

laws of the Church relating to the calling of ministers, in the mode in which Mr. Clark was selected to be Pastor of the Quebec congregation, yet, with reference to the spirit of these laws, and making allowance for the very peculiar circumstances of the case, and referring to the past action of this Church in similar cases, the election of Mr. Clark by Mr. Gibb, deputed for that purpose by the Quebec Congregation, was substantially a call, and having been acted upon as such by the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland and the Presbytery of Dunfries, could not, without injustice to Mr. Clark and injury to the best interests of the Church, be repudiated by this Synod; therefore instruct the Presbytery of Montreal to proceed to the induction of Mr. Clark without delay, taking care to satisfy themselves that the Congregation of Quebec duly authorized, as has been assumed, the act of Mr. Gibb.

From this deliverance Mr. McMurray and Mr. T. McPherson dissented.

On Monday, after the Records of various Presbyteries had been examined and attested, the Synod called for the Report of the Committee on the subject of Slavery. The Report was given in by Dr. Willis. On motion made and seconded, it was agreed to sustain the Report, approve the diligence of Dr. Willis, Convener, and record the thanks of the Synod to him for his able advocacy of the cause of the slave both here and in the United Kingdom: farther re-appoint the Committee in terms of the original appointment. The Committee as now constituted consists of Dr. Willis, Convener; Dr. Burns, Mr. Wightman, Mr. Ure, Mr. Bayne, Mr. Irvine, Mr. Gordon, ministers; and Mr. McMurrich, Mr. Heron, Mr. Breckenridge and Mr. Henning, Elders.

Dr. Willis gave an account to the Synod of his fulfilment of the commission devolved upon him as a Deputy to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, and of the cordial reception he had received. At a subsequent Session Rev. Samuel A. Hamilton, minister of the Gospel at Ballynane, who had been deputed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to attend the meeting of Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, appeared and addressed the Synod, giving an interesting account of the progress of the cause of Protestant truth, and of Presbyterianism in Ireland. Mr. Hamilton was cordially welcomed, and the sentiments of Christian friendship and sympathy expressed by him on the part of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, were heartily reciprocated.

The Synod having called for the Report on the Clergy Reserves, the same was given in by Dr. Burns, Convener. The following resolution was adopted, viz.:—

The Synod sustains the Report of the Committee and re-appoint the same with instructions to watch the action of the Legislature with regard to the appropriation of the Reserves, and to take such steps as they may see fit to secure that these Reserves shall not be appropriated to the endowment of churches, or to any object which would tend to perpetuate the evils which have flowed from their application to Ecclesiastical purposes.

On Monday evening an interesting Report on the Home Missions of the Church was read by Mr. Ure, the Joint Convener of the Committee. Dr. Burns also gave an interesting account of the

Red River mission. The Synod agreed to the following resolution, viz.:—

That the Synod adopt the Report of the Committee, record their thanks to the Convener, and publish, through the medium of the *Record*, such portions of the Report as are of public interest, including the Report of the Red River mission. The Synod earnestly urge on the several Presbyteries to use all diligence in prosecuting the Home mission work, and to carry out as fully as possible the instructions formerly given by the Home Mission Committee, reporting their operations from time to time to the Convener of that Committee; and the Synod further instruct the Home Mission Committee for the ensuing year, to correspond with Presbyteries, if they shall see cause, in order to ascertain their views as to the adoption of means for obtaining a farther supply of missionaries from the churches in Scotland and Ireland.

Rev. Mr. King read a highly interesting Report in regard to the Buxton mission. The following motion was agreed to, viz.:—

The Synod having heard the Report of Mr. King in regard to the Buxton mission, unanimously agreed to sustain the Report, and to record their thanks to Mr. King for his fidelity and zeal in prosecuting this important work, and farther urge on Presbyteries the duty of bringing the claims of this mission prominently before the Church, in order that it may be more adequately sustained than it has hitherto been.

The Committee appointed to examine the statistical returns of Congregations presented a Report, which was received and sustained. From this Report, it appeared that the large number of 17 congregations, including an entire Presbytery, had neglected to forward their Statistical Returns, and also that very many congregations had contributed nothing to the College Funds and the other schemes of the Church. Presbyteries were enjoined to look after defaulting congregations, with the view of having the neglect remedied. Presbyteries were also instructed to watch over the Financial state of Congregations, and to obtain quarterly returns from all Congregations of the amount raised for Ecclesiastical purposes. Congregations that had neglected to transmit their statistical returns were enjoined to do so with all convenient speed.

On Tuesday the Agency Committee presented a Report, which was received and sustained, and in accordance with its recommendations the Synod appointed Rev. Alexander Gale, Agent of the Widows' Fund and Superintendent of the Home Missions of the Church—the seat of this agency to be Hamilton; and Rev. William Reid to be sole Clerk of Synod, Editor of the *Record*, and agent of the other schemes of the Church—the seat of this agency to be at Toronto.

The same day the Committee on the Widows' Fund scheme presented a Report exhibiting the progress of this scheme up to the present time. The Fund is still considerably below the amount that was expected to be raised by this time. The Synod earnestly urged on Presbyteries to take immediate and vigorous measures for bringing the claims of this scheme before such congregations as have hitherto come short of their duty in regard to this most important scheme.

On the evening of Tuesday the Committee on Sabbath Observance gave in a Report through Rev. R. F. Burns, convener of the Committee

On motion made and seconded it was unanimously agreed, That the Report be received and approved, that the Synod record their thanks to the Convener, and re-appoint the Committee with instructions to continue their efforts to promote the important object of Sabbath observance. Farther, the Synod adopt the suggestions and recommendations presented in the Report, and especially to petition the Legislature again for the abolition of all labour in the Post Office Department throughout the Province.

The subject of the Revival of Religion was taken up by the Synod, when it was found that no written Reports from Presbyteries on this subject had been given in, or any Pastoral Letter prepared. It was agreed that Presbyteries be again enjoined to take up this subject and to present written Reports at next meeting of Synod; and further, that the first Wednesday of October be set apart by this Church as a day of humiliation, confession of sin, and prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and that a Committee consisting of Mr. McLeod, Convener, Mr. D. Fraser, Mr. Gregg, Mr. R. F. Burns, and Mr. John Gray, be appointed to issue an address, through the *Record*, suggesting grounds of humiliation.

The Synod, on the Report of a Committee, adopted the following minute in regard to the late riotous proceedings in Quebec and Montreal, viz.:—

This Synod having heard of the riotous proceedings at Quebec and Montreal, accompanied in the latter of these cities with the melancholy deaths of eight innocent and unoffending citizens, cannot but give expression to a feeling of deep concern and righteous indignation.

As citizens and as Christians we prize the blessings of civil and religious freedom, and we look upon these blessings as most seriously imperilled if such proceedings as those now referred to are perpetrated and winked at. That distinguished Italian refugee whose visit to Quebec and Montreal was the immediate occasion of the painful events referred to, had a right to fair and free discussion, and it does not appear that he went beyond the bounds which that right has prescribed to it; and if he is to be put down by lawless violence, what will the result be, but a breaking up of the very framework of the social system.

Holding as we do that the system of the Papacy both in principle and in spirit is hostile to God's glory and men's spiritual interests, we claim a right for ourselves and others to expose the evils of the system, and to plead for the great principles embodied in what is commonly known as the Protestantism of all the Reformed Churches; and we assert the right of every man to vindicate these principles, when in doing so he does not disturb society, nor violate the liberty of conscience.

This Synod farther calls upon the Government of the land to take effective measures to protect the rights of all British subjects, and of strangers within our gates, so long as they do nothing against law and social order. Yea, this Synod feels itself called on to go a little farther, and to press on men in power the duty of the Legislature of a land to discriminate carefully betwixt those matters of conscience which no public law can reach, and those systems of priestcraft which are based on allegiance to a foreign power, and are in their tendency inimical to the rights of loyal subjects, and to the interests of public morals and of the public safety.

While the Synod lifts this solemn protest on the grounds referred to, her members are reminded of the duty of using all the means at their command for lessening the influence of Popery