

after he has been suitably admonished by the Moderator."

It was also moved in amendment by Mr. MacKerras, and seconded by Mr. George Malloch, "That the Commission, having heard read a letter from Mr. Whyte, renewing his application to have the suspension confirmed by the Synod at its last meeting in his case removed; and having also received letters from several individuals, living in the neighbourhood of Mr. Whyte's present residence at Ancaster, bearing favourable testimony to his character and deportment, so far as known to them, during the past seven months; and having furthermore had laid on its table a Memorial from the Presbytery of Bathurst, addressed to this Reverend Court, urging delay, for reasons given therein, in granting the prayer of Mr. Whyte's application, resolve, in all the circumstances of the case, not to remove at present the suspension, and agree to refer the whole matter to the next meeting of Synod.

The vote was then taken between Mr. McMurchy's motion and Mr. MacKerras's amendment, when there voted for the motion Mr. James Bain, Dr. John Skinner, Mr. John McMurchy, Mr. David Watson, Mr. Archibald Colquhoun, Mr. William Cleland, Ministers; Mr. Donald Cameron, Mr. Archibald Brown, Mr. Wm. Sinclair, Elders, nine; and for the amendment, Mr. Kenneth MacLennan, Mr. Peter Ferguson, Mr. John H. MacKerras, Mr. John Campbell, Mr. John Brown, Ministers; Mr. John G. Malloch, Mr. Robert Bell, Mr. George Malloch, Elders, eight.

Mr. McMurchy's motion was accordingly declared to be carried, and the Commission decerned in terms thereof.

Whereupon Mr. MacKerras, in his own name and in the name of as many as should adhere to him, protested for leave to complain to the Synod at its next meeting against this deliverance, when there adhered to him Mr. John Campbell, Mr. John Brown, Ministers; Mr. John G. Malloch, Mr. Robert Bell, Mr. George Malloch, Elders. Mr. Kenneth MacLennan and Mr. Peter Ferguson, Ministers, also entered their dissent from this deliverance.

No other business having been brought forward, the Commission adjourned *sine die*, and was closed with the Apostolic Benediction.

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE SYNOD.

As the Church extends its operations, and its membership increases, the ecclesiastical business of the Synod also increases, and the necessity of previous arrangement of the various matters requiring attention becomes apparent. Besides, during the interval between the Annual Meetings of Synod, or the Quarterly Meetings of Presbytery, there are many matters requiring steady continuous notice. Hence the Church of Scotland has found that its Schemes can be best managed by entrust-

ing them to Committees of zealous men; and the Reports of the Colonial and the Jewish Foreign Mission Committees, of that on Popery, of those on Sabbath Observance and on Sabbath Schools, and of that on the Endowment Scheme, evince the judiciousness of devolving upon a few earnest men the management of these various efforts. Our own Church can point to the Committee of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund as an illustration of the faithful working-out of a scheme under this mode of action. The French Mission Committee is appointed under a different plan, and we doubt its proving as efficient, owing to the largeness of the Committee, viz: the Montreal Presbytery, and the difficulty of constituting it, as it ought to prove if organized under the other system. We have now an Education Committee, and a Committee on Church Property. A Committee for the management of the temporalities of the Church, and the efficient working-out of a scheme for the sustentation of the Ministry, and the extension of the Church, must also be appointed; and much will depend upon the fitting choice of men to manage it. Without touching at all upon the peculiar functions of the Presbyteries and other Church Courts, Committees might with propriety and benefit be entrusted with the management of various schemes, and the preparation of business for the action of the higher Courts. We would be pleased to see Committees on Statistical Returns, Sabbath Schools, the Home Mission, and Jewish and Foreign Missions appointed. We believe that good would be the result, and that their annual reports would communicate interest to the proceedings of the Synod, stimulate to increased exertion, and chronicle the progress of our Church to such a position as would give it a firm hold upon the affections of the people of the Province, while proving an honoured instrument for the spread of the knowledge of the Truth throughout the land, and the enlightenment of its dark places.

THE CHURCH IN THE LOWER PROVINCES.

COLONIAL CHURCHES.

The following statements regarding the state of Religion in the Colonies are furnished by individuals who are well acquainted with the matters to which they refer. They are therefore earnestly recommended by the Colonial Committee to the friends of Missions and all who take an interest in the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom.

PRESBYTERY OF HALIFAX.

The Presbytery of Halifax, which once numbered 3 Clergymen in Halifax, 1 in Dartmouth, 1 in Laurencetown and the adjoining districts, 1 in Cornwallis, 1 in Shelburne, 1 in Yarmouth, 1 in Lunenburg, 1 in Bermuda, and 1 in Newfoundland is now reduced to 3, 2 in Halifax, both men advanced in life, and 1 in St. John's, Newfoundland.

To the westward of Halifax, where there were once large and flourishing congregations, several of which have been alienated from the Church,

not from any want of love to it but purely from want of Clergymen, there are still numbers of adherents to the Church of Scotland, whose attachment nothing can shake, but no Minister of the Church has been able to visit that part of the country for 10 years.

To the eastward of Halifax there are several very important mission stations, where there are many friends of the Church, and where, notwithstanding the long neglect to which they have been subjected, 2 congregations might yet be formed. During the past 3 years, when there was a Missionary within the bounds of the Presbytery, these stations were supplied as often as possible, but now they are of necessity wholly unvisited. Of the 3 Clergymen now constituting the Presbytery of Halifax, 1—having received a retiring allowance from the Committee, and it being the intention of the Synod to appoint him Superintendent of Missions—only holds his charge till a suitable person is procured to succeed him; so that, to put this Presbytery into any thing like an efficient condition, and to endow it with an agency at all adequate to the spiritual destitution within its bounds, a Clergyman should be sent out to St. Andrews, Halifax, and at least another to act as Missionary under the superintendence of the Presbytery. I mentioned Bermuda as a place where we formerly had a congregation, and I take the liberty of calling the attention of the Committee to the immense importance of our having Scotch Clergymen permanently planted at the great military stations, and especially those in the Mediterranean. The present army regulations would generally ensure them a large portion of their salary, even if the Government were to make no special allowance, and there could be no difficulty in getting Clergymen to supply places so desirable in many respects for residence.

PRESBYTERY OF PICTOU.

Passing now to the Presbytery of Pictou, we find the most compact body of the adherents of our Church in the Lower Colonies. That Presbytery at present numbers 4 Ministers, while the people require and could support 12 or 14. At one extremity of the Presbytery are the congregations of Wallace and Pugwash. Within a compass of 10 miles we have there 3 churches, and a very large body of adherents; while beyond this there are other important settlements, such as Stake Road and Victoria, where most of the families belong to our Church. This most important field has been vacant for 16 or 17 years. The people are thoroughly able to support a Clergyman, and they have made many urgent appeals for one to the Colonial Committee, but hitherto in vain. Surely one man at least should be sent to this district without further delay. The great proportion of the people there can speak English, and, although in some respects it would be very desirable that they should have a Gaelic Minister, yet, as Gaelic Congregations, which are in still greater need, cannot be supplied, I believe they would be satisfied with one not having this qualification. Coming up nearer to Pictou, the capital of the county, we have the large congregations of Earlton, Cape John, West Branch of River John, and Rogers Hill. This important field, after having been for many years destitute, was supplied for between 2 and 3 years by the Rev. Mr. M'Kay, who was translated, during the past summer, to Belfast, Prince Edward's Island. During Mr. M'Kay's ministration our cause was greatly revived there, and I believe the people would be perfectly willing at present to support 2 ministers. But certainly one should be sent to them immediately, and it is essential that he should have a knowledge of Gaelic. Adjoining this district, lies that of the Rev. Mr. M'Lean, who preaches in 4 churches to different congregations, any one of which is sufficient for the labours of a pastor. Before the Secession, when the population was of course less than at present, they formed 2 congregations. For about 10 years they were without any Clergyman, receiving only such occasional supply as the Rev. Mr. M'Gillivray, who at that time ministered to the whole county, was able to give them. Mr.