

Minutes of the Synod of the

Rev. A. Somerville's letter.

to their choice a person or persons in their view qualified to fill the office of Professor of Theology"—that said Professor have a pastoral charge, and salary of £250 currency, to be paid by the Synod in Canada, and asking aid from the Home Synod for the first year in doing so. These documents were submitted to a meeting of the Committee on Foreign Missions, held on the 6th May, when it was agreed to refer them to the Synod. They were accordingly brought before the Synod on Thursday afternoon, the 15th current, and very cordially entertained. The Rev. Mr. Torrance stated very clearly the wishes and claims of the Church in Canada. Various members expressed their views as to the importance of the measure, and the strong desire felt by the Home Synod to do whatever is necessary for promoting the interests and securing the prosperity of the Mission in Canada. After considerable deliberation, it was agreed to remit the matter to the Board of Missions, carefully to consider it, and with full powers to look out for a suitable person, and to adopt such measures as shall seem best fitted to meet the wishes of your Synod. A meeting of the Board was called and held on the 20th, specially to consider this subject, and in order that a communication might be sent to you, so as to be in time for the meeting of your Synod in June, apprising you of what has been done. After long and anxious discussion, the following points were unanimously agreed upon as in the judgment of the Board calculated, should your Synod assent to them both, to prepare the way for getting the services of a duly qualified person, and for answering the ends of his appointment:—

In the first place, it is their opinion that the salary should be £250 sterling. A man of talents and high standing, such as the Board would wish to procure, can scarcely be expected to leave this country and to come out to Canada on a smaller allowance. But as the Board are aware that your Synod have offered as much as their present resources put it in their power to pay, the Board beg to state, that they are willing, for a reasonable period, to assist you in giving the above salary. It is hoped that your Synod will regard this offer of the Board as a proof, on their part, of sincere desire to obtain for you a man of eminence.

In the second place, it is their opinion, that in the present circumstances of the Church in Canada, it is necessary that the Professor have a pastoral charge. Both in the Synod and in the Board the question was put, whether it would not be advantageous that he should not have a pastoral charge? Now there can be no doubt, that were the congregations of the Synod numerous, and fully supplied with ministers—were there a considerable band of students, and had the Professor opportunities for operating beneficially upon the whole Church, it would be better that he had no pastoral charge, and that his time should be wholly given to superintending the studies of the young men, and to such measures as seem fitted to advance the good of the whole body. But looking at the fewness of the students for some time to come—at the circumstances, that without a charge he would in all probability have less influence in the community—because he would not have opportunities for making his voice heard, and would want the support which a respectable congregation gives—at the fact, that in the present state of your ministerial supply, he would not, without a charge, be so likely to secure the sympathy and support of your congregations—and at the undesirableness of a Professor of Theology, a man given to study, being expected and called upon during the intervals of the Hall, to itinerate among your widely separated congregations—it appeared to the Board requisite that, in the meantime, he have a pastoral charge. In this respect they coincide with the majority of your Synod.

But, in the third place, it is their very decided opinion, that the seat of his charge should be either in Hamilton or in Toronto. He should be in a central and influential position, where he may favorably represent your cause, and both by his public appearances, and by his pen, advance the