

CANADIAN PRESBYTERIAN HISTORY.
No. VI.

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UNITED SYNOD OF UPPER CANADA.—Continued.

The last article left the committees of the two Synods in conference at York, during the sittings of the Synod of Canada, in August 1833, on the subject of Union. Before the report of the committee of the latter body could be made, that Synod received a "Declaratory Enactment of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland," as to churches and ministers in the Colonies, made it "a part of the Constitution of this Church," and enjoined Presbyteries "to regulate their proceedings accordingly." This enactment was construed to rule out all licentiates of the United Synod, in case of Union, and all ministers who might afterwards arrive in the province, unless they had been ordained by the Church of Scotland at home.

In the Synod of Canada, with the report of its committee, was presented, also, the resolutions of the United Synod and "the letter of the Rev. William Bell complaining of the conduct of the Presbytery of Bathurst." Upon consideration of the report, Synod determined that in view of the adoption of the Declaratory Enactment, it could not "adopt any new measure for promoting the union, in advance of the measure of last year, without consulting the General Assembly;" but they declared, nevertheless, that they were "disposed to act up to the spirit of the resolution of last year, and to give effect to the same." For this purpose "to remove the ambiguity which may seem to attach to it," they declared that it is "expedient that ministers of the United Synod, admitted into this body, shall subscribe the Formula prescribed by Act tenth of the General Assembly of the Established Church of Scotland, 1711, and the Synod enjoin Presbyteries to receive into them such ministers of that body as shall subscribe this Formula, and fulfil the other conditions of the resolution of last year—giving, however, to those who may apply for admission the kindest interpretation of the resolutions of the Synod."

The effect of this action of the Synod of Canada appears to have been different among the members of the two Presbyteries of the United Synod. The Presbytery of Brockville, the members of which, a year before, were quite inclined to accept the terms, became now united in their opposition, while the feeling of hostility in the Presbytery of York was considerably weakened. The Presbytery of Brockville declared unanimously that "a union with the Synod of Canada, according to the terms proposed, would be unscriptural, derogatory to our character as a public body, injurious to the vital cause of religion, prolifically disseminating the seeds of discord, productive of many evils, and attended with no good, moral or religious." Under date of December 10th, 1833, Mr. Andrew Bell, writing to Mr. Smart, after acknowledging the receipt of documents, etc., said:

"For the reasons you mention, as well as some others, it was always, and is still, against my own feelings to join on the terms proposed. But, through the last summer, there appeared to be such a desire for the union, even on the terms offered (at least as I thought), that, at the time of the meeting of the Kirk Synod at York, I was led to declare that, if the rest of you all joined, I would be willing to sacrifice my feelings and join too, in order to promote the general welfare of our Church. However, as there would be many difficulties to encounter, both with ministers and congregations, by our joining or attempting to join, I am really not at all sorry that you have put a stop to the matter at present. Mr. Ferguson is almost the only one that persists in agitating the subject amongst us. He did so at last meeting, and wanted to urge the matter to a conclusion and set it forever at rest one way or the other. In opposing him, I showed that I wished a union as much as he, and further that . . . it was in vain to talk of a union when there were not more than one or two at present willing to join, and that by urging the matter to a rash conclusion, it would only cause a split amongst ourselves; and I besought all to beware of division, and wait and try what effect time would have in working a greater unanimity one way or another."

THIRD ANNUAL MEETING.

According to adjournment, the third annual meeting was held in Toronto (late York) commencing Monday, June 16th, 1834. Present, Rev. Messrs. McDowall, Smart, W. Bell, Jenkins, Harris, King, Andrew Bell, Lyle, Bryning and McMillan, and elders Isaac Fraser, Robert Marsh, M. McLellan, Gilbert Bastedo, Ephraim Steen, Abraham Yonge, and John Chrington. Rev. Robert Lyle preached the opening sermon, and in the absence of the Moderator, Rev. R. McDowall was chosen to that position. The following items of business are reported:

Accessions.—Rev. James Rogers, having been ordained at Demorestville (June 13th, 1834), Rev. James George having been installed at Scarborough (July 3rd, 1833), and Rev. George McClatchey having been installed at Clinton (May 23rd, 1834), their names were added to the roll. Rev. James Howey was reported as installed over Tecumseh, West Gwillimbury and Essa, August 22nd, 1833, but his name was not added.

Withdrawals.—Rev. Peter Ferguson, minister of Esquesing, having withdrawn from this ecclesiastical body, and united himself with the Synod of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, in an irregular, disorderly and unpresbyterial manner, his name was erased from the roll. Messrs. George and Harris requested and received dismissals from Synod, the former to connect himself with the Synod of Canada, and the latter to remain without Synodical connection until 1844.

Wouldn't Receive a Visit.—The Presbytery of York reported holding a Visting Presbytery with Mr. Jenkins' congregation at Richmond Hill, and that they "were prevented by the Session" from holding one with Mr. Harris' congregation, Toronto. Messrs. W. Bell, Boyd, Lyle, King and Jenkins were appointed to meet and confer with Mr. Harris and his Session in reference to the matters of difference. The committee, afterwards, as the result of their conference, reported that no reconciliation could be effected. Mr. Jenkins dissented from the report, and the language of the dissent furnishes the only recorded intimation of the cause of trouble. It was as follows:

"I, William Jenkins, hereby solemnly dissent, in my own name and in the name of all those who may now or hereafter accede to the same, against the United Synod of Upper Canada, for their reception of a bounty from the Civil Government as Ministers of the Gospel, because I believe it to be in some measure a silent approbation of and a giving countenance to those measures that have been so tremendous a source of many miseries to mankind, ever since the Church and State have been united together, making the blessed religion of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, the cause of many wars, persecutions and oppressive measures to mankind, in every part of the Christian world where they have been or do now exist."

Resignation and Election.—Rev. Andrew Bell resigned his position as Synod Clerk, and Rev. William Smart was chosen to succeed him.

More Money Wanted.—A memorial was drawn up to the Lieutenant-Governor, praying for an augmentation of the Government allowance, and that the Rev. George McClatchey and Rev. James Rogers may participate in the same.

MORE ABOUT UNION.

At this session, the Brockville Presbytery reported a series of resolutions unanimously passed by that body, strongly opposing "a union with the Synod of Canada according to the terms proposed." The Synod Committee presented a report drawn by Rev. Andrew Bell, declaring, among other things, that "The Synod of Canada would not recognize our Probationers, that is, the young men not ordained over congregations, unless they had been connected with the Church of Scotland." Synod having received said report,

"Resolved, That it is inexpedient at present to accede to the terms of union proposed by the Synod of Canada, but we cannot relinquish the hope that the time is not far distant when this union will be effected to the satisfaction of both parties."

Synod adopted an address to the Lieutenant-Governor, in which regrets were expressed that "Your Excellency's earnest desire and Sir George Murray's recommendation to promote union" between the two Synods "has not been effected." The address made this declaration:

"The Synod of Canada has unequivocally refused to receive our Probationers into their connection, or admit into their body Ministers, however well qualified, unless from the Church of Scotland; and to form a Union upon these terms would be, in our opinion, a most gross dereliction of duty on our part, a total subversion of our established principles which were and still are to unite all Presbyterians now in the Province, or who may hereafter arrive, in one efficient body, and thereby strengthen the hands of the Government, promote peace in the community, and illustrate the power and purity of the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

MORE SECESSION IN THE WEST.

At a meeting of the Presbytery of York, July 17th, 1834, scarcely a month after this very emphatic Synodical action in reference to union, Messrs. Andrew Bell and Duncan McMillan requested and received dismissal from that body, and, soon after, they, with Messrs. Ferguson and George united with the Presbytery of Toronto, in connection with the Synod of

Canada. This very sudden change on the part of Mr. Bell, considering the strong position theretofore held by him against union on the terms proposed, at least until all should go over together, naturally created much discussion, and uncharitable suggestions were made as to the influencing motives. To the reader of this sketch the inconsistency of this act will be apparent, but we should hardly judge, with severity *apparent* inconsistency on the part of such men with the limited appreciation of which we are capable of the peculiar and embarrassing circumstances surrounding them. With the meagre insight the writer has been permitted, in his study of facts and documents, he is ready to wonder, not that so much, but that so little of human nature was developed among the pioneer preachers in Canada. It may be said, in partial explanation of the change, that, until about this time, Mr. Bell had hoped for and expected some arrangement or consolidation with the missionaries of the United Secession Church of Scotland, whose sympathies with the United Synod had been often expressed. But that hope was now at an end—those missionaries were about to be organized into a Presbytery, no member of which would be permitted to receive Government allowance. There would then be two Presbyterian organizations in Canada, each affiliated with a strong Church in Scotland—one supported largely from the public treasury, and both aided by missionary funds collected in Great Britain. Between these, the United Synod, with no "home" connection, and barely a £700 allowance, although the oldest organization, would be seriously embarrassed in its efforts for progress. And, surely, so far as the Presbytery of York (Toronto) was concerned, the future looked very unpromising, after these four and Messrs. Eastman and Harris had left, and when it was certain that Mr. Jenkins would soon withdraw. But it still lived.

THE DOOR OF ADMISSION CLOSED.

At a meeting of the Synod of Canada held at Montreal, in October, 1834, objection was made to the names of Messrs. Ferguson, George, A. Bell and McMillan, then first reported on the roll of the (Kirk) Presbytery of Toronto, as they were "*not ministers of the Church of Scotland*," and, after considerable discussion on a resolution for a committee of inquiry, an amendment was adopted to the effect

"That, since no duly attested roll of the Presbytery of Toronto is this year presented, the Synod do, in the mean time, recognize as the Ministers of that Presbytery, only the Ministers whose names appear upon the roll presented to the Synod convened at Toronto in August, 1833."

During the same session, the Synod of Canada rescinded the resolution of 1833, in relation to the reception of ministers from the United Synod, and resolved to memorialize the General Assembly that "such members of the United Synod as may have been already admitted in terms of said resolution, be recognized as ministers of this Church." So the names of the seceders were not yet entered on the roll of the Synod of Canada, they were not recognized as ministers of the Church of Scotland, and the door was closed against all future applications from other ministers of the United Synod. The next year the names of Messrs. Ferguson, George, A. Bell, and McMillan again appeared on the roll of the Kirk Presbytery of Toronto, and they were permitted to take their seats in Synod, without a vote, but against the protest of seven members, "on the ground of their not being ministers of the Church of Scotland." No answer to the memorial to the General Assembly in reference to their connection with "this Church" appears to have been received.

FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The fourth annual meeting was held in Brockville, commencing Monday, June 8th, 1835. Present: Rev. Messrs. McDowall, Smart, William Bell, Boyd and Gemmill, with Elders McCrady, Lyle and McIntosh, from the Presbytery of Brockville, and Rev. Messrs. King, Rogers and McClatchey, from the Presbytery of Toronto. Mr. McDowall preached the opening sermon, and Mr. McClatchey was chosen Moderator.

Accessions.—Rev. Joseph Anderson, from the Synod of Ulster, having been installed at South Gower; Rev. Thomas Johnson having been ordained over the church at Chinguacousy, Rev. James Douglass from the Associate Reformed Church in the United States, with his church at Cavan, having been admitted to the Brockville Presbytery, their names were entered on the roll of Synod—Mr. Douglass to be installed on the first Sunday in July.