

The Synod had also transmitted to them, by their committee of bills and overtures, an overture from the Presbytery of Toronto, that the Synod direct the Clergy Reserve Commissioners, in the event of their obtaining the proceeds of the lapsed allowances, instead of dividing them in the manner proposed by the Synod last year, to divide the amount of each year's lapsed allowances among the unendowed ministers on the roll of that year. The Synod, after discussion, referred the overture to the Clergy Reserve Commissioners.

The Synod having called for the reports of Presbyteries in regard to the Act declaring the spiritual independence of this Synod, passed at last meeting, and no objections having been reported by any of the Presbyteries, the Synod did, and hereby do, convert the said Act into a Standing Law of this church.

The Synod called for the draft of the Pastoral Letter on the subject of the late calamities at Quebec, which was given in and read by Mr. Machar. The Synod adopted the same; and it was signed by the Moderator, and ordered to be printed and circulated without delay. The letter is as follows:—

Pastoral Letter of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, to the Kirk Sessions and Congregations under their spiritual superintendence.

BELOVED BRETHREN :

Remembering that when one member of the body suffers, all the other members should suffer with it, the Synod, having had their attention drawn to the recent awful fires by which so large a portion of the city of Quebec has been laid in ashes, and so many of its people reduced to utter destitution, cannot refrain from calling upon you to sympathise with the sufferers, and to seek of God that He would graciously sanctify this fearful visitation, both to the immediate sufferers and to the whole body of our population.

It is said that "When the judgments of God are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness;" and happy will it be for us if this, and other calamitous visitations of the same kind on our land, shall become the means of bringing our sins to our remembrance, and of leading us to humble ourselves under his mighty hand, on account of those iniquities which unhappily prevail in the midst of us, and which so justly provoke heavy judgment. The Synod would carefully guard against being thought to hold the opinion that those in Quebec who have so severely suffered under the late calamities, are

KINGSTON,
Tuesday,
July 8, 1845

Overture anent equitable distribution of the lapsed allowances, referred to the nine commissioners.

The Act anent spiritual independence made a permanent Law of the church.

Pastoral Letter adopted and signed.

Pastoral Letter anent the calamities at Quebec.