

Your Petitioners pray your Honourable House to take the premises into your consideration, and to take such steps as to Your Honourable House may seem proper for preventing the desecration of the Sabbath.

Signed at Toronto, this Ninth day of July, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Years:—in Name, in Presence, and by Appointment of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, by

J. MALCOLM SMITH, M. A.,

MODERATOR.

The Synod instructed the Moderator to have the several copies of this Petition presented to His Excellency the Governor General, and the two Houses of Parliament respectively.

The Synod called for Returns from Presbyteries on the Act anent the Examination of Ministers, Licentiates, and Students from other Churches; and the same having been found to be approved of, the Synod adopted the said Act as a standing law of this Church, it being understood that it shall also apply to the Students of Divinity of this Church who shall be candidates for licence to preach the Gospel. The said Act is as follows:—

Whereas the prosperity and efficiency of a Church as an Institution for carrying forward the work of Christ in the world, depends, with the blessing of God, in a great measure, on the high literary and theological attainments and devoted piety of her Ministers:—And whereas it is the duty of those who have rule to take especial care that no one shall be admitted into the sacred office of the Ministry, but after the most faithful and searching examination into their ministerial gifts and qualifications:—And whereas it is desirable and necessary to the carrying into effective operation the Act of Synod anent the reception of Ministers, Licentiates, and Students of Divinity from other Churches, not in connection with this Church, that more full provision be made in regard to the conducting of the examinations required by the said Act, the Synod hereby resolve that a Committee of Synod be formed, whose duty it shall be to examine thoroughly and strictly such candidates as shall be recommended to them by any Presbytery under the jurisdiction of the Synod, on Literature, Philosophy, Exegetical and Systematic Theology, and Hebrew, and, if satisfied, shall, in good faith to the Church and to the applicant himself, certify the same.

This Examining Committee shall be appointed annually, on the second day of the annual meeting of Synod, and shall consist of not less than two members from each Presbytery. Seven members shall be a quorum; and the Moderator of the Synod for the time being shall be the Convener of the Committee.

The Committee shall meet during the meeting of Synod or immediately after its rising; and if it shall be found necessary to hold any other meetings, on account of any applications that may be addressed

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