

they applied to it as a body in whose soundness in the faith they could put every confidence. Hence most of the ministers who arrived for some time after were from the Secession.

At length, several ministers having arrived in the Province, it was deemed advisable to form a Presbytery. This was accordingly done in the year 1786. We shall quote the account of it in full :—

*“Truro, in the District of Colchester, County of Halifax, Province  
“of Nova Scotia, North America, A. D. 1786.*

“There having been free and friendly conversation held at Truro upon the 26th day of June last, at the house of the Rev Daniel Coch—present, the said Rev Daniel Coch, minister of Truro, the Rev David Smith, minister of Londonderry, the Rev Hugh Graham, minister of Cornwallis, together with the greatest number of elders of the congregation of Truro—respecting the expediency of having a Presbytery constituted in this part of the Province, as hitherto there never had been any higher ecclesiastical court than that of a Kirk Session. After a considerable time spent in free conversation and serious deliberation respecting the matter, it was agreed that the ministers then present, together with representatives from the eldership in each congregation, where they had an eldership formally ordained, should meet for that purpose at Truro upon Wednesday, the 2nd day of August first coming. It was farther agreed also that the Rev Daniel Coch should open the meeting by preaching a sermon in the forenoon; that the day should be set apart for fasting and prayer by as many as could possibly attend; and that the afternoon should be spent in prayer by each of the ministers, one after another, with singing of Psalms in the interval between public prayer.

“Accordingly, when the appointed time came, at Truro, as aforesaid, eleven o’clock, A. M., after public praise and prayer, the Rev Daniel Coch preached a sermon from Psalm cxxii., verse 5th, “For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.” After prayer and praise and pronouncing the blessing the ministers present retired for a little, and by this time there being other two ministers of the Presbyterian denomination come up, viz., the Rev George Gilmore, who officiates at Windsor, in the county of Hants, and the Rev James McGregor, who had lately come from North Britain with a design to officiate in the settlement at Pictou (now called Tinmouth), in the county of Halifax; it was agreed that the Rev George Gilmore should begin the afternoon service by public praise and prayer; that he should be succeeded by the Rev Hugh Graham; he by the Rev James McGregor; and that the exercises should be concluded by the Rev David Smith; which was done accordingly. After the dismissal of the congregation the ministers present entered upon the consideration of the design of their meeting at this time; and, after some consideration, it was agreed that a Moderator and Clerk should be chosen *pro tempore*; upon which the Rev Daniel Coch was chosen Moderator and the Rev David Smith Clerk. After the constitution of the Presbytery by prayer by the Rev Daniel Coch, Moderator, they proceeded to make up their roll, and there were present, the Rev Messrs. Daniel Coch of Truro, David Smith of Londonderry, Hugh Graham of Cornwallis, James McGregor of Pictou, and George Gilmore of Windsor, ministers; only Mr George Gilmore is for the present admitted as a correspondent member; of elders, John Johnston from the Session of Truro, and John Barahill from the Session of Londonderry, whose names being called, and all present, they took their seats accordingly.

“The Moderator declared from the chair the Presbytery to be constituted precisely on the footing of Presbyterian principles, as contained in and founded upon the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, as exemplified in the Westminster Confession of Faith, Larger and Shorter Catechisms, Form of Church Government and Discipline, as attained to and practised by the Church of Scotland in her purest times, and by the name of the Associate Presbytery of Truro.

“And that in our present situation this Presbytery, as now constituted, be the last court of resort in this Province, until such times as their number be so increased that it be expedient to divide into different Presbyteries and to have a Provincial Synod erected.