

of Christ's Headship, and that the simplest and least objectionable mode in their opinion, in which this could be done, would be a national act, incorporated into the constitution of the State, and made the basis, so far as applicable, of all future legislation and administration—and the Committee of the United Presbyterian Church think that the Scriptures do not enjoin any such national act; it is therefore not required of nations, by Christ himself, and on this account, not a duty; nor is it any where in Scripture charged against nations as such, as a crime that they did not recognize the Headship of Christ over them.

IV.—Regarding the recognition of the authority of Revelation, and its application to the peculiar duties of the Magistrate.

The difference of the Committees upon this subject is to this effect—That the Presbyterian Church hold that it is the duty of the Civil Magistrate to make a formal recognition of the authority of the Bible, and to appeal to its principles and precepts as his directory in every department of its peculiar duties. That of the United Presbyterian Church hold, that, inasmuch as the introduction of the remedial system has not enlarged the Province of the Civil Magistrate, so as to include things sacred, and inasmuch as recognition of revelation in his official capacity is not enjoined in the New Testament, therefore, it forms no part of our belief.

V.—As to the suppression of sins against the first table of the moral law, especially against the law of the Sabbath.

The views of the Committee differ on this head as follows:—The Committee of the Presbyterian Church believe that it is the duty of the Civil Magistrate to suppress and punish such sins, where they are offences against society, by being overt-acts injurious to or obstructive of its welfare; and in particular, that it is his duty to enforce the law of the Sabbath, and to suppress and punish its violators.

The Committee of the United Presbyterian Church on the other hand, hold, that in so far as the duties of the first table are distinguished from those of the second, they are duties which every man owes to God immediately, the enforcement of them does not fall within the province of the Civil Magistrate. So far as the Sabbath is a religious institution, and for religious ends, it does not fall within the province of the Civil Magistrate, but so far as it regards the natural rights of a day of rest, it does fall within his province.

VI.—As to the Education of the young.

Here the Committee also differ. The Committee of the Presbyterian Church hold that Education in all its branches ought to be directed and pervaded by sound religious principles, and that the magistrate, in providing for the education of the young, ought, therefore, to discriminate between the true and false in religion—and to see to it, that only what is in harmony with, and favourable to, the promotion of sound religion be taught; and farther, that it is lawful, and in certain circumstances, is his duty, to provide for the young, direct religious instruction.

The Committee of the United Presbyterian Church hold that it is not inconsistent with the office of the Civil Magistrate to provide for education, but to provide for the religious education of either old or young, is no part of his official duty.

VII.—As to the promotion of Religion, especially as to the application of any portion of the public funds for the advancement of religion, or in the endowment of the Church.

Regarding this subject the Committee of the Presbyterian Church hold that it is the duty of the civil magistrate to see to it that provision be made for the religious instruction of the nation—that the mode in which this duty should be performed has not been prescribed, but may vary in different circumstances, and that the provision of means for direct religious instruction, and the appropriation, with this view, of a portion of the public funds, is lawful; but that the adoption of this particular mode of promoting religion at any given time,

should be determined by a reference to the considerations of Christian expediency. But the Committee of the United Presbyterian Church differ by holding that inasmuch as the extension of Christ's kingdom and the support of its ordinances are spiritual duties incumbent on every Christian, they fall not within the province of the civil magistrate—who moreover can have no funds for such objects without encroaching on the rights of conscience.

VIII.—Sense in which certain statements in the Westminster Confession are understood, viz.: ch. xx. sec. 4, ch. xxii. sec. 3, and ch. xxxi. sec. 2.

The Committee are of opinion that there would be no difficulty as to their agreeing about the interpretation to be put on these passages, if there were a substantial agreement upon the points of difference already noted.

The Committees agreed that Mr. Thornton and Mr. Gale be requested to prepare copies of the minutes of the Joint Committee, in all their conferences, and transmit them to their respective Conventions, in order to their being laid before their respective Synods.

The Committees also agreed to authorize Mr. Thornton to take means to publish the minutes of this meeting.

Upon the call of the chairman, the Rev. Mr. Roy closed with prayer.

(Signed) THOMAS CHRISTIE, *Chairman.*
R. H. THORNTON, *Clerk.*

For the Ecclesiastical and Missionary Record.

The Presbytery of Hamilton met at Hamilton, on the 10th May, and sat for two entire days till late at night, besides the meeting of the Home Mission Committee on the 12th. There were eleven Ministers and four Elders present. The business, though not generally interesting to record, was of great importance; and I have never before seen so much business so effectively gone through in our Presbytery within the same time. There are now 29 ordained Ministers on the Roll of the Presbytery of Hamilton—nearly as many as there were in the entire Church at the time of the disruption. Mr. Bremner, a deputy from the Free Church of Scotland, being present, was invited to take his seat with the Presbytery.

Among the Reports given in, I may mention those of the Committees appointed to promote the subscriptions on behalf of the College, which were highly satisfactory and encouraging.

The purpose of making application to receive the Rev. Joseph Mair as a minister of this Church, was deferred till the next meeting of Presbytery.

The testimonials of Mr. Quin, probationer from the Free Church of Scotland, were read and sustained.

The Presbytery resolved to apply to the Synod for leave to take Mr. W. Ball student, on trials for license.

An intimation from the Presbytery of Cobourg, that they intended to apply for leave to take Mr. Duncan upon trials; and another from the Presbytery of Perth, stating their purpose to ask permission to receive the Rev. Samuel Coon, of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, as a minister of this Church,—were read and concurred in.

A commission of Presbytery was appointed, at the request of the Rev. J. McKinnon, to visit St. Thomas, to enquire into some difficulties existing in the congregation there, and to endeavour to obviate them, and strengthen the hands of the minister in the discharge of the duties of his office.

A case of appeal by Mr. James Farish, of Hamilton, from the decision of the Kirk Session of Knox's Church there, in regard to the election of deacons, was taken up, when Mr. Farish appeared for himself, and the Rev. R. Robb, and Mr. Fisher, Elder, for the Kirk Session. When the parties had been heard and removed, it was, after deliberation, moved by Mr. Bayne, seconded by Dr. Ferrier, and unanimously agreed to, that the appeal be dismissed, and the proceedings of the Session sustained; which was intimated to the parties by the moderator on their being called. Mr. Robb craved

extracts for the Kirk Session, which were ordered to be granted.

The Session Records of the congregations at Saltfleet, Caledonia, Wellington Square, Guelph and Hamilton, were examined and reported on.—The records of the other congregations were appointed to be brought forward at the next meeting of Presbytery.

An Interim Report of the Home Mission Committee of the Presbytery having been read, it was moved and agreed to,—that the Presbytery having heard the same, approved of the diligence of the Committee, and of the zeal and faithfulness of the Missionaries under their charge; lament the continued destitution within their bounds, and the deficiency of the funds at the disposal of the Presbytery, for the payment of the salaries of the Missionaries employed. And further, that the Presbytery humbly overture the Synod, at its first meeting, in Toronto, to adopt efficient means for procuring the appointment of a Superintendent of Missions within the bounds of the Church, who would devote his whole time and energies to the prosecution of the great objects entrusted to his care. Mr. Robb and Mr. Stark, were appointed to support the overture in the Synod.

Mr. Stark, as Convener of the Home Mission Committee of the Presbytery, was instructed to draw up, get printed, and circulate a statement of the Mission Fund—of the liabilities of the Presbytery—the greatness of the work to be accomplished by our Home Missions—and consequent necessity, on the part of congregations and mission stations, of making increased exertions to contribute to the fund.

Dr. Ferrier moved that the Rev. W. Bethune, Missionary, be requested to draw up for the Presbytery an account of the Indians settled in and around Walpole.

A petition from Stratford, praying the Presbytery to apply to the Synod for the suspension, in favor of Mr. J. C. Quin, of the act regarding calls to ministers and probationers from other churches, in order that a call may be moderated in to him from the congregation at the above place.

An application from the congregation at Sydenham and Saugeen—Owen's Sound settlement—to be recognized as a separate congregation, was agreed to. A document was given in along with it, signed by 221 persons, mostly heads of families, shewing that they were prepared to give a call to a minister; and another, exhibiting subscriptions to the amount of £130 for his support so soon as circumstances will permit of their calling one. The Home Mission Committee was enjoined, so far as possible, to provide supply for the important and rapidly increasing settlements of the Owen's Sound districts.

A document purporting to be a call from the congregation of Williams, was given in; but owing to the persons to whom the call was given not being as yet in a position to receive a call, the Presbytery could take no action in the matter.

An application to have the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper dispensed at Blenheim or Blandford, was taken up and agreed to, and Mr. Lindsay appointed to this duty; at the same time various matters in reference to these stations were considered, especially involving their duties to Mr. Cairncross, and as to the continuance of his labors among them.

A most interesting report was read by Mr. Sirellie, Convener of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund scheme, and it was referred to Messrs. Robb, Stark, Sirellie and Fisher, to obtain the opinion of one or more experienced Actuaries upon the scheme proposed, and report to next meeting.

The Sustentation scheme was next taken up, and after long discussion it was agreed to appoint Messrs. Robb, Bayne, Cheyne and Fisher, a Committee to prepare an overture upon the subject to the Synod, to be submitted to the next ordinary meeting of Presbytery. And moreover, at the suggestion of the Secretary of the Board, the Presbytery instruct ministers, whose congregations are upon the fund, to see that the Treasurers have their returns for the first quarter given in to the Treasurer of the Board before the 15th June.

Intimation was given that an application would be made to the Synod for the revision of the Pres-