

application to lie on the table till their next ordinary meeting.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

At Halifax, and within the Free Church College there, the twenty-fifth day of August, eighteen hundred and fifty-two years.

Which day the Free Presbytery of Halifax met and was constituted. Sederunt—Reverend Professor Lyall, Moderator pro tempore, Reverend Professor King, Reverend Alexander Forrester, Rev. Alexander Romans, and Mr. Edward Taylor, Ruling Elder.

Inter alia—Mr. Romans stated that since last meeting of Presbytery he had applied to Mr. Duff, as Synod Clerk, for a copy of the Report of the Committee upon which the Synod of 1850 had acted in their deliverance against the College and Academy Buildings; but that Mr. Duff in answer had sent him not the Report but an extract from the printed Minutes of Synod. He desired still, therefore, to have a Presbyterial certificate, and upon the grounds which he has already stated. The Presbytery, after deliberation, refuse any certificate which, if granted on such an application, would involve their concurrence in a charge against the Synod of a breach of engagement with Mr. Romans which they know to be entirely groundless: The Presbytery, further, refer the whole matter to the Synod at their next ordinary meeting, appointed to be held here on the last Thursday of June, 1853, and Mr. Romans is accordingly cited apud acta.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Extracted on this and the two preceding pages from the Record of the Free Presbytery of Halifax, by

ANDREW KING, Interim Clerk.

The Synod deferred the consideration of the case till a subsequent diet, and instructed the Clerk to give intimation of the same to the Rev. Mr. Romans. A committee for arranging the order of business to be brought before the Synod was appointed. Professor King gave in the report of the Synod Fund committee, which was sustained and the committee re-appointed.

SESSION III.—This Session was spent in devotional exercises, and in hearing statements from the brethren present, respecting the dispensation of ordinances and the state of religion in their several localities. The Rev. Messrs. Frazer and McLeod, on the part of the Presbytery of Cape Breton, presented a very interesting outline of the state of religious matters in Cape Breton; from which it appeared that whilst there exists, in very large settlements, the most lamentable destitution of the dispensation of divine ordinances, there are several favorable and cheering

symptoms of improvement amongst our adhering population. It was highly gratifying to find that the revival-work, in Mr. McLeod's district, and especially at Mira, is still progressing and manifesting its genuineness by its fruits. The Rev. A. Sutherland followed on the same subject in reference to Prince Edward's Island, and detailed a course of visitation that had been made by the brethren there, of six stations, of which Brown's Creek is the centre, and of four stations of which Murray Harbour is the centre, and of the various congregations under his own, Mr. Sutherland's immediate charge. It was encouraging to the church to find that a congregation had at length been formed and organized at Charlottetown, the Metropolis of the Island. The interests of the Free Church in the Island have suffered materially from this not having been done at a much earlier period. It is to be hoped that ere long a minister of talent and judgment will be found to occupy Charlottetown and three or four adjacent stations.

SESSION IV.—The committee on the arrangement of business reported and recommended that the Synod take up the following subjects at this and to-morrow's diet:—1. Continued statements by the brethren present on the dispensation of ordinances in their respective localities. 2. Case of reference from the Presbytery of Halifax. And at to-morrow's diet, after private conference on the Sustentation of the Ministry, to hear, 1. Report of College and Academy Board, 2. Report of Home Mission committee, 3. Report of Bursary and Library committee.

Professor King stated the reference from the Presbytery of Halifax in the case of the Rev. Alex. Romans. The Synod sustained the reference, and in the absence of Mr. Romans deferred the farther consideration thereof till to-morrow, and again instructed the Clerk to give intimation to Mr. Romans. The Rev. Messrs. Stewart of New Glasgow, and Blair of Barney's River, were heard on the dispensation of ordinances, and the state of religion in their own bounds; and from their statements it appeared that, amid many difficulties and trials, the cause of the Free Church is steadily progressing within the Presbytery of Pictou.

SESSION V.—The Synod held a long conference on the subject of the Sustentation of the Ministry. Whilst there are still some deplorable cases of deficiency in the fulfilment of engagements most solemnly come under by congregations to