

best means of attaining the ends contemplated therein, and report; the Committee to consist of Mr. D. Fraser, Convener, Dr. Bayne, Dr. Boyd, Mr. H. Campbell, Mr. McLaren and Mr. Burns."

The diet was then closed with prayer.

## FIFTH SESSION.

THURSDAY, 17th June, 10 o'clock, A. M.

The Synod again met and was constituted with prayer, praise, and the reading of the Word.

The minutes of last diet were read and sustained.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures presented a Report, which was sustained.

Dr. Thomson of New York invited to sit with Synod.

Baptism of converts from Popery.

Mr. Wilson's motion

On motion made and seconded, Dr. J. Thomson of Grand Street Church, New York, was invited to take a seat with the Synod.

The Synod then proceeded to take up the question of baptism of converts from Popery. The returns from Presbyteries, to the overture sent down by last Synod, were read. The following motions were duly made and seconded:

1. It was moved by Mr. A. Wilson, and seconded by Mr. W. McLaren:

"That the Synod having considered the report of the Committee appointed to classify returns from Presbyteries on the question of Romish Baptism, appoint a Committee to prepare an overture to be sent down to Presbyteries on the subject of the Baptism of converts from the Church of Rome, and to report at a subsequent diet; the Committee to consist of Mr. McLaren, (Convener,) Messrs. McPherson, A. Wilson, Dr. Bayne, Ministers; and Messrs. McLaughlin, Joseph Reid, J. Rogers, and Dr. Holden, Elders.

Dr. Bayne's motion.

2. It was moved in amendment by Dr. Bayne, and duly seconded:

"That the Synod having considered the returns from Presbyteries on the overture anent Romish Baptism find, that, in view of the diversity of opinion which obtains on the subject of the validity of said Baptism, and the difficulties with which the whole subject is confessedly surrounded, it would be unsafe in present circumstances to come to a final decision regarding it; at the same time they recommend the question to the thorough and prayerful investigation of office-bearers, and others, and to such deliberation and discussion on the part of Presbyteries, as may seem to them best fitted for eliciting the truth, and promoting harmony of opinion regarding it; and in the meantime, declare that the practice of our Church with reference to converts from Popery shall remain unchanged, and, further, in view of the importance of securing unity and weight to the testimony borne by Protestants against the errors of Popery, and of obviating the confusion that might result from a diversity of practice in the treatment of converts from Rome, among the Protestant Churches, the Synod record their opinion that, in the event of any movement being at a future time made within this Synod for declaring Romish baptism to be invalid, it is highly desirable that steps should be