

Whereas numberless evils affecting both the Church and Society at large arise from Intemperance; And whereas it is the duty of the Church to testify against every thing which proves a barrier in the way of vital godliness and true morality, and to employ, in dependence upon the blessing of God, all proper means for the removal of such barriers, it is humbly overtured to the Synod by this Presbytery, that this important matter be taken into consideration, and such measures be adopted as may appear best adapted for hearing a decided testimony against Intemperance, and for removing this fruitful source of crime and of suffering; and, more particularly, that a petition be presented by the Synod to the Legislature of the Province, praying for the enactment of a law for the total prohibition of the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks as a beverage.

After protracted discussion, it was agreed to without a vote—

That the Synod adopt the overture of the Presbytery of Kingston, on the subject of Intemperance, and, in accordance with its recommendation, agree to petition the Legislature of the Province to enact a law for the total suppression of the importation, manufacture, and sale of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; and that the Moderator and Synod Clerks be empowered to prepare, sign, and forward a petition to this effect; that the Synod moreover recommend each congregation to adopt similar petitions, and appoint the following committee to take further measures for the suppression of Intemperance, viz:—Mr. William Reid, Convener, Messrs. Bayne, Gordon, Smith of Grafton, Gregg, ministers; and Hon. John McDonald, Messrs. James Breckenridge, George Robertson, D. Cattanach, elders.

The Committee on Finance, through the Convener, Mr. A. D. Ferrier, reported that they had examined the accounts of the Agent for the Schemes of the Church, and also those of the Ecclesiastical and Missionary Record, and found them correct.

On an Overture from the Presbytery of Toronto, the Synod agreed to petition the Legislature that all Ministers of the Gospel be placed upon a footing of equality in regard to the celebration of marriage, and appointed a Committee to attend to this matter.

The Presbytery of Montreal was authorised to seek from the Legislature an Act, authorising the keeping of Registers of births, marriages, and deaths.

A memorial from certain persons styling themselves the members and adherents of the Evangelical Union Church, Amherstburgh, C. W., formerly in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Canada, praying the Synod to consider and recommend to the Presbyterian congregation there, in regard to the adjustment of the dispute about their Church property, "the adoption of such procedure as will manifest an example of Christian principle and consistency" was read, and the following motion in regard to it unanimously agreed to, viz:—

That the Synod regret that the members of the so-called Evangelical Union Church, at Amherstburgh, had not at the proper time and in the spirit which they now inculcate upon the Synod, acceded to the oft repeated proposals of the members of the Presbyterian Church at Amherstburgh, for the settlement of the claims of each party, respectively, to the Church in Amherstburgh, according to the terms of the deed. The members of the Presbyterian Church, aforesaid, were not only bound by the deed, but anxiously desirous to effect an amicable arrangement, when they

were forced into the Civil Court by the other party, who would only treat with them on the conditions that the relative numbers of the parties and the amount of their claims should be determined by a communion roll, to which additions had been made in a manner unauthorised by the Church, to whose government they were alike bound by the most solemn obligations.

The Synod having the fullest confidence in the members of the Presbyterian Church at Amherstburgh, would leave the matter in their own hands, believing that they are incapable of taking any undue advantage of the memorialists, if it were in their power, in consequence of legal decisions or otherwise.

A communication from the Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance, which accompanied seventy copies of the Maine Liquor Law, for the use of members of Synod, was read. On motion made and seconded, it was unanimously agreed.

That the thanks of Synod be recorded to the Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance, for the seventy copies of the Maine Liquor Law, presented by them for distribution among the members of Synod; and that the Clerks be instructed to address to Mr. Jackson a copy of the deliverance of Synod on the subject of petitioning our own Legislature to adopt a similar law.

The Committee to whom were referred the reports of Presbyteries on the proposed Declaratory Enactment in regard to the Standards of the Church, reported that no full meeting of Committee had taken place, and that there had been no time for a deliberate consideration of said reports. A Committee was then appointed to consider these reports, correspond with Presbyteries, and report to next meeting of Synod.

Mr. Burns gave in a report on the Ecclesiastical and Missionary Record, which was received and adopted, and the thanks of Synod tendered to Mr. Burns for the manner in which he has conducted the Record. Presbyteries were directed to take steps to promote its circulation throughout the congregations.

A recommendation from the Presbytery of Perth, to discontinue the Commission of Synod, was not acceded to. The Commission was appointed to meet at Toronto, on the third Wednesday of October.

The Committee to whom was referred the College Report, gave in the following report, which was considered clause by clause and adopted as follows:—

1. With regard to the preliminary training of Students. Considering the increasing facilities throughout the province for the preliminary training of applicants for admission to Knox's College, no permanent provision for this object is required to be made in connection with the College. But in the meantime, it appears desirable that some interim arrangement should be made, and the Committee recommend the Synod to empower the Professors' Court, after conference with the College Committee, to make such arrangement as they may see fit, and to charge the College Fund with any additional expense which may be necessary, which the Committee are of opinion will not be to any great extent.

2. With regard to the Curriculum, the Committee having had their attention turned to it, recommend that the Professors' Court be instructed to prepare a full draft of what they deem necessary on this subject, and to report to the ensuing Synod.

3. The Committee consider the training of the Students for public reading and speaking, to be of so much importance, especially with reference to the character of the population of the province,

that they strongly recommend the Professors' Court to press this object on the attention of the Students.

4. The Committee are also of opinion, that a responsible and paid Librarian should be appointed to take charge of the valuable and increasing Library connected with the College; his salary not to exceed £20, per annum.

5. The Committee think it would not be expedient to make any general appeal to the people at present, in connection with the raising of funds for College Buildings, or the endowment of Professorships—objects which it is plain, if ever the Presbyterian Church of Canada is to become permanently established in the province, must be contemplated by the Synod. But they would recommend the Synod to press upon the Church the desirableness of keeping these objects in view, and promoting them in any way that may seem expedient.

6. The Committee recommend the Synod to empower the College Committee to make arrangements about the Boarding-house, but enjoin upon them that, if they see fit to continue that establishment, they endeavour to free the College Fund, as much as possible, of any expense in connection with it.

Dr. Willis reported verbally on behalf of the Committee on Slavery. The Synod re-appointed the Committee, and agreed to request Dr. Willis to give such information to the churches in Britain as he thinks fit, in regard to the state of feeling which prevails on the subject of Slavery in the neighboring union, and which, it is believed, is far from being in harmony with Christian principle.

The Convener of the Home Mission Committee gave in a general report, embodying some very important suggestions, after which, on the call of the Synod, interesting statements were made by the representatives of the different Presbyteries, as to the state of the mission within their respective bounds. The suggestions of the Convener were taken into consideration, when resolutions, which we give elsewhere, were agreed to.

The Report of the Committee on Statistics was given in by the Rev. Peter Gray, Convener, and was adopted as follows:—

The Synod's Committee on Statistics, &c., beg leave to report, that they have received and examined Presbyterian returns from all the Presbyteries, in regard to which, severally, they offer the following remarks:—

I. HAMILTON. The report seems to be carefully and accurately compiled. Contributions to all the schemes of the Church seem to be made by the congregations generally. In the congregations of Wellington Square and Fergus, the average attendance on worship is less than the number of Church members. In the case of Saltfleet, the minister's stipend is inadequate (£59). In the case of four others the amount of stipend paid does not reach the minimum fixed by Synod.

II. LONDON. Contributions to all the schemes not quite so general among the congregations of this Presbytery. Five congregations have failed to report, viz: Buxton, Chatham, St. Thomas, N. Easthope, Stratford and Blenheim. The last, however, has only been settled five months. In case of four congregations reported, the stipend falls below the minimum. Bayfield calls for notice, £22, so also Ingersoll, £60, Williams, £87.

III. TORONTO. Contributions as in last. No report from four congregations, viz: Barrie and Innisfil, Chinguacousy, Brock, Union and Norval. Stipend under the minimum in the congregations of Caledon, (£60) Acton, (£90) Markham, (£71). In Markham the report says, members, 102, families, 60, average attend. 30.