

did not enter on the consideration of this latter point, obviously involving many difficult and abstruse questions, for which they felt themselves incompetent, nor did they seek for information from sources fitted to yield them that accurate knowledge of the subject on which they might have based some scheme for the consideration of the Synod, for they were persuaded that till the difficulties were removed in which the first point of consideration was involved, it would be labour lost to bestow much attention on this subject, the practical utility of which depended entirely on the regularity and extent to which the annual contributions can be raised. In directing their attention to this point, the difficulties which attended it appeared to your Committee insuperable in the present state of the Synod. A voluntary compact among such a number of individuals as the Synod is at present composed of, to pay a stated sum annually for the purpose of raising a suitable fund is hardly to be expected, and even those who would enter into such a compact were likely to be in arrears constantly to the fund, from the uncertainty and irregularity with which in many instances their own salaries are paid. This circumstance, taken in connection with the tardiness in making voluntary contributions which the history of similar institutions shows to be natural to the generality of men, would render the income precarious and fluctuating. If the fund is to be raised from the contributions of the clerical members of the Synod, it appears to your Committee that an Act of the Provincial Parliament must first be obtained, by which the Synod could enforce the regular annual contributions of the members composing the body. This power, however, your Committee are of opinion, cannot at present be granted to the Synod, as it is in no shape recognized by the laws of the land as a corporate body. They would therefore recommend as an indispensable preliminary step, that measures be taken to obtain a judicial recognition of our Church Courts; that a Committee be still continued to take such steps as are likely to forward the object in view, and that the consideration of the whole subject be referred to the several Presbyteries within the bounds of the Synod, to mature their views upon it, and to report to the Synod's Committee, that a Report may be prepared for the Synod at next meeting, embodying as much information on this subject as in present circumstances it is possible to do."

Second,—A report on the legal recognition of Churches, as follows :

"The Committee have to Report that they entered into correspondence on this subject with the Very Rev. Principal McFarlane, through their Convener. The letters being in some measure private, and embracing other topics, no specific notice has been taken of the subject entrusted to your Committee in any of the Principal's letters to the Convener. That your Committee are in daily expectation of hearing the opinion and advice of the Rev. Principal on the subject. That your Committee further propose to enter into correspondence with the Agent who may be appointed by the Synod to take charge of the affairs of our Church in Britain; and also with John Murray, Esq., who has kindly offered his services, and with such others as may be supposed willing and able to direct aught in this matter. Your Committee have to complain that they have received no report from any of the Presbyteries within the bounds of the Synod, though ordained by Act of Synod to take the subject into serious and immediate consideration, and to report to your Committee (the Presbytery of Quebec.)

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