

ed with assessors by such Synod to deal further with the congregation of St. Stephen in reference to the manner in which they had carried out the instructions of the Synod of New Brunswick respecting the service of praise in public worship with the view of reporting to next Synod, and whereas the assessors so appointed have met in Presbytery this day in pursuance of their appointment, and by the information received from said congregation and the representations made, the Presbytery is led to believe that the said congregation have not been actuated in the passing of the resolutions referred to in said minutes by any contumacious spirit, or in the slightest manner with any intention of ignoring the authority of the Synod, and that the use of instrumental music in the said Church was first introduced into said church as a matter of necessity to the conducting of the psalmody in public worship in the very peculiar and exceptional state of the said congregation, it not having any competent person to lead or engage without such aid in the public singing, and which exceptional state of matters is represented as still existing; and whereas the congregation have given the Presbytery to believe that they have honestly desired and endeavoured to implement the decision of the Synod in the question of instrumental music passed in 1867, and that they are still desirous of so doing, and will so endeavour to do; and whereas the congregation urge the use of said instrument on the sole ground of pressing necessity, and will voluntarily prefer vocal music alone when such necessity ceases; and the Presbytery being satisfied with the representations of the congregation in this report,

“Therefore Resolved, That the said Presbytery report accordingly to the said Synod.”—*St. Croix Courier, Aug. 20th.*

Presbytery of St. John.

The Presbytery of St. John met at Sussex, in the Presbyterian Church, on Tuesday last, and took first into consideration the proposed resignation of Rev. J. Gray. Mr. Gray considered that his charge was too extensive, and that he could not do justice to himself or his people, scattered over so wide an extent of district; he therefore proposed to resign his connection with the whole of the various parts of which his charge is composed, to allow of other arrangements being entered into either with another or it might be with himself. The whole of the people to whom Mr. Gray ministered, shewed themselves exceedingly attached to him, and the upper and lower portion of his charge vied with each other as to which should secure his services. The people of Upper Norton

and Sussex being most numerous and wealthy, subscribed much more than those of Lower Norton and Hammond River, who are fewer in numbers. The Presbytery, after considering the case with reference to Mr. Gray's comfort as well as to the importance of Sussex as a field of labour, agreed to accept of Mr. Gray's demission of the lower district of his charge, but to retain his connection as pastor of Sussex and Upper Norton. While congratulating the people in these places that they have been so fortunate as to secure the services of Mr. Gray, we deeply sympathize with those of Lower Norton and Hammond River in being deprived of the pastoral care of such a minister.

We trust some convenient and suitable arrangement will soon be made to furnish the Presbyterians of these places with the usual ministration of the word by a faithful labourer. Presbytery then appointed a moderation in a call to a minister, to be held in Calvin Church on Wednesday, the 16th inst., at half-past 7 o'clock; the Rev. J. Gray to preside. After some minor matters, Presbytery adjourned to meet in Calvin Church on Wednesday, the 22nd inst., at 2 o'clock, p. m.

The Presbyterian Church at Acton Settlement, in the County of York, was opened on Sabbath, the 21st ult. The Rev. Alex. Smith preached on the occasion to a very respectable and attentive congregation. This neat little edifice, which, from style of architecture and finish, reflects much credit on our friends at Acton, is beautifully situated on a rising eminence near to the Saint Andrew's road, and from which you have a commanding view of the whole neighbourhood. The building is substantial, and is an ornament to the Settlement. Mr. William Hunter was the contractor for the building, and has done his work well, and, we believe, to the full satisfaction of the congregation. Mr. Alexander Hood, who is one of the elders of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces, very kindly presented the congregation with the ground on which it is erected. We sincerely trust that the interest thus shewn by our friends in providing church accommodation, is but an earnest of that spiritual awakening through which is being erected that living temple—even the Kingdom of God—which consists neither in “meat nor in drink”—neither in costly edifices, nor in outward forms and ceremonies—but in “righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”—A. S.—*Colonial Presbyterian.*