

MINUTES

Of the United Presbytery of Upper Canada, at their meeting in York, U. C. August 30th, 1830, and continued by adjournment till 2nd September.

*Presbyterian Church, York,
30th August, 1830.*

The United Presbytery of Upper Canada met, according to adjournment, and after sermon by the Rev. Robert Boyd, was constituted with prayer by the Rev. William Smart, moderator of the last meeting.—The roll was called and names marked.—Members present.

MINISTERS.

Robert McDowall,
William Smart,
William Bell,
Robert Boyd,
William King,
James Harris,
Andrew Bell,
Robert Lyle.

ELDERS.

Abraham Smith,
Edward Henderson,
George Miller,
Jackson Potter.

Moved, seconded and agreed to, that the Rev. Robert McDowall be Moderator, for the present year.—The Rev. Robert Lyle, at his request, was allowed to resign the office of Clerk, and the Rev. W. Smart was appointed in his stead.—After the minutes of last meeting were read, the Rev. Andrew Bell, from the York Committee, presented their report, which was read, approved and ordered to be inserted in the minutes.

REPORT OF THE YORK COMMITTEE OF PRESBYTERY, &c. &c.

The Committee of Presbytery, consisting of the Ministers in the Hume and Gore and Niagara Districts, Report

That Mr. Duncan McMillan, who was last year examined by the Presbytery and received as a student under their inspection, having made considerable progress in his studies, the committee judged it expedient to receive him on trials for licence, in order that some of our vacant congregations might be supplied with his services as soon as possible.

They accordingly prescribed him subjects for a homily and lecture. At a meeting of the Committee held in York on the fifth of August last, he delivered these discourses, which were approved of, and sustained as pieces of trial by the Committee. Subjects were then prescribed him for a critical exercise and popular discourse, to be delivered at the present meeting of presbytery; and he was desired to be ready to be examined at the same time, in the languages, philosophy, and theology.

The Committee are aware that from the want of opportunity and from the peculiar circumstances in which he has been placed he cannot have such a finished education as those that have enjoyed the advantages of a university; but at the same time it is but justice to him to say that he has made an exceedingly diligent use of the limited means of education within his power, and has made considerable attainments in the several branches of literature to which his attention has been turned.

The calls for help from many of our vacant congregations being so urgent—the harvest so plentiful—and the labourers so few, the Committee are of opinion, that, till once the wants of our church can be supplied in some other way than from our present resources, it would not be a duty to insist upon a lengthy and formal term of education at a university as a qualification of those who wished to