

sphere in which he moved, he was always ready to give assistance, so that indeed few, if any, of the early settlers can be found whose necessities were not relieved or hopes brightened by his seasoned advice or by his bountiful liberality.

When the congregation returned to the body of the church, Mr. Stevenson delivered the following Reply:—

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—It is with feelings of the greatest pleasure and satisfaction that I receive the Address which you have now presented to me, enhanced in value by the unexpected testimonial of your affection and esteem with which it is accompanied. The duties connected with my office are indeed arduous, and the responsibility great; and none can feel this more than I do. When I crossed the Atlantic, it was not to look for a better living than what I left behind me. No, it was to proclaim the unsearchable riches of the Redeemer amongst the destitute of British North America. But, although I have been brought to Williams in the providence of God, and settled amongst you in the face of some little opposition,—not however, I am happy to think, from any of those amongst whom I was to labour,—I have ever endeavoured under a deep and solemn conviction of duty to declare unto you the whole counsel of God, and to the best of my ability to exhibit and explain to you those great, glorious and blessed truths of the Gospel which alone can make wise unto salvation; and, although my services have been very imperfect, I am however happy to say that you have neither failed in giving me every encouragement and support in the performance of my duties, nor yet ever wanted in your kindness and liberality.

Although I have been only a few months amongst you, here is another expression of your kindness, of which I cannot but be proud—such an expression as cannot but be a gratifying memorial of your kindness and affection and of your appreciation of my labours, while it will serve as a stimulus to greater efforts to promote your spiritual and eternal welfare. For it I thank you sincerely, and my heart's desire and prayer will ever be that the very God of peace may sanctify you wholly, and supply all your need, temporal and spiritual, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus, and make you to increase and abound in love one toward another and toward all men, and to enjoy that peace which passeth all understanding, so that the voice of joy and rejoicing may be heard to resound from every one of your dwellings.

After the reply was delivered, the congregation dispersed, highly gratified with the proceedings, and regretting only that circumstances prevented them from presenting the testimonial sooner.—*Comm.*

MEETING OF COMMISSION OF SYNOD.

At Toronto, and within St. Andrews Church there, Tuesday, the nineteenth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six years,—

The which day at four o'clock, P. M., the Commission of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connexion with the Church of Scotland, met, pursuant to adjournment, with a view of taking further action in the case of Mr. Whyte,

if deemed advisable, and of taking up all other competent business, and was constituted with prayer by the Rev. Dr. John Barclay, Minister of Toronto, a former Moderator of Synod, and who had been requested to take the Chair.

In the absence of the Clerk, the Rev. John H. MacKerras, Minister of Darlington, was appointed to act in his place *pro tempore*; and, the written minutes of last meeting of Commission not having been forwarded by the Clerk, it was agreed to read from the "Presbyterian" for November, a statement of the proceedings of that meeting, held at Kingston on the 3rd day of October last, and the appointment of the present meeting; which being read, the Commission proceeded to the transaction of business.

Sederunt Dr. John Barclay, Moderator, Mr. Kenneth McLennan, Mr. Peter Ferguson, Mr. John H. MacKerras, Mr. Jas. Bain, Dr. John Skinner, Mr. John McMurchy, Mr. Alexander Lewis, Mr. Samuel Porter, Mr. John Campbell, Mr. David Watson, Mr. Archibald Colquhoun, Mr. Wm. Cleland, Mr. John Brown, Ministers; together with Mr. John G. Malloch, Mr. Robt. Bell, Mr. George Malloch, Mr. Donald Cameron, Mr. Arch. Brown, Mr. William Sinclair, Mr. Wm. Patterson, Elders.

Mr. George Malloch protested for leave to complain to the Synod at its next meeting against the following individuals being permitted to speak and vote in this Court, inasmuch as their names were not specially mentioned in the minute of last Synod, nominating the members of Commission, viz: Dr. John Skinner, Mr. John McMurchy, Mr. Alexander Lewis, Mr. Samuel Porter, Mr. John Campbell, Mr. David Watson, Mr. Archibald Colquhoun, Mr. Wm. Cleland, Mr. John Brown, Ministers; Mr. Archibald Brown, Mr. William Sinclair, Mr. William Patterson, Elders.

It having been agreed, on motion made to that effect, that Mr. Whyte be now heard in support of his application to have the suspension, passed upon him by the Presbytery of Bathurst, and confirmed by the Synod at its last meeting, removed, he gave in a letter from himself expressive of his penitence, and praying to be restored to his former status in the Church. There were also handed in by him letters from several individuals living in the vicinity of his present residence at Ancaster, testifying favourably to his conduct in his domestic relations, so far as known to them, during his residence in that place.

The Moderator having intimated that a Memorial had been forwarded by the Presbytery of Bathurst, addressed to this Reverend Court, and bearing on Mr. Whyte's application, it was moved by Mr. McMurchy, and seconded by Mr. Colquhoun, "That this document be referred to a Committee, consisting of the Moderator, Messrs. Bain, Ferguson, McLennan, Bell and Cameron, with a view to its being

examined, in order that it may be known whether it is a paper proper to be received." It was also moved in amendment by Mr. MacKerras, and seconded by Mr. Bell, "That the Memorial of the Presbytery of Bathurst be read forthwith." The Roll having been called, and the votes marked, the motion was carried by a majority of votes, and the document was accordingly referred to the above-named Committee. The Commission then adjourned for an hour, in order to afford the Committee an opportunity of sitting.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

The members of the Committee appointed to examine the contents of the Memorial of the Presbytery of Bathurst having severally reported that a majority of their number had agreed to recommend its reception, it was moved by Mr. MacKerras, and seconded by Mr. McLennan, "That the report of the Committee be adopted." It was also moved in amendment by Dr. Skinner, and seconded by Mr. McMurchy, "That the report of the Committee be not adopted." The vote having been taken between the motion and amendment, the motion was carried by a majority of votes, and the Memorial was accordingly read.

It was then moved by Mr. Bain, and seconded by Mr. Watson, "That Mr. Whyte be afforded a further opportunity of making a verbal statement of his views of his past conduct, and his purposes for the future." To this it was moved in amendment by Mr. John G. Malloch, and seconded by Mr. George Malloch, "That Mr. Whyte be further interrogated by the Members of Commission as to his penitence in regard to the special acts of which he had been convicted." A division having been taken, the motion was carried; and Mr. Whyte, after being called upon by the Moderator, briefly expressed his deep regret for the past, and his desire to live for the future as becometh a Minister of the Gospel of Christ.

Mr. Whyte having concluded his remarks, and Mr. McLennan having declared his belief in the genuineness and authenticity of the letters which had been handed in by Mr. Whyte, bearing favourable testimony to his conduct for the past few months, it was moved by Mr. McMurchy, and seconded by Dr. Skinner, "That, inasmuch as the decision of the Synod contemplated the removal of the suspension of Mr. Whyte, whenever the Commission had received satisfactory evidence of his having fulfilled the recommendation of the Synod, expressing repentance for the past, and assurance for the future of becoming conduct; and inasmuch as, in the estimation of this Commission, the above condition has been fulfilled; and having also heard read letters from several individuals, living in the immediate vicinity of Mr. Whyte's present residence, testifying favourably to his character and conduct during his residence in that place, the Commission do now remove the suspension,