

W. Donald Thomson

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The Record.

The Commission of Synod is to meet, by adjournment, in Knox's Church, Toronto, on Tuesday, the 10th instant, at twelve o'clock noon.

By reference to the Acts of Synod, in our July number, it will be found that the general collection for the Home Mission Fund is appointed to be made on Sabbath, the 1st March,—the collection for the College having been made instead thereof, on the 6th December. Ministers and missionaries are respectfully requested to take notice of this appointment.

The attention of the office-bearers and members of the Church is requested to the recommendation of the Commission (see Meeting of Commission, in this number), respecting the circulation of the Record. Although its circulation is already very extensive, and has been steadily increasing from the beginning, yet, by a little effort, it might be greatly increased, and rendered much more efficient for the purposes of its establishment by the Synod. The publisher has still to complain of the remissness of some parties in regard to remittances, both on the score of arrears and of payment for these current year.

We invite the attention of the Church to the Home and Foreign missionary and ecclesiastical intelligence, which this number of the Record contains. We have given an interesting report, recently presented by Dr. Buchanan, on behalf of the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland, in order to show the extent of that department of their operations, and the energy and liberality with which they are conducted.

The movement on behalf of Christian Union, which has originated in Toronto, will, we doubt not, interest Christians generally throughout the Province. A notice of a course of lectures, and of a general meeting for promoting union there, will be found among our miscellaneous intelligence. We also learn, that the subject of King's College is about to be taken up, with the energy which its vast importance to the best interests of the Church and the country at large claims. A great public meeting, at which the Hon. A. Fergusson, of Woodhill, has agreed to preside, is to be held in Toronto on the 3rd instant, to give expression to the mind of the community in that quarter respecting this institution. This example will, no doubt, be followed up in other parts of the country immediately; and in a manner which so closely concerns the interests of education, and on the determination of which the preservation of the rising youth of the country from the poisonous influences of Paganism depends, we are sure the members and adherents of the Presbyterian Church will not be idle and indifferent spectators.

COMMISSION OF THE SYNOD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA.

The Commission of Synod met at Hamilton, according to appointment, on the 14th ult., when there were present—Messrs. Roger, Reid, Stark, Gale, Bayne, McKenzie, Mackintosh, Meldrum,—Ministers; and Mr. William McMillan,—Ruling Elder.

The Rev. Mr. Roger was called to the Chair—and Mr. Gale was appointed Clerk, p. 1.

The first matter of general interest that came before the Commission, was a reference from the Presbytery of Kingston, for advice respecting the reception and organization of a second congregation at Kingston, in connexion with the Synod. Together with the reference from the Presbytery, and a full explanatory letter written by the Moderator at the desire of the Presbytery, there was read a petition to the Commission signed by certain members of the Bagot Street congregation, on behalf of that body, stating that they have leased a place of worship for a term of years, and fitted it up for the accommodation of 150 sitters, that almost all the sittings have already been taken, and that the Presbytery of Kingston, having in the meantime granted them to services of the Rev. Robert Reid, recently received as a Probationer and Missionary of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, they are now prepared to give him an unanimous call, and praying that their case may be favorably considered, and disposed of as soon as possible. This document also sets forth the protracted period during which the members of this congregation have been left destitute of a fixed pastor, and the urgent need there is for the early settlement of a minister over them. After much deliberation, the Commission unannouncedly agreed to record their approbation of the caution and prudence which the Presbytery of Kingston have exercised in regard to this case, and to remit the whole matter to them, with authority to take whatever steps may seem to them to be most for edification in regard to the recognition and organization of the Bagot Street Congregation.

The Commission had next under consideration the report of the Committee on Calls, and after some conversation on the subject—from which it appeared that the design of the Commission, in appointing this Committee, had been to secure the compilation of a general code of discipline and order—it was resolved, that the report be recommended, and that the Rev. Geo. Smellie be added to the Committee.

The Commission then took up the remit of the Synod, respecting the lowering of the minimum amount of contribution required of congregations coming on the Sustentation Fund, under the existing provisions of that scheme—viz. £100 cy. After considerable discussion, it was moved, seconded, and carried, that it is the deliberate and matured opinion of the members present, that it is highly inexpedient, and would tend to the defeating of the scheme, to reduce the present minimum. From this finding Mr. Mackintosh dissented.

The Commission next heard the report of the publisher of the Ecclesiastical and Missionary Record of the Church, respecting the state of that publication, and agreed unanimously to record their satisfaction with the same; and earnestly recommend to all office-bearers and members of the Church to use diligence in promoting its circulation.

A draft of a model Trust Deed was presented, and it was agreed that the consideration thereof be deferred till next meeting.

Adjourned till 10th February, to meet in Knox's Church, Toronto, at noon.

SUSTENTATION BOARD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA.

This Board met at Hamilton, pursuant to adjournment, in the Brick Chapel, John Street, on the 15th ult. Present: Daniel Macnab, Esq. (in the chair); the Rev. Messrs. Stark, Gale, Bayne, and Messrs. McLaren, Osborne, Notman, McKenzie, McIntyre, and Walker. The Rev. Messrs. Roger, Reid, McKenzie, Lindsay, and Smellie, being in attendance, were invited to sit with the Board.

Mr. McIntyre reported as to the state of the fund, and stated that the quotient of 11 would be sustained in the distribution for the whole year.—It was accordingly ordered that the remaining distribution for the year be made at that rate. Mr. McIntyre intimated that, in consequence of his necessary absence from Hamilton during a great part of the ensuing season, he felt it his duty to resign the office of Treasurer to the Board. The Board then passed a vote of thanks to Mr. McIntyre for his valuable services during the past year; and proceeded to the election of another Treasurer, when W. P. McLaren, Esq., King Street, was unanimously chosen to that office.

Various members were then heard respecting the working of the scheme in various parts of the country; and having considered the statements, together with the reports of the Treasurer and Secretary,—

Resolved.—That it appears to the Board quite indispensable that an efficient agent be appointed forthwith by the Board, to visit the congregations of the Church, to explain the provisions of the scheme, and to superintend the introduction and management of it; but, inasmuch as the Rev. Mr. Legg, of Edinburgh, is expected to visit this part of the country, from whose information and counsel much advantage would accrue, the Board agree to defer this appointment till next meeting.

Resolved 2.—That the Treasurer and Secretary be authorized and requested to prepare and print an abstract of the whole pecuniary operations of the scheme for the past year; to be circulated for the information of the congregations of the Church generally, together with such statements in explanation of the abstract and the working of the scheme as they may deem necessary.

Resolved 3.—That the following members be a Committee to make arrangements for the early visitation of the several congregations of the Church, with a view to promote the working of the scheme; viz.—the Rev. A. Gale, the Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer and Secretary, and W. Notman, Esq.

The Board then adjourned, to meet in Hamilton on the third Tuesday of April, at two o'clock, p.m.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

This Presbytery met at Hamilton, on the 14th ult. The ministers present were—Messrs. Stark, Gale, McKenzie, Bayne, Mackintosh, Meldrum, Lindsay, Smellie, Smith, Dr. Ferner; with Mr. Roger, of Peterboro', and Mr. Reid, of Grafton, from the Presbytery of Cobourg; and Messrs. Rose, Colville, Bastedo, and Ewen, Ruling Elders. The Rev. Mr. Lindsay, of Ayr, was chosen Moderator for the ensuing six months; and the Presbytery was thereafter engaged for some time in hearing the reports of ministers, respecting the state of the missionary districts placed under their care and superintendence respectively. Much interesting information respecting the religious state of the country was communicated to the Presbytery in this way; and in connexion with the general home mission report, which was next read by the Presbytery, there took place a conversation of some length, on various points con-