

FREE SYNOD OF NOVA SCOTIA.

This court met at New Glasgow on Thursday the 24th ult. After an excellent discourse had been delivered by the Rev. Murdoch Stewart of St. George's Channel, the retiring Moderator, the Synod was constituted, and proceeded to the election of a Moderator. The Rev. Hugh McLeod of Sydney, Cape Breton, was unanimously elected. The thanks of the Synod were given to Mr Stewart for his valuable discourse, with a request that he would place it in the hands of the Editor of the Missionary Record, for insertion in that periodical. To this Mr Stewart consented.

The first business that was taken up, after the usual matters of routine, was a reference from the Presbytery of Pictou, in the case of Mr. Campbell of Lochaber, who had accepted of a call to Scotch Settlement in Prince Edward's Island. The urgency of the people of his charge to retain him, and the efforts which they had made to provide some means for his support, presented the question of duty in a different light from that in which it had formerly appeared to Mr Campbell; and induced him to withdraw his acceptance of the call. On this ground, the Synod continued him in his former charge—Sympathising with the people of Scotch settlement in the repeated disappointments with which they had been tried, they subsequently appointed Mr. Sutherland of Earlown to labour amongst them for about six weeks.

The Synod allowed the Presbytery of Halifax to take Mr George Sutherland and Mr John Alexander Koss, Students in divinity, on public trials for license.

A considerable portion of time was occupied in hearing from the different ministers reports as to the state of religion in their respective localities; and many particulars were stated showing a great amount of spiritual destitution, and the necessity of increased efforts to meet the wants of numerous districts, the families of which are at present constrained to spend many silent Sabbaths.

The Committee on the sustentation of the ministry having been unable to prepare a Report, in consequence of not having received from any of the Presbyteries, before the actual meeting of the Synod, answers to the Queries which they had circulated, the subject was taken up in a Committee of the whole Synod. Upon the Report of this Committee, the Synod enjoined the Presbyteries to visit the

various congregations under their charge, and to bring before them the necessity of attending to the duty which God has laid upon them of providing for the due maintenance of divine ordinances.

In taking up the Report of the College and Academy Board, the Synod had their attention directed to the serious injury which had been done to the Professorial Fund, in consequence of a notion which had been taken up in some quarters that a dollar a year was all that was expected from subscribers, and that the Fund was to terminate at the end of four years, what ever might be the amount actually collected. The Fund at present amounts to upwards of £2400; but as this is far short of the sum contemplated, it was agreed that the subscription cards be issued as usual, and that the Presbyteries, at the meetings which they are appointed to hold in reference to the sustentation of the ministry, should also see to the organization of a machinery for the carrying on the work in behalf of the Professorial Fund. The Synod also agreed to the purchase of St. John's Church, Halifax, on the terms on which it was offered by the Trustees; and authorized the Board to have the premises fitted up for the accommodation both of College and Academy, with all due regard to economy.—There was a wish on the part of some to have had the College transferred to New Glasgow, but, on a division, Halifax was preferred by 12 to 2.

On receiving the Report of the Committee on the Missionary Record, the Synod recommended that ministers especially should endeavour to extend its circulation among their people, and should bear their part in the burden also of furnishing information and articles.

The Synod appointed their next meeting to be held at Halifax, on the last Thursday of June, 1853.

UNION OF THE FREE CHURCH
AND THE ORIGINAL SE-
CEDERS.

Amidst the varied matters of deep interest presented in the proceedings of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland, lately held at Edinburgh, the union which was effected betwixt the Original Seceders and the Free Church claims particular notice. A mere coming together of parties who still hold conflicting principles, cannot, in any proper sense of the word, be called a union. Nor can that union, however cordially