

THE ECCLESIASTICAL AND MISSIONARY RECORD,

For the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

"Wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation."

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NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF SYNOD.

Ministers and Elders attending the approaching Synod, at Hamilton, are requested, on their arrival, to call at the Session Room of Knox's Church, where arrangements for their accommodation will be made known to them.

At such time as attendance may not be given in the Session Room, application to the following members of Committee, at their houses, will receive attention:—Messes. DONALD McLELLAN, King Street; JAMES WEBSTER, Main Street; JAMES WALKER, Main Street.

MEETING OF SYNOD.

The Annual Meeting of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada will be held (D. V.) in the City of Hamilton, and within Knox's Church, on Wednesday, the eighth day of June, 1853, at Three o'clock, p. m., and will be opened with Sermon by the Moderator.

TO PRESBYTERY CLERKS.

Presbytery Clerks are earnestly requested to forward to the Rev. Wm. Reid, Picton, C. W., the Clerk of the Synod, if possible, eight days before the meeting of Synod, Rolls of their respective Presbyteries, so that the Synod Roll may be made up at the commencement of the Session.

Presbytery Clerks are also requested to forward to the Synod the necessary certificates and extracts with reference to such Students of Divinity as may be proposed for being taken on trials for license.

It is desirable that all Overtures, References, Petitions, and other papers to be laid before the Synod, be forwarded as early as possible, so that the business of the Synod may be properly arranged.

Kirk Sessions are reminded that if one of their own number cannot attend the meeting of Synod, they may elect one connected with another congregation.

The following is the form of Commission appointed by the Synod to be followed in such a case:—

"At _____, the _____ day of _____, one thousand, &c., years, which day the Session of

_____—having met and been constituted, (*inter alia*):—The Session proceeded to elect a representative to the ensuing meeting of Synod, when Mr. A. B., an Elder in the Session of C., was nominated and chosen; wherefore the Session did, and hereby do, appoint the said A. B. to be their representative, willing him to have in view, in all his actings, the best interests of the Church and the glory of God, and they authorise the Moderator or Clerk to subscribe this as his commission as their representative Elder."

(Signed) D. E., Moderator (or Clerk) as the case may be.

Wm. REID, Synod Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF COBOURG.

The Presbytery will meet in Cobourg on the Monday previous to the meeting of Synod.

J. W. SMITH, Pres. Clerk.

KNOX'S COLLEGE LIBRARY.

Ministers and others who have out Books from the Library of Knox's College, will oblige, by sending, at their earliest opportunity, all Books that have been out for more than six months.

JOHN LAING, Librarian.

NOTICE TO STUDENTS.

The following students will have the kindness to send their address by some member of Synod, or otherwise to Mr. Laing, Knox's College:—Messrs. L. McMillan, J. Tait, T. Chambers, J. Ferguson, P. Currie, P. McDiarmid, J. Hanrae, G. Bremner, A. McKay, J. Bigham, H. McPhail, D. McVicar. Letters by mail to be pre-paid.

RECORD AND AGENCY COMMITTEES.

Toronto, May 4, 1853.

A meeting of the Agency Committee and of the Record Committee united, was held this day in the Library of the College Buildings, according to public intimation, made by Mr. Gale, Convener of both Committees.

Sederunt—Rev. Mr. Gale, Dr. Burns, Dr. Willis, Mr. Wightman, Mr. Young, Mr. Ure, and Messrs. Spreull, Shaw, Fisher, McMurrich, elders. Mr. Gale in the chair.

The chairman stated that he had summoned this meeting in consequence of the death of Mr. Burns, in order to take steps for having the Agency business arranged before the meeting of Synod, and also for the interim management of the Record. On motion of Dr. Willis, the conduct of the Convener in calling the meeting was approved of.

It was agreed to record the feelings of the meeting in regard to the heavy loss which the Church has sustained in the removal of Mr. Burns, and the following minute was accordingly adopted:—

"It is with much concern that the Committee regard the occasion of their present meeting, being the very sudden and affecting removal from this life, of Mr. John Burns, who has for some years fulfilled the duty of Agent and Treasurer to

the various schemes of the Church, and conducted, as Editor, the monthly *Missionary Record*.—The ability, judgment, and prudence, with which he executed the delicate and difficult duty have been universally acknowledged; and none knew better than the members of this Committee, of what value to the Church his services, in the other departments, have been; his business habits, accurate attention to details, and obliging disposition, having at once inspired and sustained unqualified confidence from all whose interests were entrusted to him, and tended to conciliate for each cause which he represented, enlarged and cordial sympathy from others. It is rarely, the Committee are persuaded, that one combining so many qualities can be found for a situation such as he filled, at once with so much tact and unpretending humility; and the Committee feel assured, that the Church with which they stand connected, regrets, with one common feeling, the loss sustained by the removal of so faithful a servant, no less exemplary in his walk as a christian and head of a household, than approved in his public acting in ecclesiastical and missionary affairs."

Mr. Gale, as Convener of the Record Committee, was requested to take charge of editing the Record for the next two months, which he consented to do.

Mr. Gale was likewise requested to take the interim superintendence of the Agency business, and arrange matters for the Synod, procuring such assistance from friends in Toronto, as he might find necessary. This he also agreed to do; and Mr. James Shaw, and Mr. S. Spreull, were appointed as auditors to examine Mr. Burns' accounts, before the books and documents should be transferred to Mr. Gale's hands.

After making these interim arrangements, the Committee had under consideration the ultimate and permanent provision to be made for the discharge of the various and important duties which had been devolved on the late Mr. Burns, and so efficiently fulfilled by him; and what suggestions the Committee should offer on this subject to the Synod. This matter was discussed at some length—some of the members suggesting that as it would be difficult to find a successor to Mr. Burns, as well qualified as he was for all departments of his work, it might be expedient to divide the offices, assigning, for instance, the charge of the Record and the Widows' Fund to one party, who might be a minister, and not necessarily resident in the same place with the individual to whom the financial and statistical business of the Church might be committed—who should be a layman, and ought to reside in Toronto. This view of the case was principally advocated by Dr. Burns, and to some extent approved of by others. On the other hand Mr. Young, of Hamilton, and others, expressed it as their opinion that great advantages would be secured by keeping the whole business, as formerly, under the superintendence of one agent; it being at the same time suggested that this agent might be furnished with the services of a competent clerk, so far as such assistance should appear necessary. In the course of this discussion the question of the place where the Agent should re-