

3. That the existence of slavery in America is in former times in the West Indies, and always has been attended with injustice and cruelty on the part of proprietors,—evils which no special cases of kind treatment on the part of individuals can neutralize or excuse.

4. That in some of the Southern or slave-holding States there are laws prohibiting the teaching of slaves to read the Word of God, or to attend on religious instruction except in particular cases; and those laws are for the most part round by severe penalties; such laws and penalties being in direct opposition to God's Word and the rights of conscience.

4. That in point of fact, gross licentiousness and great immoralities are the melancholy results of Slavery, and that while these affect deeply the character of proprietors and their families, the Slaves have not the means of protection from lawless lust.

6. That the Church of Christ ought never to be found in a position to prevent her from protesting against Slavery and its evils, and adopting such measures as principle and duty demand for their removal.

7. That many of the Churches of America, and particularly the Presbyterian, have manifested a sinful apathy in regard to these evils; and that at Cincinnati, on the 21st of May last, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (Old School) came by a majority of 161 to 12, to the resolution that it was not their duty to take action in the matter at all; and that under the two-fold plea "that the Churches of America were originally formed on the assumption that Slavery was no bar to Christian communion;" and that the tendency of the discussion of such petitions is "to separate the Northern from the Southern portion of the Church, a result," say they, "which every good citizen must deplore."

8. That this Synod shall transmit a copy of these Resolutions to the Moderator of said Assembly, with a respectful but firm and affectionate remonstrance.

X. Respecting co-operation with other Evangelical Churches.

Mr. Esson having reported—That as the results of the conference which was held at last meeting of Synod by a Committee of Synod with ministers of various evangelical denominations of the city of Toronto—an association had been formed for delivering Lectures in that city, in opposition to prevailing errors, and that an extended series of Lectures had been delivered by different Ministers with good effect.

The Synod agreed to record their approbation of such friendly fellowship and communion, as being quite compatible with varieties of ecclesiastical management and in no respect inimical to the independence of Churches, while it is highly favorable to the advancement of the Saviour's Kingdom,—and further to express their hope that such communion as that implied in the measures described by Mr. Esson, will, by the blessing of God, issue in a still closer relationship, especially in Churches whose Doctrine, Worship, and Discipline are essentially the same.

XI. Respecting a model Trust Deed.

The Synod called for the Report of the Committee on the preparation of a Model Trust Deed, and the same was given in and sustained.—and the Synod, in conformity with the recommendation thereof, agreed to refer the matter to the Committee, with instructions to them to consider the provisions of the Model Trust Deed of the Free Church of Scotland, and prepare, with the assistance of a competent Lawyer, a Draft of a Deed, to be circulated, when prepared, throughout the Church, and submitted to the next meeting of Synod.

XII. Respecting the State of Religion and the Visitation of Churches.

The Synod having called for the Report of the

Committee to whom were referred the Overtures for enquiring into the state of Religion, and on Presbyterian Visitation,—and the same having been read and maturely considered, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

1. That the Synod see much cause to thank God for enabling them to take up the position in this land which they have been called to take, as a Free Protestant Church, maintaining the great principles of the Headship of Christ and His rule in His own house, so essential to the being and well-being of the Church of Christ, and seeking to fulfil the ministry they have received as a Presbyterian Church in this country, and a Missionary Church throughout its length and breadth.

2. That the Synod deeply deplore the low state of spiritual religion among themselves, and the people generally, the formality, worldliness, coldness and indifference which abound, and the sad effects which have flowed from these causes—and desire to humble themselves before God on account of these things.

3. That the Synod would direct the attention of all its Ministers, Elders and Congregations, to this subject, and as one means of spiritual improvement and revival which seems called for by the peculiar circumstances of the Church, as it has been blessed in other Churches, the Synod authorizes the following plan of deputation and visitation to be gone into.

FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

1st Division—Rev. Mr. Arnot, Minister. Mr. J. R. Orr, Montreal, Elder.

2nd Division—Rev. Messrs. Reid and Esson, Ministers. Mr. Hall, Peterborough, Elder.

FOR PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

Rev. Mr. Bonar, Minister. Mr. Redpath, Elder.

FOR PRESBYTERY OF KINGSTON.

Dr. Burns and Mr. Stark, Ministers. Mr. Milne, Cobourg, Elder.

FOR PRESBYTERY OF COBOURG.

Rev. Messrs. Gale and Lindsay, Ministers. Mr. Weeland, Elder.

FOR PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL.

1. District around Montreal—Rev. Messrs. Bayne and Alexander, Ministers. Mr. Jeffrey, Elder.

2. District around Quebec—Messrs. McKenzie and Roger, Ministers. Mr. Melver, Elder.

4. That in the visitations the great object shall be to assemble the people of each congregation for devotional services and the preaching of the Gospel, to ask of them and the office bearers on their duties and responsibilities respectively.

5. That in conducting each meeting it may be proper for the deputation to direct special attention to the following subjects:

1. To the state of the Communion roll, and the whole subject of Discipline.

2. To the number of members admitted from time to time.

3. To the attention bestowed on the young and others preparing for the first Communion.

4. To the hopeful appearances of vital godliness among the young and old.

5. Diets of examination and subjects taken up at the visitations, Sabbath Schools, Teachers, Bible Classes.

6. To the views and procedure of the congregation in reference to Christian Missions.

7. To the state of Schools, Education.

8. To Family Worship.

6. The visitors shall keep a regular minute of all their proceedings, and the state of each congregation shall be fully recorded, and the record kept for the use of the Synod.

7. That the Synod do earnestly recommend to Presbyteries, to take up the subject of the state of religion within their bounds,—and without at present fixing the time or plan of Presbyterian visitation, which they hope soon to see the universal practice of the Church, do recommend to all Presbyteries of this Church to visit the congrega-

tions and Mission Stations within the bounds, to see how, in these localities, "the vine doth flourish, and the pomegranate doth bud forth."

8. That Presbyteries shall encourage Sessions to have such meetings among themselves, and Presbyteries are directed to prepare a list of enquiries to which they will call the attention of Sessions and congregations.

XIII. Respecting the Sustentation Fund Scheme.

The Synod having considered the proceedings of the Commission, with respect to the Sustentation Fund, and the Report of the Sustentation Board, instituted by the Commission, as also the Reports of Presbyteries, as to the action of the several congregations within their bounds, in regard to the Fund, find that a majority of the congregations have approved of the principle of a Common Fund, and of the plan of distribution recommended by the Commission, but that great diversity of opinion exists with respect to the other arrangements suggested by the Commission.

Wherefore it is Resolved—

1st. That the principle of a Common Fund be approved, and recommended to the support of all the Congregations connected with the Synod, as being, in the deliberate judgment of the Synod, well fitted to promote the efficiency and extension of the Church, but inasmuch as particular engagements or other circumstances, may render it inexpedient for some congregations to place themselves on the Fund for the present, it is left to the discretion of congregations to act in this matter as they may deem expedient.

2d. That all details as to the mode of raising their contributions to the Sustentation Fund, whether by Deacons' Courts, seat rents, subscriptions, or otherwise, be left entirely to the discretion of congregations.

3rd. That the arrangements of so much of the Scheme as is now approved and sanctioned by the Synod be remitted to the Commission for revision; and that in particular it is recommended to the Commission to consider and determine whether the minimum of the contribution required, in order to entitle congregations to be placed on the Fund, as also the gradations of the scale, determining the dividends, might not with advantage be lowered; and further, to obtain all the information in their power as to the local arrangements for raising contributions to the Fund, which different congregations may adopt, or may deem desirable to be adopted.

4th. That the Sustentation Board be authorized to engage a suitable Agent for visiting congregations, and carrying out the objects of the Scheme if they shall see fit.

The following gentlemen were also nominated as members of the Sustentation Board. Isaac Buchanan, Esq., President.—Andrew Jeffrey and John Redpath, Esquires, Vice Presidents.—James McIntyre, Esq., Treasurer.—James Walker, Esq., Secretary.—Messrs. McMurch, Shaw, J. F. Westland, McIntosh, McGlashan and Thomson, of Toronto;—Messrs. C. C. Ferns, D. McNab, W. P. McLaren, J. Osborne, Wm. Cook, and J. Davidson, of Hamilton;—Messrs. Norman, and McKenzie, of Dundas;—Messrs. Orr, Melver, and Dr. McNider, of Montreal;—with the Rev. Dr. Burns, Rev. Messrs. Rintoul, Harris, Stark, Gale and Bayne, Ministers;—the whole power of regulating the distribution of the fund, under this scheme, being vested in the members of the Board, who are no ministers.

XIV. Respecting the Support of Missions to the Jews and the Heathens.

The Synod having reference to the Resolution adopted at the fourth Session of the present meeting, respecting a token of gratitude to the Free Church of Scotland, unanimously adopted the following recommendation:—The Synod, taking into consideration the duty and privilege of promoting the enlargement of Messiah's Kingdom amongst Jews and Gentiles, and feeling a special