

their wisdom they may see fit for the incorporating of the Church in connection with the Church of Scotland within the bounds of this Synod.

JAMES MAIR.

It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed to, that the Synod adopt the Overture and appoint a committee, consisting of Messrs. Jardine, Cameron, Pollok, Duncan, Mair, Thomson, Holmes, McKay, to consider the matter and report at the Synod in 1860.

On 3rd Overture, which is as follows:—

OVERTURE ANENT SETTLEMENT OF MINISTERS.—Whereas it is a source of continued annoyance to Presbyteries and congregations that the Synod in connection with the Church of Scotland in this colony has never yet agreed on a Form of Process anent the calling and settling of ministers in congregations, It is humbly overtured by the undersigned that this Synod give a deliverance on the subject, and define clearly some form of Process in reference to this matter, so as to prevent confusion, and to secure uniformity of procedure throughout the Church.

JAMES MAIR.

Mr. Mair supported the Overture, and submitted to the Court a draft of Process, when it was moved by Mr. Spence, seconded by Mr. Mair, and unanimously agreed to, that the Synod adopt the Overture, and consider the draft an interim act; also, in the meantime, to send it down for the consideration of Presbyteries, who are asked to report as to its practicableness at the meeting of Synod in 1860.

On 4th Overture, which is as follows:—

OVERTURE ANENT REPRESENTATIVE ELDER.—Whereas it is a source of regret that laymen in our congregations, and particularly in vacant congregations, interest themselves but to a small extent in the prosperity of our Church, as seen in the small attendance of elders at our Church Courts. To remedy some degree this evil, it is humbly overtured to this Synod, that they take steps to allow a ruling elder from the session of every vacant congregation to be present at ecclesiastical courts as a representative. Allowing ways that he is appointed in the usual legal manner.

JAMES MAIR.

The Synod agreed to adopt the Overture, and to empower Presbyteries to appoint members to moderate in the kirk-sessions of vacant congregations for that purpose.

On 5th Overture, which is as follows:—

OVERTURE ANENT UNANIMITY OF ACTION OF THE CHURCH.—Whereas there seems in the meantime to exist a want of unanimity in the congregations and Presbyteries in connection with this Synod: and whereas there is a tendency to weaken the usefulness of the Church, It is humbly overtured by the undersigned that this Synod adopt such means as may be by Pastoral address or otherwise, as they in their wisdom may see fit for producing united action in our schemes in all Presbyterian, and for stirring up the hearts of our people

to greater zeal in providing pecuniary aid, without which no Church can flourish.

JAMES MAIR.

It was moved by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Pollok, and unanimously agreed to, that the Synod adopt the spirit of the Overture, and appoint a committee, consisting of Mr. Pollok, *Convener*, Messrs. Mair, Martin, Holmes, and John McKay, to draft a basis for a Synodical Missionary Society, embracing the different schemes of the Church.

On 6th Overture, which is as follows:—

OVERTURE ANENT STATISTICAL RETURNS.—Whereas in the Statistical Returns of last year no statistics of vacant congregations have appeared, and, owing to the peculiar state of our Church, the want of such is both unsatisfactory, and gives before the public a very imperfect view of the Church; it is humbly overtured that, before statistics be published this year, immediate steps be taken to obtain the necessary returns from the vacant congregations.

ALLAN POLLOK.

It was moved by Mr. Pollok, seconded by Mr. Boyd, and unanimously agreed to, that the Synod adopt the Overture, and instruct Presbyteries to procure Statistical Returns from the vacant congregations within their bounds, and transmit the same to the Committee on Statistical Returns within six weeks from the rising of this reunion of Synod.

Messrs. Duncan, Nicholson, and Campbell, for reasons given and considered satisfactory, asked and obtained leave of absence during the remaining sederunts of this Synod. Rev. Mr. Spence was appointed to conduct devotional exercises to-morrow morning.

The Court then adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock, of which public intimation was given, and this sederunt was closed with prayer.

JAMES MAIR, *Synod Clerk*.

THIRD SEDERUNT.

*At St. Andrew's Church, Pictou,
first day of July, 1859:*

Which time and place the Synod met according to appointment, and after devotional exercises, conducted by the Rev. Mr. Spence, was constituted with prayer by the moderator. Sederunt as above, with the exception of Messrs. Duncan, Campbell, and Nicholson. The minutes of yesterday's sederunt were read and sustained.

A letter of apology for non-attendance from Mr. Watt of St. Matthew's Church, Halifax, was read and considered satisfactory.

On Overture 7th, which is as follows:—

OVERTURE ANENT PSALMODY.—Whereas the Synod has already recognized the importance of Psalmody; there is much diversity in the tunes selected in the various congregations under the superintendence of the Synod; and whereas it is desirable that, when so many collections of church music are published, the people should be so guided by the Synod, that