

ral presbyteries, the Missionary labourers at the disposal of the Church; and in order that this may be done in an equitable manner—that it shall be the duty of presbyteries to furnish to the Home Mission Committee, during the session of Synod, a list of the Ministers without charge—probationers, catechists, or other missionary labourers, whom they can certify as available and efficient for the work; as also, a list of the sanctioned charges and preaching stations, as may indicate their respective importance and claims upon supplies from the Home Mission,—and to guide the Synod's Home Mission Committee in the distribution of Missionary labourers, and that any addition made to the number of Missionary labourers and vacant charges sanctioned by presbyteries shall be intimated without delay to the Home Mission Committee.

III. That in order to the efficiency of the Home Missionary operations of the Synod, it is necessary that a common Synodical fund be instituted to be made up of the annual collections in the organized congregations for this object within the bounds and in accordance with the foregoing regulations, and the Synod authorize the Home Mission Committee to appoint a general Home Mission Treasurer for the Synod, to whom such funds shall be remitted—and that the contributions raised at mission stations for the Home Mission Fund, shall remain at the disposal of the presbyteries for the payment of Missionary labourers within their bounds, through the Home Mission Committee:—quarterly returns being duly transmitted to the Synod's Home Mission Committee, showing fully the receipts and disbursements on this account, along with reports of the Home Missionary operations during the preceding three months.

IV. That Presbyteries be recommended to enquire without delay, into the case of such ministers as appear from the statistical returns before the Synod to be inadequately supported by their congregations, with the view, if they see meet, to release such ministers from their pastoral charges, and if deemed suitable and efficient for the Home Mission work to report them to the Home Mission Committee, that their names may be added to the list of Missionaries.

V. That it be the duty of the Home Mission Committee to look out for additional, suitable labourers for the Home Mission work in this land, and for the purpose of corresponding with other churches, representing the existing destitution.

VI. That it shall be the duty of the Home Mission Committee of the Synod in concurrence with presbyteries, to fix the salaries of missionaries at present in the field, and that in the hope that the Synod's Home Mission Committee may be able to obtain, at least for a time, the services of ministers of eminence and approved efficiency for this work, that they be vested with a discretionary power to make such provision for them as circumstances may require.

VII. That the Home Mission Committee, five forming a quorum, shall hold stated quarterly meetings, of which presbyteries shall be duly apprized through the *Missionary and Ecclesiastical Record*, and shall also hold a meeting during the session of Synod, to meet and consult with presbyteries respecting the general interests of the Mission, to correct the list of Missionaries and especially to take measures for the efficient supply of the more important vacant charges within their bounds.

VIII. That no minister, licentiate, or probationer, admitted into the church, unless coming on the express call or invitation of a congregation, shall be settled in any pastoral charge until he shall have laboured for one year in the Home Mission field, except by the special sanction of the Synod or Commission.

IX. That the Home Mission Committee be authorized in conjunction with the Sustentation Board, to appoint such agent or agents as they may deem necessary and suitable for promoting the efficient operation of these and the other schemes of the Church—the expense incurred in such agency to be met in just proportions by the funds of the several churches of the Church.

X. That the following ministers and elders compose the Home Mission Committee, viz:—Mr. Wm. Rintoul, Mr. James Harris, Dr. Burns, Mr. P. Gray, Mr. A. Steele, Mr. R. Robb, Professor Leason, Mr. J. Bayne, Mr. A. Gale, Mr. M. Y. Stark, Mr. George Chryne, Mr. Wm. Reid, Mr. W. Hamilton, Mr. Robert Reid, Mr. H. Gordon, Mr. R. Boyd, Mr. W. Leishman, Mr. T. Wardrop, and Mr. McDowell, Ministers; Messrs. E. Steen, J. Redpath, James Fraser, Wm. McMillan, George Davidson, Wm. Miller, Wm. Lattier, Andrew Jeffrey, Hon. John McDonald, Dr. Dickson, Messrs. A. McAlister, George Scott, George McNish and John Graham, Elders.

Messrs. Robb and Stark to be joint conveners, and Daniel McNab, Esq., Treasurer.

XI. That as soon as any Presbytery shall have taken the preliminary steps respecting any applicant for admission, as a minister or probationer, into this Church, so as to be prepared to address the circular letters to the presbyteries, recommending the reception of such applicant, such presbytery shall, at the same time, intimate their procedure in this respect to the Home Mission Committee, that the name of such applicant may be placed on the roll of Missionaries, at the disposal of the Home Mission Committee.

RESOLUTIONS RESPECTING CONGRESSIONAL STATISTICS.

Mr. Redpath in behalf of the Committee on the Synod Fund, reported that an abstract of the returns from congregations to queries issued by direction of the Synod at the XIV. Session of 1846, had not yet been completed, as answers had not yet been received from a considerable number of congregations: Mr. Redpath also submitted a Resolution on the subject.

The Report was sustained, and the Resolution was adopted, and is as follows:—

That the Synod express regret, that so many congregations appear to have failed in replying to queries ordered by the Synod—that it be an instruction to the Sessions of such congregations as have failed in so doing, to send replies to the clerk of Synod without delay—that a Committee to be hereafter nominated, shall be charged with completing the abstract and circulating it throughout the Church, and, that in the event of it being stated in the same, that any congregation has not made a return, it shall be the duty of the presbytery to which such congregation belongs, to make inquiry respecting the omission, and provide that a return be obtained and transmitted to the clerk without delay.

And further, that Presbyteries be instructed to direct their attention to the abstract when the same shall be published, and in the event of it appearing that any thing in the returns calls for animadversion, to deal faithfully and affectionately with congregations in such matters as they may see fit.

And further, that it be the duty of the Committee to obtain full reports on congregational statistics, at least one month before next ordinary meeting of Synod so that the same shall be reported to the Synod.

The Committee to be the Clerk, (Conveners) Mr. James Harris, Mr. Alexander Gale, Ministers; and Mr. Stevens, Mr. McMillan, Mr. Burns, Elders; the Treasurer to the Synod Fund.

RESOLUTIONS ON MISSIONS TO FRENCH CANADIANS.

The Synod received through the Committee of Bills and Ordinances a communication from Mr. George Wardrop, Secretary of the Students' Missionary Society of Knox's College respecting a Mission to the French Canadians, stating that the Society was ready to sustain one of its own members as a Missionary to that neglected Class of our fellow subjects, and that one of them had now gone to Canada East, to acquire the French Language. Accompanying said communication, there was transmitted a Copy of the Regulations

of said Society. Mr. Rintoul as convener of the College Committee gave an account of the circumstances in which the projected Mission of the Students originated, and testified as did also Mr. Gale to the high qualifications as to scholarship and piety of Mr. John Black, the Student who had given himself to prepare for a Mission to the French Canadians. Several members expressed their views as to the great importance of the Church's engaging actively and zealously in Missionary labours to our bright fellow subjects the French Canadians; when the following resolution was submitted to the Synod and adopted.

That the Synod highly approving of the excellent spirit manifested in reference to this matter by the students of Knox's College, desire to give them every encouragement in their undertaking. And this Synod recognize the French Canadian Population as an important field of Missionary enterprise, and recommend it to the special attention of the Home Mission Committee. The Synod also having received from members of the Court, connected with the College highly satisfactory testimony as to the qualifications of Mr. Black, who has offered to devote himself to this work would give him every encouragement to prosecute his studies with a view of labouring in this field. And the Synod would further recommend that Juvenile Missionary Societies be formed in the different Congregations under their charge with a view of exciting an interest in this Mission and collecting funds for its support. The Synod further instruct their Home Mission Committee to charge themselves with the encouragement and supervision of the Students' Missionary Society of Knox's College and all such societies as may be formed in terms of the foregoing recommendations.

DEATH OF Dr. CHALMERS.

This great and good man has, by the will of God, finished his glorious career, and accomplished a mighty warfare, leaving behind him a name that will be honoured and revered through all time, and monuments of his genius, eloquence and piety which must transmit that name with ever increasing lustre to future ages. Like his great exemplar and prototype, the Venerable Reformer of Scotland, and founder of our Presbyterian Church, he will find his best monument, and the only adequate exponent of his profound wisdom and sagacity, of his farreaching and comprehensive patriotism, piety and philanthropy, in the harvest which time shall ripen and perfect, out of the seed sown by his hand. By its fruits is the tree known. Indeed it is the necessary condition of the greatest and noblest minds that, laying as they do their foundations very deep, they are sometimes not understood and certainly are seldom duly appreciated by their immediate contemporaries.

The greatness of the work which Thomas Chalmers, like John Knox or Andrew Melville, has accomplished, under favour of Divine providence, in our day for Scotland and for Christendom, will be best known after the lapse of another century. The prophetic Spirit of Bacon anticipated an interval of not less than two centuries, after his own day before the world would recognize the value of his reform of Philosophy, which had to struggle against an all but universal opposition, before it obtained a final and triumphant establishment. And if this hold of such philosophical reformers as Bacon, Locke, Reid, it is not less true in those mightier and deeper reaching revolutions, affecting the moral and religious world, which have been wrought out by those master spirits of their respective ages, Calvin, Knox, Chalmers, who, moving above the middle region of political and philosophical contention, have dispelled the overshadowing clouds of ignorance