

On motion of Mr. Skinner, seconded by Mr. Dick, it was agreed that the Formula for Ordination of Ministers and Elders, in use in the United Presbyterian Church in Scotland, be adopted by this Synod.

Delayed all other causes.

After a short and excellent address by the Moderator, the Synod was closed with prayer; having been in Session from the evening of June 4th, till late in the evening of the 10th.

The next meeting of Synod is appointed to be held in Toronto, on Wednesday after the 2nd Sabbath of June, 1852, at 7 o'clock P. M.

SYNOD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA.

We are indebted to the *Ecclesiastical and Missionary Record* for the details of any interest beyond the denomination, which we can give of the late meeting of that Synod. There is a long Report of the Home Mission Committee, which we may take up by and by, when once fairly seated in the Editorial chair. Our friends are not merely zealous—we commend them for that—but they seem to have got the idea that all Presbyterians are their Presbyterians, and that all places and townships in which there are no Free Churches are perfectly heathenish. We must enlighten them on the Ecclesiastical Geography of Canada.

The Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada met on the 4th June, in Brock Street Church, Kingston, and was opened with sermon by the Rev. Wm. Reid, A. M., of Picton, the Moderator, from *1 Sam. iv. 13*—"His heart trembled for the ark of God."

The Rev. Robert Boyd, A. M., of Prescott, was unanimously elected Moderator for the ensuing year.

There were in attendance forty-five ministers and twenty-nine elders. In several instances congregations availed themselves of the law of the Synod authorizing them to elect elders from other sessions. This accounts, to some extent, for the larger attendance of elders than at former Synods. But we believe this pleasing feature may be ascribed in a greater degree to the increasing interest which congregations are taking in the business of the Church as subservient to her prosperity.

The Synod was engaged with the consideration of a Widow's Fund Scheme, by which it was proposed, on a foundation of £2,000 to be raised, and an annual rate paid by Ministers, to give to the Widow of every Minister in the fund £25 per annum; and to each child under 14, the Widow being alive, the sum of £5 per annum; and to each child under 14, if an orphan, the sum of £10 per annum.

The Report of the Committee on the Clergy Reserves and Rectories was called for, and given in by Dr. Burns, who read the same.

The Committee of last Synod met this day, and agreed to the following report:—

On the rise of last Synod, the Committee having drawn up the petition to the House of Assembly, in terms of the resolutions of Synod—had it duly presented to the House, by the Hon. James H. Prier, the mover of the "resolutions" of Assembly, on the subject of the Clergy Reserves.—It is a matter of regret that similar petitions were not presented from congregations, as recommended by the Synod; but this may be ascribed to the shortness of the time that elapsed between the rising of the Synod and the passing of Mr. Prier's resolutions.

As no other public movement was in the course of being made in the Province, your Committee waited anxiously to hear of the issue of the transmission of Mr. Prier's resolutions to the Government at home, and they have pleasure in reporting to the Synod, that the Home Government have pledged themselves to respond favourably to the prayer of their resolutions, by making the re-investment of the final settlement of the Reserve question, in the local Legislature, a government measure.

Your Committee would recommend that this Synod will be pleased to renew the declaration of last year, as confirmed and illustrated by events that have since occurred, and by the present aspect of things in the Province, specially in regard to the prevalence of Popery, and kindred systems of error.

They further recommend the re-appointment of the Committee, with additions, and instruct them to seek an interview with the Heads of the Provincial Government, and with His Excellency the Governor General, with the view of pressing on them the necessity of the question of the Rectories being included along with that of the Reserves, and of the immediate adjustment of both by Legislative enactments.

They further recommend that the Committee should be instructed to co-operate with other churches and other bodies, in any public measures that may be proposed for the successful prosecution of the great object in view.

The above Report was adopted on a division of forty to two! If our Free Church brethren advance at the same rate, they will soon be along, side of us as thorough volunteers. We hail them in their progress.

Dr. Willis, on behalf of the Committee on the Standards, appointed at last Synod, reporting that no meeting of the Committee had been held, although, as Conventer, he had called meetings. After lengthened conference it was agreed that the Committee appointed last year, with the

addition of Dr. Burns, Mr. Wardlaw, and Mr. Gregg, ministers; and Mr. Brodie, Mr. Blain, and Mr. Heron, elders; forthwith meet and prepare an explanatory note to be appended to the formula, and report such note to the Synod on an early day.

An Overture from the Presbytery of Hamilton, in regard to Students signing the Confession of Faith, was remitted to the Committee on the Standards.

The Rev. Mr. Gale, at an after diet, gave in a report from the Committee on the Standards, which, after being fully discussed, it was agreed to transmit to Presbyteries for their consideration.

The Report of the Committee on Sabbath Observance was read by Dr. Burns, Conventer, when it was unanimously agreed.

That the Report be received and approved of; and in respect at once to the vast importance to the spiritual and temporal welfare of the community, of Sabbath sanctification, the need of greatly increased exertions for promoting this object, and the special encouragement found at present for labouring in this cause, as there have been detailed in this Report, the Synod renew the appointment of the Committee, with instructions to them to continue to direct their attention to the various forms of Sabbath desecration prevalent in the Province, and prosecute every competent measure for the removal of these; specially to call forth the sentiments of Congregations in the way of petitioning the Legislature for the re-assertion of Sabbath legislation in the Past Office, and to correspond and co-operate with the associations largely formed in some of the principal cities of the Province, for promoting the sanctification of the Sabbath.

The Synod further, always recognizing that the Divine Word is the primary fountain of all just views respecting any branch of human obligation, recommend Ministers to expound to their people from time to time, the doctrine of Scriptures respecting the privileges and the obligations of the Lord's Day; and the Synod recommend the members to be faithful and affectionate in applying the discipline of the church, in any case in which the members of the church may be found violating the Lord's Day, or countenancing the violation of it.

The report is not yet published, but as charges have been frequently brought against the United Presbyterian Church, for holding all manner of opinions on Sabbath Observance but Scriptural ones, we are really curious to see this Report that we may compare it with the memorial of our own Church, and then learn from authorized documents, and not from assertions, in what the difference between us consists, or whether there be a practical or Scriptural difference at all.

The business being finished, the Moderator briefly addressed the Synod, and after prayer and singing the 133rd Psalm, announced that the Synod would meet in Kingston, and within Chalmers' Church there, on the second Wednesday of June, 1852, at eleven o'clock A. M. The Synod was then closed with the blessing.

CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF CANADA WEST.

We have not yet been favoured with the Annual Report of the Congregational Union, which met in Toronto in June last, so that *verbatim* extracts cannot be given. We had the pleasure of meeting the brethren of that denomination assembled in their "Union," and saw a little both of the goodness and defectiveness of Independency. Business connected with the Missions and general organization, was conducted in a manner and spirit that we much admired. Resolutions were passed condemnatory of Slavery, and churches countenancing it, and also recommending great caution on the part of the brethren visiting the States, that they do not fraternise with ministers and churches supporting that enormous evil. Resolutions were also passed regarding the Clergy Reserves, and just such as we might have expected, full and clear, and no mincing, against Canada's curse. In another number we shall probably give them when discussing that question. In the abstract of the minutes of Synod it will be seen, that the Moderator, Dr. Taylor, and Rev. Messrs. Jennings and Thornton, were appointed a deputation to wait upon the Congregational Union. Dr. Taylor was obliged to deny himself the gratification it would have been to him to have gone, but the other members were present, and were most cordially welcomed. The Rev. Professor Lillie, Chairman of the Union, Rev. Mr. Clark, of Simcoe, and Rev. Mr. Robinson of Hamilton, spoke in warm terms of their delight at the intercourse that had thus commenced between the denominations, which all the members responded to. Rev. Mr. Jennings addressed on the fact that the puritanism of England had not a little to do in leaving Scotland with evangelical dissent. The United Presbyterian Church, in both branches, claims somewhat of a common ancestry with the Independents. The Eskines were the sons of a Puritan divine, and Gillespie, the father of the Relief, was educated, to a considerable extent, by Doddridge, and in course of time, the spirit of Nonconformity showed itself in their several secessions from the spiritual death of the Scottish Establishment. He then expressed his hope