

delt now due, and report at next meeting of Synod. The Board was re-appointed.

The Synod called for the Report of the Presbytery of Colbourg, on the petition of Dr. Malr, of Kingston, remitted to that Presbytery by last Synod, on the subject of the use of intoxicating wine at the Lord's table. The report was given in and read. On motion made and seconded, the Synod agreed to receive and adopt the report, in so far as it states that the agitation of this question does not tend to edification, and further recommends to the office-bearers of the Church to endeavour to procure for sacramental use the purest wine within their reach.

At the afternoon diet of Saturday leave was granted to the Presbytery of Toronto to receive as a minister of this church Mr. White, and to the Presbytery of Kingston to receive Mr. S. B. Shaw.

The Synod thereafter proceeded to take up an overture from a number of members of Synod on the subject of the ordination of ministers from foreign churches. The Synod approved of the overture and appointed a Committee to carry out its recommendations.

The Synod called for the report of the Presbytery of Toronto on the subject of a mission to the American Indians. The report was received and sustained, and the subject again remitted to the Presbytery of Toronto to collect further information, and report at next meeting of Synod.

The Synod called for the report of the Committee on Sabbath Schools. The same was given in by Mr. Gregg, Convener. It was agreed to receive and sustain the report, and return the thanks of the Synod to the Convener, who begged to be relieved from the duties devolving upon him. The Synod re-appointed the Committee, Mr. John Gray, of Orillia, Convener, instructing them to collect statistical information on the subject of Sabbath School operations.

The reports of Committees on Presbytery Records were given in, and the several Records ordered to be attested in terms of the reports.

On Monday evening the Synod called for the report of the Committee appointed to classify and report on the returns of Presbyteries to overtures sent down by last Synod. The same was given in by Mr. Burns, Convener.

1. It appeared from the report that a majority of Presbyteries approved of the Barrier Act. It was moved, seconded and agreed, that the Barrier Act having received the consent of a majority of Presbyteries be passed into a standing law of the church, in the following terms, viz:—

"Whereas it is of importance that all laws proposed, relative to matters of Doctrine, Discipline, Government, or Worship, should, before they are finally enacted, receive the patient and prayerful consideration of the Church, and

"And whereas it is manifestly impossible that such consideration can be given during the

Session of one meeting of Synod: it is therefore enacted:

1. "That no standing law or rule shall be made by overture or otherwise, relative to matters of Doctrine, Discipline, Government, or Worship, until first such shall be submitted to all the Presbyteries of the Church for their approbation; that such approbation be given by each Presbytery at an ordinary meeting thereof; and that the decision of Presbyteries be recorded in the minutes, and an extract of the same be sent to the Clerk of Synod before its next meeting.

2. "That the Synod, if it see cause, may, by a majority of two thirds of those present, pass such proposed law or rule into an Interim Act, which shall possess the force of a law, and until the Presbyteries have, as herein required, expressed their judgment upon it.

3. "That when a majority of Presbyteries have expressed their approbation, the Synod may pass such proposed law or rule into a standing law of the church.

4. "That when a majority of the Presbyteries have expressed disapprobation, then the Synod shall reject such proposed law or rule, or again remit to Presbyteries."

2. It appeared that the overture relative to the formation of a Central Home Mission Fund was disapproved of by a majority of Presbyteries, and it was agreed that no further action be taken at present in regard to this matter.

3. It appeared from the returns of Presbyteries to the Overture on the employment of Probationers that great diversity of opinion prevailed, and it was accordingly agreed that no action should be taken in the matter.

The Synod then took up a reference from the Presbytery of Montreal, involving the question whether it is competent for a Session to refuse to receive on certificate an individual on the ground of his being engaged in the indiscriminate sale of intoxicating liquors.—The papers in the case were read, and Mr. Kemp was heard on the part of the Presbytery of Montreal in explanation of the reference. Mr. Fraser was heard for the Session of Cote Street Church, Montreal. Several motions were brought forward. A Committee was appointed to consider the various motions, and to frame a resolution to submit to the Synod at a subsequent diet. The Committee reported at a subsequent diet the following resolution, which was adopted by the Synod, viz:—"The Synod dismiss the reference in so far as the special case is concerned, on the ground that the party especially interested was not cited, but sustain it so far as it bears on the general question; the Synod affectionately urge upon Sessions the importance of avoiding everything which might have the appearance of an arbitrary and capricious application of general rules in the exercise of discipline, more especially with reference to matters in which difference of opinion may exist, even among Christians, as to the line of distinction between what is lawful and what is unlawful and enjoin upon Sessions to ground the rejection of applicants for admission to the privileges of the Church on the evidence of actual vice in connexion with the sale or use of intoxicating liquors.

"While the Synod cannot give sanction to the principle that the sale of spirituous liquors is in all cases sinful, and therefore a valid ground of exclusion from the privileges of the Church, nevertheless the Synod feel that the evils of the traffic, in some of its most common forms,

are so great and manifest that it is difficult to realize how a true Christian can feel at liberty to engage in such forms, or being engaged, can continue in them, and that at all events it is scarcely possible for a Christian to be connected with them without serious detriment to his spiritual welfare and to the interests of the cause of Christ, and under this feeling the Synod urge upon Ministers and Sessions to use renewed diligence, and faithfulness, and urgency in endeavoring to prevent any to whom their influence may extend, from having anything to do with such forms of a traffic, which is spreading misery and death through the land and which presents one of the most formidable obstacles to the progress of the Gospel with which they have to contend."

The Synod called for the Report of the Committee on the Widows and Orphans' Fund. The Report was given in and read. It appeared from the Report that the Fund was in a prosperous state, amounting now to \$23968.75, an increase of upwards of \$2400 during the year.

It was agreed to receive and sustain the Report, tender the thanks of the Synod to the Committee, and reappoint.

It was agreed that Mr. T. Alexander, for many years a Minister of this Church, should be admitted to the benefits of the fund on paying the amount of past rates.

An application of Mr. McMurray, of Brockville for continued connexion with the Fund was not granted, a similar course having been followed previously.

On Monday evening the Synod called for the Report of the Committee on a Fund for aged and infirm Ministers. The Report was given in by Mr. Gregg, Convener. It was agreed to defer the further consideration of this matter until to-morrow morning. When the matter came up again for consideration, the Synod agreed to receive and sustain the Report, and re-appoint the Committee to consider the matter still further and report at next meeting of Synod.

The Synod then called for the Report of the Committee on the State of Religion. The same was given in by Mr. Scott, Convener, and read.

On motion made and seconded it was agreed "That the Report be received and its recommendations cordially adopted; that the thanks of the Synod be given to the Convener; that the Report be printed in the Record, and in the appendix to the minutes of Synod, and the attention of Presbyteries and Sessions affectionately directed to its recommendations."

The Report of the Committee on Statistics was called for, and was given in by Mr. Laing, Convener. On motion made and seconded, it was agreed to receive and sustain the report and tender thanks to the Convener for the diligence and care he has shown in discharging the duty devolved upon him; the Synod further agreed to the suggestions contained in the Report, and ordered the statistical schedule with the Report to be printed in the Record, and appended to the minutes of Synod; the Synod further re-appoint the Committee, instructing them to prepare the statistical return in time to be laid before next Synod at the commence-