

SYNOD OF HAMILTON.

ELORA, May 4th, 1875.

The Synod of Hamilton met in Knox Church, and was opened with a sermon by the retiring Moderator, the Rev. John McMillan, of Mount Forest, from Psalm 147, v. 1-4. The roll having been called by the Clerk, the Rev. Wm. Cochrane of Brantford, the Synod was duly constituted by prayer and proceeded to business. The following is a pretty full synopsis of the business transacted at the several sederunts:—The Rev. Andrew Tolmie, of Southampton, in the Presbytery of Bruce, was unanimously elected Moderator for the ensuing year. Mr. Lowry as convener of the Committee on the State of Religion, gave in the annual report. The report made special reference to the gracious revivals that had taken place during the past year within the bounds of the synod, but expressed regret that so many kirk sessions had made no returns. On motion, duly seconded, the report was adopted and thanks tendered to the convener for his diligence. The following Committee on the State of Religion was appointed for the following year:—Mr. Lowry, Convener; and Messrs. McTavish, Middlemiss, Murray, D. Wardrope, Blain, A. D. McDonald, and Dunbar, ministers; and Messrs. Cranston, Laidlaw, McVicar, Hudson, and Anderson, elders.

THE BIBLE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The report of a committee appointed at last meeting of Synod to prepare an overture for transmission to the General Assembly on the reading of the Bible in Public Schools, was given by Mr. Torrance. The committee recommended the transmission of the following, which, on motion, was carried by a vote of forty-five against seven:—

"1. Whereas a knowledge of the Bible is of the utmost importance to the welfare of man in both worlds, and all proper means should be taken to instruct our children in the same.

"2. Whereas it is deemed that for this purpose, it should be introduced and regularly used in the Public and High Schools and Collegiate Institutions.

"3. Whereas according to the regulations of the Council of Public Instruction, in regard to these Institutions it is *not enjoined*, but only *recommended* to be used in the devotional exercises of each day.

"It is therefore *overtured* to your venerable Assembly to take steps to apply to the Legislature of the land to have it placed among those books prescribed to be read in said Institutions."

Messrs. McTavish, Ball, and Laing, ministers; and Messrs. Hudson, and McCrae, elders, were appointed to support the overture before the Assembly.

CONFERENCE ON THE STATE OF RELIGION.

A Conference on the state of religion was held, at which addresses were given—"The preaching of the Word; to what doctrine, if any, should special prominence be given at the present time, in order to the conversion of sinners and the edification of saints?" and "work for Christ in the community."

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

Mr. R. N. Grant submitted the annual report on Sabbath observance. The report made gratifying reference to the decrease of Sabbath traffic on certain railways and also on the Welland Canal, but at