

ABSTRACT
FROM THE MINUTES OF THE SYNOD
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
NOVA SCOTIA.
.1842.

Pictou Church, July 12, 1842.

The Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia met, after a sermon by the Rev. Robert Blackwood, the Moderator, from 2-Tim. ii, 23. *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou, therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Christ Jesus;*—and was constituted.

The Presbytery of Pictou reported that Mr. Peter G. MacGregor, Preacher of the Gospel, has been ordained to the pastoral charge of the congregation of Guysborough, and that his name has been added to the Roll of the Presbytery.

The Presbytery of Truro reported that Mr. George Christie has been ordained to the pastoral charge of the congregation of Gay's River, since the last meeting of Synod, and that his name has been added to the Presbytery Roll.

Ordered, that the names of these brethren be added to the Roll of the Synod. Their names being called they were present.

The Rev. William MacCulloch was chosen Moderator.

Committees were appointed, and a part of the evening soderant was spent in devotional exercises.

The Clerk informed the Synod that the Rev. Alexander Baikie, of York, Livingston County, in the state of New York, had entrusted to his care for presentation to the Synod, a pamphlet on the exclusive use of inspired psalmody in the public worship of God. The Clerk was ordered to convey to Mr. Baikie, an expression of their grateful acknowledgement of the gift.

July 13.

Transmitted through the Committee of Bills and Overtures, and read an overture from the Rev. John I. Baxter, respecting the representation of vacant congregations in Church Courts by one elder. The overture was sent down to the several Presbyteries for further consideration, with injunction to report thereupon to the Synod at its next meeting.

Transmitted through the Committee of Bills and Overtures, and read a reference from the Presbytery of Pictou respecting a case of scandal which had occurred in Little Harbour. Extracts were read from the minutes of Pictou Presbytery, containing a full account of their proceedings in the business. After reasoning, it was agreed to remit the case to the Presbytery of Pictou, with instructions to take up the case *de novo*,—to receive evidence, and examine witnesses;—and if no proof is adduced to exculpate the accused, the Presbytery is farther instructed to delay administering to him sealing ordinances for a time;—and if, after a reasonable period has elapsed, no additional information is obtained in the course of Divine Providence, the Presbytery is discharged from administering to him the seals of the covenant until he offer his oath of purgation;—and, if at any time the Presbytery should deem it expedient to administer to the accused that solemn oath, they are

enjoined to proceed in the matter with the utmost prudence and solemnity, according to the rules and discipline of the Church.

Transmitted through the Committee of Bills and Overtures and read, a reference from the Presbytery of Truro, respecting the memorial from several members of the Session of Onslow, praying the Presbytery to give an expression of its views regarding the request of Miss Mary B. Staples, a communicant, who, in consequence of extreme and protracted illness, has been unable, for many years, to attend public ordinances, that the Session would devise means by which she may be enabled to partake of the Lord's Supper at her own residence.

After reasoning, the following Resolution was put, seconded and passed:

That while the Synod deeply sympathize with the said Mary B. Staples in her affliction, they cannot give their sanction to a measure which has such a tendency to pave the way for the introduction of private communion into the church.

The Rev. Thomas S. Crowe requested that his dissent from this resolution should be entered upon the minutes of Synod.

The Rev. Mr. Traiter, convener of the Committee appointed at last meeting of Synod to correspond with the Committee of the Synod of Nova Scotia in connection with the Church of Scotland, respecting a union, gave a verbal report of the proceedings of the Committee, and then laid upon the table copies of the letters which had passed between him and the Rev. John Scott, convener of the other Committee. The correspondence was read, and the decision of the Committee approved.

On motion, it was
Resolved, 1. That this Synod still considers a union of the two Presbyterian Bodies in this Province, on Scriptural principles, and on terms of perfect equality, and adhering to the same standards of faith and practice, as exceedingly desirable; and regret that so little progress has been made in the matter.

2. That a Committee be appointed for the purpose of holding personal intercourse with any similar Committee who may have been appointed by the other Presbyterian Body in this Province on the subject of the Union, with instructions to embrace every opportunity which may be afforded them for carrying this resolution into effect.

3. That the same brethren who composed the former Committee, together with the Rev. James Smith and the Rev. John Kier, be a committee in terms of the preceding resolution.

July 14.

The Committee on union was enjoined to prepare a draft of a basis on union, to be submitted to the consideration of this Synod at as early an hour as possible during the present year.

The Committee appointed to audit the Treasurer's accounts, reported that they have attended to that duty, and find that they have been accurately kept, and that there is in the hands of the Treasurer the sum of £84 10s 6d.