

# ABSTRACT

## FROM THE MINUTES OF THE SYNOD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NOVA-SCOTIA.

1844.

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PICTOU CHURCH, JULY 10th, 1844.

**T**HE Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova-Scotia met, after a Sermon by the Rev. John Campbell, the Moderator, from 1 Cor. ix. 12, "Lest we should hinder the Gospel of Christ," and was constituted.

The Presbytery of Pictou reported that the Rev. Peter G. MacGregor has been loosed from his pastoral relation to the Congregation of Guysborough, and transferred to the Presbytery of Truro, and that his name has been dropt from the Roll of Presbytery,—that Mr. Andrew P. Miller, Preacher of the Gospel, has been ordained to the collegiate charge of the Congregation of Marigonish,—and the Rev. James Waddell has been admitted to the pastoral charge of the Congregation of River John, since the last meeting of Synod, and that their names have been added to the Presbytery Roll.

The Presbytery of Truro reported that the Rev. Peter G. MacGregor has been admitted to the pastoral charge of the Congregation at Halifax, since the last meeting of Synod, and that his name has been added to the Roll of Presbytery.

The Moderator reported that, since last meeting of Synod, it has pleased the Great Head of the Church to remove by death the Rev. Thomas MacCulloch, D. D., and Professor of Divinity to this Synod.

The Clerk was ordered to make the requisite alterations in the Roll of Synod, in accordance with these reports.

On motion, it was unanimously resolved that a Committee be appointed to prepare, for insertion upon the minutes, an expression of the high personal esteem in which the late Dr. MacCulloch was held by this Synod, and of the deep sense which they entertain of the important services rendered to the Presbyterian Church of Nova-Scotia, by him and his venerable conductors.

The Rev. Messrs. Trotter, MacKinlay, Keir and Murdoch, and Messrs. Matheson and Patterson, Ruling Elders, were appointed a Committee to carry the foregoing Resolution into effect, Mr. MacKinlay to be Convener.

Received and read the Report of the Committee appointed to correspond with the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island, in making enquiries into the situation and conduct of the Rev. John C. Sinclair. The diligence of the acting Committee was approved, and the report adopted. Whereupon it was ordered that Mr. Sinclair's name be annexed to the Synod Roll.

The Rev. Peter G. MacGregor was unanimously chosen Moderator, and took the chair accordingly.

The usual Committees were then appointed, and a part of the Evening Sederunt was spent in devotional exercises.

JULY 11th.

Read the minutes of last meeting of Synod.

Received the Reports of the several Presbyteries on the Resolution proposed at last meeting of Synod, respecting the Imposition of Hands at the ordination of Ruling Elders. After reasoning, the following Resolution was moved, seconded, and carried, viz:—

"That it is the opinion of this Synod that persons may be set apart to the office of the Eldership by the Imposition of Hands, and that Sessions have power to perform this service."

The Synod also recommended to the Sessions to introduce uniformity in practice on this subject as speedily as practicable.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. Trotter, the Synod unanimously agreed strongly to recommend the several Congregations in its connection, according to their ability, to assist the Congregation in Halifax in erecting their place of Worship.

The Rev. Messrs. Kier, McGilvray, and MacCulloch, were appointed a Committee to carry the preceding Resolution into effect—Mr. MacCulloch to be Convener.

Agreed that hereafter all reports, references, resolutions, motions, and notices of motion, be submitted in writing.

Received and read the Reports of the several Presbyteries, respecting the Overtures on Foreign Missions, recommended to them for consideration by this Synod, at its last meeting.

Read also a deeply interesting Memorial on the same subject from the Presbytery of P. E. Island.

After reasoning, the Overture was adopted, and a Committee, or Board of Foreign Missions, consisting of the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island, with the Rev. Messrs. Bayne, Waddell, MacCurdy and Baxter, and Mr. Isaac Logan and Dr. Waddell, was appointed,—these to form a quorum, and Mr. Kier to be Convener.

The Rev. Mr. Trotter read part of a dissertation on "The Apostacy of the Middle Ages, viewed as a great and beneficial arrangement of Providence."

JULY 12th.

Proceeded to the appointment of a Professor of Divinity, The Rev. Mr. Douglas, being requested by the Moderator, appropriately addressed the Throne of Grace, imploring Divine direction in the important business in which the Synod was about to engage.

After some discussion, it was agreed that in the mean time only one Professor of Divinity shall be appointed, with a salary of £30 per annum, with the understanding that if at a future period any addition shall be made to the number, the Synod will then adjust their salaries to the resources of the body, and the number of Professors employed.

The Rev. Messrs. Kier, MacKinlay and Trotter were proposed as candidates for the office. Messrs. MacKinlay and Trotter ultimately declined being put in nomination, and Mr. Kier was unanimously chosen. His election was intimated to him by the Moderator.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. Trotter, it was agreed to appoint a Committee to express the sympathy of this Synod with the Free Protestant Church of Scotland. The Rev. Messrs. Trotter, MacKinlay and the Clerk, were appointed a Committee in accordance with the preceding motion.—Mr. Trotter to be Convener.