

The Canadian Presbyterian Magazine.

TORONTO, APRIL, 1852.

MEETING OF SYNOD.

HAMILTON, 7th April, 1852.
12 o'clock, noon.

The Synod of the United Presbyterian Church in Canada, especially met this day, and in the absence of the Moderator—Dr. Taylor—the Rev. Mr. Thornton, the only former Moderator present, took the Chair, and constituted the Synod.

The Roll was called and names marked. Sederunt—Rev. Messrs J. J. C. Proudfoot, Thos. Christie, Wm. Barrie, Robt. Torrance, John Porteous, Alex. Drummond, Wm. Christie, A. Ferrier, D. D., R. H. Thornton, Wm. Fraser, and Robert Christie, Esq., Elder.

Read the letter of Dr. Taylor, the moderator, enjoining the calling of this meeting of Synod.

Read a communication from the Rev. Andrew Sommerville, Secretary of the Board of Missions of the United Presbyterian Church in Scotland, of date 31st Oct., 1851, relating to the nomination of a Professor of Theology for the Church in this country, and also a further communication from the same, relating to the same matter, of date 11th Dec., 1851.

The following is the official part of the former of those communications, viz.:

OFFICE OF THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
5 Queen Street, Edinburgh, 21st Oct., 1851.

REV. WILLIAM FRASER:

MY DEAR SIR,—I duly received the resolutions of the *pro re nata* meeting of the Synod of Canada, held on the 31st July, with reference to the proposals respecting a Professor of Theology, submitted in the letter of the Mission Board, of date 23rd May last. These resolutions I laid before the Board. The Board "were gratified to find that the Synod substantially reciprocated their views on the points submitted, and considered that the way is now open for proceeding to look out for a suitable person to fill the important office of Professor of Theology. They instructed the Secretary to acknowledge the receipt of the resolutions of the Canadian Synod, dated 30th July, and to explain that the third section of the letter of 23rd May, was not intended to imply that the Synod, in procuring a pastoral charge for the Theological Professor, either at Hamilton or at Toronto, was to impose him upon an existing congregation, or to do anything inconsistent with publicity and an unrestricted choice, and that the terms of that letter, when properly examined, will not be found to bear any such construction." In order that, on the subject of location, the Board might be in a condition to propose something definite to the person to whom they were to apply, they adopted the following resolution:—"Agreed that the Professor whom the Board may procure, be directed to go to Toronto, and reside there till he obtain a pastoral charge in a place of which he shall approve, and which he will regard so central as to be fitted for answering the ends of his appointment."

As soon as the Board have obtained the consent of a duly qualified person, to allow his name to be sent for the approbation of your Synod, I shall again communicate with you.

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) ANDREW SOMMERVILLE, Secretary.

The second communication is of the date and purport following, as far as relates expressly to the nomination, by the Board of Missions, of a person to be Professor of Theology to the Church in this country, viz.:

OFFICE OF THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
5 Queen Street, Edinburgh, 11th Dec., 1851.

REV. WILLIAM FRASER:

MY DEAR SIR,—I beg to send to you the following extracts from the minutes of meetings of the Board of Missions:—

"7th October, 1851.

"Took up the subject of a Professor of Theology for the Church in Canada; when upon hearing the report of the sub-committee, and after a full and frank conversation, it was agreed, unanimously, to name to the Synod in Canada, the Rev. Dr. John Taylor, Auchtermuchty, as, in the judgment of this Committee, a person peculiarly fitted, from his many and varied attainments, to discharge the onerous and very responsible duties of this important office. Remitted it to the sub-committee, appointed at the former meeting, to correspond with Dr. Taylor, and to endeavour to gain his consent to allow his name to be sent to the Synod in Canada."

"3rd December, 1851.

"The Rev. Dr. Taylor, whom the Committee, at their meeting in October, unanimously nominated as a Professor of Theology for Canada, expressed his views at some length with regard to this important matter, stating that he felt inclined to entertain the proposal favorably, but that there were certain difficulties which still stood in the way. The Committee, in order to remove these difficulties as far as they could, agreed to add a clause to the minute of 7th October, and that the decision stand thus: 'That the Professor whom the Board may procure, be directed to go to Toronto, and reside there till he obtain a pastoral charge in a place of which he shall approve, and which he will regard as so central, as to be fitted for answering the ends of his appointment; and that, as the chief design for which a minister is sought in this country, is the training of young men for the sacred ministry, it is the opinion of this Committee that he should, for some time, devote his labours to the duties of this of-

fice, and that the acceptance or the non-acceptance of a pastoral charge should, at a future period, be determined according as circumstances shall render dutiful.' Dr. Taylor then said that, as he was not to be understood as pledging himself definitely, yet he would not object to the Committee's sending out his name for the consideration of the Synod in Canada. The Committee felt specially gratified by this intimation, and instructed the Secretary to make known the nomination of Dr. Taylor to the Synod in Canada, and to request an answer as soon as practicable.

(Signed) ANDREW SOMMERVILLE, Secretary.

The conduct of Dr. Taylor, the Moderator, in calling this Special Meeting of Synod, was then cordially approved.

On motion of Mr. Barrie, seconded by Mr. Thos. Christie, it was Resolved That the Moderator and Clerk be appointed, and they are hereby appointed, a Committee to draw up resolutions cordially accepting the proposal of the Mission Board in Scotland, and most earnestly request and entreat the Rev. John Taylor, M. D., of Auchtermuchty, to accept the call and invitation of this Synod to assume the office of Professor of Theology to the Church in this country. The resolutions to be submitted to the Synod at its next Sederunt.

At the request of the Moderator, the Rev. Thos. Christie was added to the Committee.

Adjourned, to meet in this place at 4 o'clock, p. m.

Closed with prayer.

HAMILTON, 7th April, 1852.

4 o'clock, p. m.

The Synod of the United Presbyterian Church in Canada, met, according to adjournment, and was constituted by the Rev. R. H. Thornton, Moderator.

Sederunt as before.

The Clerk reported from the committee appointed at the former Sederunt, to prepare resolutions upon the communications respecting a Professor, as follows, viz.:

Resolved—1. That this Synod feel greatly encouraged and cheered by the evidences before them of the deep interest which the Synod and Board of Missions in Scotland, have manifested in regard to the Canadian Church, and do further, most cordially render thanks for the activity, persevering diligence, and judgment evinced in the matter of the Professorship; and especially in now bringing it, as they hope, to so desirable an issue.

2. That the nomination by the Board of the Rev. Dr. John Taylor, of Auchtermuchty, as Professor, being most cordially approved of by this Synod, they do forthwith unanimously call and invite him to Canada in that capacity.

3. That in the sentiments of the Board on this important matter, as embodied in the communications of the Secretary, this Synod perfectly concurs.

4. That the Board of Missions be respectfully requested kindly to aid this Synod in carrying out this matter, by presenting to Dr. Taylor the unanimous and hearty call of this Synod to be their Professor of Theology, their urgent request that he will accept of the said call, and their hope that he will make every possible effort, consistent with his own convenience and comfort, to be speedily with them.

This Report was unanimously and cordially adopted, and the Synod did, and do, resolve in terms thereof.

On motion it was further

Resolved—That this Synod regret that former correspondence should have led to any misunderstanding on either side, about the details of an arrangement, in the general character of which there was so perfect an agreement; and as they formerly felt bound to vindicate an important principle, which they feared was in danger, they now, from the explanations received, as heartily express their conviction of the desire, on the part of the Board, always to respect that principle.

Instructed the Clerk to transmit forthwith the above proceedings and resolutions of this Synod to the Board of Missions in Scotland, and to give such further explanations as to the time at which this meeting has been held, and as respects the causes which have led to so small an attendance on this occasion, as, in his judgment, may seem necessary.

Closed with prayer.

WM. FRASER, Synod Clerk.

WELLINGTON PRESBYTERY.

At a meeting of the Wellington Presbytery of the United Presbyterian Church of Canada, held in Eramosa on the 9th inst., a committee was appointed to draw up a *Manifesto* on the Clergy Reserves, Rectories, and sectarian schools, for the instruction, especially, of the United Presbyterians within the bounds of the Presbytery, in the present conjuncture of Politico-ecclesiastical affairs: and the following is recommended by the committee to be read in the U. P. Congregations,—and circulated as widely as possible through the medium of the Newspapers whose editors may choose to publish it.

DEAR BRETHREN,—We do not presume, in our ecclesiastical character, to dictate to our Legislators and Rulers in civil matters; but we do most emphatically deny their right to legislate or rule in the sacred province of our religion: and as our adopted country is obviously on the eve of a great crisis in the history of those Ecclesiastical communities which have been incorporated and constituted National Institutions by Parliamentary enactments, and which have their functionaries supported, to a greater or less extent, by the public property of the country,—we would at this time, as voluntary churchmen, publicly assert and declare our firm belief in the Voluntary principle; and that the church of Christ is not within the jurisdiction of any civil Ruler to make laws either for or against it—either to