

Mr. Gordon read the draft of the petition to the Houses of Parliament. It was ordered to be engrossed in triplicate, signed by the moderator and clerk of Synod, and transmitted to Hon. S. L. Tilly.

The Synod, in harmony with the resolution of last year, resolved itself into a Conference on the State of Religion.

The moderator left the chair, which was taken by Mr. J. M. Roger, M. A.: Reports on the State of Religion were read from the Presbyteries of Cobourg and Simcoe.

No reports were received from the Presbyteries of Ontario, Toronto and Owen Sound.

An admirable address on the "Things essential to a Revived Religious Life," was read by Mr. W. Donald.

After remarks from several members, the Conference rose, and the moderator having resumed the chair, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

As suggested by the conference, the Synod resolved that Mr. Donald be requested to publish his excellent address in the RECORD and *British American Presbyterian*, and that thanks be tendered to him for a document so timely and suitable.

The Synod then adjourned, and was closed with the benediction.

FIFTH SEDERUNT.

The meeting was opened with devotional exercises, Dr. Thornton leading in prayer.

The Minutes of the 4th Sederunt were read and sustained.

The following finding was adopted anent the Conference on the State of Religion.

That the Synod, while thankful to God for the interest evinced by many ministers and congregations in this important subject, have to express deep regret that only the two Presbyteries of Cobourg and Simcoe, have this year submitted reports, and they hereby earnestly recommend that the Presbyteries of Ontario, Toronto and Owen Sound, do, before the close of May, forward reports on the state of religion to the clerk of Synod, and also that Sessions who may not have an opportunity of reporting through their respective Presbyteries, send their returns direct to said clerk.

Further, that, in view of the good results flowing from such Synodical conferences, a similar conference be held at next meeting of Synod, during one of the principal sederunts, that Mr. W. Meikle be appointed to open the meeting, and Mr. R. Moodie to close, with suitable addresses, that both praise and prayer be made prominent elements of the Conference,—that the Conference be intimated from the various pulpits of our Church in the city of Toronto, on the Lord's day preceding the meeting, that the several congregations be urged to attend, and that efforts be put forth to interest our people generally in this vital and momentous question.

There was submitted an Overture transmitted by the Presbytery of Owen Sound, anent the mode of appointing professors to the chairs of Theology in the colleges of our Church. After reasoning, it was moved and seconded, that the overture be transmitted to the General Assembly.

It was moved in amendment and seconded, that, the Overture be not transmitted to the General Assembly inasmuch as its sets forth no definite plan for making such appointments.

The motion having been, with the permission of the Court, withdrawn, the amendment became the main motion. To it the following amendment was moved and seconded "That, notwithstanding the omission of the proposal of any plan by which the evil complained of may be removed, the Synod agree to transmit the Overture, believing that the discussion of the matter will lead to some plan for the securing of the change desired.

On the vote being taken, the motion was carried, and the Synod agreed not to transmit.