

Returns from Presbyteries on the Interim Act "Anent students for the Ministry" were read and referred to a committee, Principal Snodgrass, convener.

#### UNION WITH LOWER PROVINCES.

Principal Snodgrass submitted Report of the Delegation to the Lower Province Synod last year. He was followed by Mr. Croil, Rev. Mr. Pollock, (delegate from the Synod of Nova Scotia) and Rev. Mr. McLennan, and other members of the deputation sent last year to the Synod of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Mr. Croil cautioned the Synod not to be too sanguine that an union between them and us would be brought about at an early day, three obstacles presenting themselves, the expense, the Endowment Fund, and the Widows' Fund,—all serious in their character.

Mr. Morris did not think that those difficulties were insuperable. He hoped as there was now a political union with the Lower Provinces, so there would be an ecclesiastical, especially as there was now a bill before Parliament to effect an extension of the Church of England in Canada to the Lower Provinces.

The Rev. Dr. Mathieson remembered the time when it cost four times as much for some members of this Synod to attend at Kingston as it would do now for members to come from the Lower Provinces. As to the Endowment and Widows' Fund these are necessarily confined to this Synod; but such matters would be left to the action of the respective Synods, whilst the union contemplated would be of a representative character.

The Rev. Dr. Jenkins moved the reception of the report and the thanks of the Synod to the members of the deputation, for the able and effective manner in which they had discharged their very important duties, in a few felicitous remarks, in which he urged that the idea of a union should be held up before the Synod, even though it might take some time to adjust the details. There was no doubt all parties would receive an impulse of good from frequent intercourse.

Rev. Mr. Pollock said that like Mr. Croil, he was not very hopeful that a union could be effected between the Synods of the Lower Province and this Synod—the good to be gained in the estimation of the church from which he came as delegate being scarcely sufficient to counterbalance the expense of attending here, especially as they never dreamt of participating in the endowment and Widows' Fund of this church.

The Rev. Mr. McLennan cordially endorsed the statements of the Report and the sentiments to which principal Snodgrass gave utterance. No union would be contemplated that would involve the necessity of our either going to the Lower Provinces as a Synod or their coming to us.

Rev. Mr. Mann seconded the motion.

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA.

A letter from the Rev. J. Somerville, British Columbia, was read, urging in very strong terms the importance of that colony and the adjoining territory as a suitable missionary field for the Canadian Church. The letter and one to Dr. Mathieson on the same subject were re-

ferred to the Foreign Mission Committee, with instructions to report on the same.

The Report of the Committee on correspondence with the Colonial Committee was read by Dr. Barclay, convener, who explained at large the working of the new regulation of the Colonial Committee. He stated that only one application had been made for a missionary, subject to the conditions of this new regulation, during the year, by the Presbytery of Perth, and only one missionary had been sent, one to the London Presbytery to replace Mr. MacDougall, who has returned to Scotland.

Rev. Mr. Burnet held that a distinction should be made between the Colonial Committee's missionaries and our own licentiates, the latter being generally well known and the former strangers. These are placed at a disadvantage, and so require aid to a larger extent.

Mr. Morris thought that the action of the Committee in meeting the request of the Presbytery of Perth showed that they were disposed to act generously in dealing with the cases that came before them; and he moved the adoption of the Report, and the thanks of the Synod to the Colonial Committee for their past services. This motion was seconded by Mr. Burnet.

In regard to Mr. Forbes, minister of Leeds and Inverness, whom the Colonial committee decline to aid further, and who was represented as receiving but a small sum from his people, Dr. Barclay moved that the Clerk be instructed to direct the attention of the Presbytery of Quebec to the state of matters at Inverness, to deal with it earnestly, and to report to the next meeting of commission. This was agreed to.

The report of the Temporalities' Board was read by the Clerk, and was referred to a committee, Mr. Bain, convener.

The retiring members of the Board are the Rev. John H. Mackerras (in the room of the Rev. Dr. Spence), Dr. Urquhart, Mr. James Michie, (in place of Mr. John Cameron, deceased), and Mr. Alexander Morris, all of whom are eligible for re-election.

#### EVENING SEDERUNT.

In reference to the Temporalities Report, Rev. Mr. Gordon suggested that, besides the *Presbyterian*, there should be a cheap Church newspaper, which would circulate freely amongst the people, and disseminate information on all our schemes.

Rev. John Campbell said that the great lack was the want of a strong Church spirit, and until the Synod would see that the people acted honestly and implemented their obligations, the same yearly complaints would be made. We must see that our ministers do not suffer from the delinquency of congregations.

Rev. Mr. Mullan was sorry to hear the remarks of the last speaker. The report was the best answer to them. What he would suggest, now that they are at their wits' end, is that the fund should be applied to maintaining missionaries in British Columbia or among the Indians.

Rev. Dr. Barclay said that the particular point the Temporalities' Board wanted addressed upon was how to raise \$4000 a year, the probable deficit of the funds at present.