

Received and read a communication from the corresponding Secretary of the General Conference of the Congregational Churches in Maine, U. S., soliciting a friendly correspondence, either by delegates or letters, as may best suit the circumstances and convenience of this Synod.

The Committee of the Domestic Missionary Society were appointed a committee of correspondence, to whom the communication was referred, with instructions to forward a respectful and affectionate reply to it, and to open a friendly and christian correspondence with other evangelical denominations; as Providence may afford them opportunities.

Transmitted through the committee on Bills and Overtures, and read, a memorial from the Rev. Hugh Dunbar, praying that the Synod would take into consideration the serious disappointment and severe loss which he has sustained, in consequence of the evasion of the congregation of Tatamagouche, over which the Rev. Robert Blackwood presides, to remunerate him for services performed in that congregation, according to appointment of Presbytery, and to grant to him such deliverance as the justice of the case merits.

After reasoning, the Synod agreed to issue the following deliverance, viz:—

The Synod consider a balance justly due to the Rev. Hugh Dunbar, from the congregation of Tatamagouche, over which the Rev. Robert Blackwood presides; and though they are aware that the said Rev. Hugh Dunbar is suffering much inconvenience from the want of the money; yet they cannot consistently appropriate the public funds of the Synod for the liquidation of this debt; and considering the interests of religion as involved in this case, the Synod will adopt prompt measures to secure to Mr Dunbar the payment of the sum, and enjoin the Presbytery of Pictou to carry this resolution into effect.

The Committee, appointed to examine Presbytery minutes, reported that they have examined the minutes of the Presbyteries of Turro and Pictou, and find that they have been accurately kept, and that business has been regularly conducted; and that the minutes of Prince Edward Island have not been laid before them.

The Committee on Union with the Synod of Nova Scotia, in connection with the Church of Scotland, submitted the draft of a basis of union which they had prepared. The several propositions contained in it were discussed *seriatim*. After reasoning, the draft with a few alterations and amendments was adopted. It is as follows:

Pictou Church, July 13, 1842.

The Committee appointed by the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, at its recent meeting, to draw up a basis of union between the two bodies of Presbyterians in this Province, agree to Report as follows, viz:

1. That the great object of the proposed Union shall be, the advancement of pure and undefiled religion, by promoting a greater degree of purity, and conformity to the word of God; both in doctrine and discipline, than at present exists in either body.

2. That any Union which may take place must be upon terms of perfect equality.

3. That while the body which united may hold friendly correspondence with other churches, and regard all who are similarly constituted with themselves, and hold to the same standard of faith and practice, as sister churches; all foreign jurisdiction, and interference with its proceedings, must be disclaimed, for the following reasons:

First—It is inconsistent with the funda-

mental principles of Presbyterianism to be directly or indirectly subject to the interference of any body in which we are not duly represented.

Secondly—Such interference is unnecessary, and calculated to do evil rather than good.

4. That the Westminster Confession of Faith, with the Larger and Shorter Catechism, be gained by the united body as the Confession of their Faith—it being always understood, however, that the subject upon which this Synod differs from the Westminster Confession of Faith, as exhibited in our public standards, be made a matter of mutual forbearance.

5. That as regards the name or designation of the United Body, and the mode of carrying the Union into effect, the Committee agree to the suggestions of the Rev. Mr. Scott, in his letter of August 27, 1841, addressed to the Rev. Thomas Trotter.

The report of the Rev. Mr. Campbell, to whom the memorial from a number of the members of the congregation of Merigomish had been referred, was received and read. The diligence of Mr. Campbell was approved. The report with some alterations and amendments was adopted. It is as follows:

The first evil of which the memorialists complain, is the frequent dispensation of sealing ordinances to persons of loose behaviour; especially to those who neglect the regular observance of family worship. That this evil does exist, to some extent, in many of our congregations, cannot be denied. For its removal, so far as practicable, it is recommended to the Synod to enjoin upon the office bearers of the Church to exercise increased diligence and faithfulness, in directing, both publicly and privately, the attention of those entrusted to their care, to the importance of this subject; and to refuse sealing ordinances to all those who, after a first and second admonition, do not exhibit satisfactory evidence of reformation and amendment.

Respecting the second evil of which the memorialists complain, viz: the pernicious tendencies and melancholy consequences of promiscuous assemblies and night reveling; it is recommended to the Synod to enjoin upon ministers and elders the exercise of prudent and affectionate diligence and faithfulness in the suppression of the irregularities and other great evils which arise from the unnecessary mingling of the members of the church with the men of the world, either for recreations in themselves innocent, or for purposes of doubtful or dangerous tendency.

The third subject of complaint contained in the memorial is, "that Church censurers are confined almost exclusively to the transgression of one of the commandments of the moral law; and that that transgression is, in many congregations, rebuked only in presence of the Session." It is recommended to the Synod to issue a deliverance on this point, to the following effect, viz:—all notorious and scandalous sins are to be rebuked in the presence of the members of the Church usually assembling at the place and for the purpose of public worship.

The Rev. John MacKinlay was requested to prepare and publish an affectionate address to the members of the Church upon the subjects to which the above report refers, and upon several other irregularities which still exist in our body.

The Committee appointed to correspond with the United Associate Synod of Scotland, for the purpose of obtaining two preachers from that body, reported, that, since our meeting of this Synod, they received a letter in reply to their former communication. The letter was read. The Commit-

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