

17, 1849.

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MINUTES OF SYNOD, KINGSTON, TUESDAY, JULY 17, 1849. 19

The Rev. Dr. Mathieson intimated to the Synod that the Commissioners of the Clergy Reserves Fund had been informed by the Government that they could not give the Commissioners more than Six Hundred Pounds in money on account of the monies due from last year, but offered debentures at Three years for the difference,—and thereupon it was resolved, that the Synod is of opinion that the Commissioners should accept payment for last year's dues as proposed by the Government, and that the Commissioners should in like manner accept payment in debentures on future occasions in the event of their deeming it prudent so to do.

There was brought before the Synod an application on behalf of the Presbytery of Glengary for leave to take Mr. William A. Ross, Student of Divinity of Queen's College, on trials for license. After deliberation, the Synod agreed that the Presbytery of Glengary be permitted to depart from the ordinary rule on such occasions, and be allowed to issue Circular letters intimating their intention to take Mr. Ross on trials for license;—that Presbyteries be instructed to report on the said Circular letters to the next meeting of Commission;—that, for reasons stated by Mr. Ross, Dr. Machar be permitted to hear the discourses he has yet to deliver as a Student of Divinity, and certify the same;—and that the Examining Committee be instructed to examine him when requested by the Presbytery of Glengary to do so.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee of Bills and Overtures, an Overture to the effect that the consideration of the whole state of the Church should be more seriously and earnestly taken up and some steps taken with the view of ascertaining whether any thing could be suggested by which the Church Courts could give greater practical efficiency to the working out of the plan of Presbyterian Church Government, founded as it is on the Word of God, and, if fully carried out, admirably calculated to promote the spiritual welfare of the Church of Christ.—After mature deliberation, the Synod appointed the following Committee, viz.—Mr. George (Convener), Mr. Barclay, Dr. Mathieson, Mr. Spence, Dr. Machar, Mr. Urquhart, Mr. Muir, Mr. J. M. Smith, Mr. A. Bell, Mr. McMorine, and Mr. McPherson;—with instructions to take the whole of this matter into further consideration,—correspond with Presbyteries on the subject if they should deem it meet,—and prepare the draft of a plan by which the government of this Church be carried more fully into operation both in its spiritual supervision and in its financial departments:—and in the meantime the Synod enjoin Presbyteries, by Presbyterial Visitation or otherwise, prudently and affectionately, to make themselves acquainted with the