

Roman Catholic Priest, who have been recommended to them to be employed in the work of the French Mission. "The Committee have not come to any decision on these proposals: first, because they are not sufficiently informed concerning the character and qualifications of the persons recommended and, secondly, because unless the income of the mission be greatly increased, they could not venture upon the increased expenditure which the employment of two additional agents would create. But the Committee are unanimous in the conviction that the most effectual way to carry on the mission would be to procure from France or Geneva a minister of high character and attainments who might be qualified to gain a position in the Cities of Montreal or Quebec, and to avail himself of the opportunity now understood to be presented, by remarkable changes in the opinions and movements of large bodies of French Canadians. The Committee earnestly recommend this matter to the consideration of the Synod."

A portion of the Report is occupied with statements in regard to the property, connected with the mission, belonging to the Synod, and the various financial matters of the mission. The property consists, first, of the house in Dorchester Street, Montreal, formerly used as a small church for the French adherents of the Church of Scotland, and which now brings a rental of £20; secondly, the Church of Sorel; and, thirdly, a sum of money collected for the building of a French Church in the City of Montreal, and deposited in the Bank of Montreal, under the head of "congregational collections." The report goes on to show that these for a few years past have not been sufficient to meet the current expenditure, small though that has been, and that there is consequently a considerable amount due to the treasurer, and which ought to be made good. The report then says: "Before the Synod can sanction the attempt to engage the services of a French minister, from France or Geneva, the probable increase of expenditure should previously be taken into serious consideration. The salary of M. Charbonell is £75, and with incidental charges it may be stated at £80. A minister of suitable qualifications, from France or Geneva, cannot be expected for a stipend less than £175 per annum, which with various incidental charges may be taken at £200 per annum. These two agencies therefore, would require a constant annual revenue of about £300. The Synod would require to determine whether an annual sum of this amount could be depended on, provided a minister from France or Geneva could be engaged." "On a review of the position of the French Mission in the Township of Milton, under the charge of the Rev. M. Charbonell, it appears desirable that a piece of land be got, now when land is cheap, for a glebe for the congregation now established in that township, in connection with the Presbytery. In all probability the French language will be absorbed in the English tongue, and a large Protestant congregation will in time be settled there. We would earnestly recommend that the Clergy Reserve Commissioners be requested, to appropriate the sum of £100 for the purchase of a glebe, to be held by trustees appointed by the Commissioners. The Committee also submit to the Synod, that a convener of the Committee should be appointed, distinct from the Moderator of the Presbytery of Montreal, who would be specially charged with watching over the interest of this mission.

The Synod, having heard this Report, agreed to receive and approve the same, and the thanks of the Synod were given to the Committee for the care and attention they have bestowed upon the interests of this mission. The Synod re-appointed the members of the Presbytery of Montreal a Committee to take charge of the mission during the present year,—the Rev. Robert McGill, D. D., to be convener, with instructions to use their best endeavours to put the French Mission in a more favourable condition, and to use every available means in extending their

agencies and operations, should the increased liberality of the Church during the year, appear to warrant them in doing so, and the Synod instructed them to publish in the Presbyterian, from time to time for the information of congregations, such portions of the Monthly Reports given into them as was advisable, and such results of the past operations of the Missions, as might be an encouragement to the support of the Mission. And the Synod enjoined Ministers to bring the claims of this Mission before their congregations, and to advocate the same, and have collections made for the support of it, and while the Synod have had to lament the very limited contributions of many of the congregations, for a year or two back as well as the very limited agency which the Committee were able to employ, yet, now that God in His Providence is opening out to them more extended prospects of usefulness in this particular field of Missionary labour, they would affectionately and earnestly call upon all their Ministers, Elders and People to give a serious and prayerful consideration to the facts and statements brought out in the Report of the Committee and by an increased and generous Christian liberality to enable the Committee to put the Mission into a state of greater efficiency and on a broader basis—at least to the extent indicated in the Report as desirable. The purchase of a Glebe in the Township of Milton for the use of the congregation there, was also recommended.

REV. A. ROSS.

On a reference to the Synod, from the Presbytery of Toronto in regard to the case of the Rev. A. Ross of West Gwillimbury, who by reason of severe illness and bodily infirmity, has been unwell for the regular discharge of pastoral duty, and desired to be released from the pastoral charge, the Synod instructed the Presbytery on the compliance with certain preliminary conditions, to dissolve the pastoral relation.

CALLING OF MINISTERS.

The draft of the form of procedure in relation to the calling of ministers, and the proposed acts as to the status of retired ministers, were remitted to Presbyteries to send up their opinions, but remaining as interim acts for one year.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Report of the Finance Committee was given in and the account against the Synod ordered to be paid; and the Synod enjoined all members who had not already done so, to pay to the Clerks of the Presbyteries at the first meeting the sum of one pound each towards the re-printing of the Earlier Records of the Synod.

PATRIOTIC FUND.

The Report of the Treasurer of the Synodical Fund for the relief of the widows and orphans of soldiers was called for, and it was reported that £478 19s. 9d. had been already transmitted to Hew Ramsay, Esq., the Treasurer; but a final Report would be delivered to the ensuing meeting of Synod.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

The Rev. Dr. Mathieson inquired whether any report had been submitted from this Institution. As it was in connection with the church, and had a Theological Faculty, he thought such reports should be regularly presented to the Synod. He also desired to know, whether any appropriation from the general funds of the College was still made to Queen College school, as if so, without admitting the correctness of the appropriation, Presbyteries ought at least to have the right of sending to it, scholars free of tuition fees.

Professor Williamson said that a printed abstract of the proceedings of the Trustees for the past year, was lying on the table, for circulation among members. It had not been customary to present Reports, but he had no doubt, one would be sent in to next Synod, if desired. He also stated that a small annual grant was continued to the School, which was largely attended and proved

useful to the College, but that he considered the suggestion of Dr. Mathieson worthy of attention. Several other members of the Court then expressed their opinion, that it was desirable that a College Report should be presented to the Synod annually, and concurred in the view of Dr. Mathieson, relative to the School; but no formal action was had in the matter.

The Synod appointed a Committee to revise the minutes of the session.

COMMISSION OF SYNOD.

The Synod then appointed the commission of the Synod and directed the commissioners to meet in St. Andrew's Church at Kingston on the first Wednesday in October next.

NEXT MEETING.

The Synod appointed their next meeting to be held in St. Andrew's Church, Kingston, on the last Wednesday in May, 1856.

MODERATOR'S ADDRESS.

The Moderator then addressed the Synod in the following terms:

The business of the Synod having come to a close, it is expected that I address a few words to you before we separate, as is our practice.

Fathers and Brethren.—Allow me again to thank you for the honor conferred on me in unanimously electing me, to preside over your deliberations on this occasion. In undertaking the highly responsible duties of the Moderator of this Assembly I did so with hesitation, being fully aware of my own inability to perform the duties required of me, in such a manner as to justify your choice. I have to tender you my most grateful thanks for the kind indulgence with which you have borne with my faults and failings; and I may be permitted to say that in whatever point I may have come short, it was my constant wish and endeavour, to perform my duty conscientiously and impartially. With reference to the proceedings of the Synod, permit me to say, that I trust the feeling which seemed to pervade every one, at our first meeting, on listening to the pathetic, solemn and Christian appeal of Dr. Mathieson, may be lasting. Sad and wide, indeed, was the breach that had been made by the hand of death in our number since the previous meeting—and need we wonder, then, that in accordance with the melancholy circumstances brought before us, a gloom should have been on our spirits—a feeling of our deep responsibility, and of our need of greater supplies of that grace which can alone fit us for the active duties of time, or the more solemn objects of eternity. I pray God, that this feeling may produce lasting effects—that we may be not only found men in our various stations and relations,—needing not to be ashamed—but that in our character of ambassadors for Jesus, we may be filled with a double portion of that spirit, whereby our ministrations may be blessed to others, and our own souls given to us for a reward.

Discipline, although necessary for the purity and well being of the Church, is at all times painful to those who are engaged in the investigation. I think I am borne out in this observation, by what has taken place during our present Session—painful was the nature of the evidence—distressing were the feelings displayed, and difficult indeed was it for members to arrive at a satisfactory judgment—yet I trust the judgment come to may, through the blessing of God, be as well for the welfare of the Church at large, as for the benefit of the congregation especially concerned, and that our erring brother may be brought to see the error of his ways, and that by repentance and humility, he may be restored to the status, from the duties of which he is now suspended, and be spared yet to be the instrument—in the hand of the Spirit—of much good to the Church.

The verbal report of Dr. Cook, with reference to the commutation of our interests, must have been heard with satisfaction by all.

It has been an element in our Constitution,