purpose.

Closed with prayer.

JAMES MAIR,
Presby Clerk.

In reference to the above, we may remark, that the part of the Church laws, referring to the settlement of ministers, occupies *fourteen* pages of "Hill's Practice in the Church Courts," and it is questionable, whether it would be desirable or useful to publish such a lengthy document, pure and simple, in the *Monthly Record*. Besides, the editor of a church periodical would not relish the responsibility of making adaptations to the circumstances of our church here in so important a matter as its laws. When such adaptations come to be discussed, there will necessarily be a great diversity of opinion. It would be well if the Presbytery, and perhaps better, if the Synod, would appoint a committee to revise our laws, upon the simple principle of changing nothing but what is rendered absolutely necessary by our altered circumstances as a church, supported by the voluntary contributions of the people, and taking root in a country thousands of miles away from the dear old fatherland, of the spirit, history and institutions of which our church inevitably partakes.

We understand that the Church in Canada, as well as we, has met with difficulties in this important part of its action, and propose grappling with them by drawing up a scheme of procedure, as much, we presume, in accordance with the ancient laws of the Church of Scotland as possible. For, though, like ourselves,