

and the Committee appointed by the Synod of the Lower Provinces of B. N. A., to correspond on matters of common interest, met in Mr. Barnes' Office, in accordance with arrangements concerted between the conveners of the two committees. There were present on the part of the first named committee the Revd. Messrs. McDonald and Pollok, and also the Rev. Mr. Grant, who was invited to act as a corresponding member; on the part of the other Committee, the Revd. Messrs. McGregor, Maxwell, and McKnight, and Dr. Hattie.

Mr. Pollok was called to the chair, and opened the meeting with prayer. Mr. McKnight was appointed Secretary.

An account was given of the circumstances which led to the appointment of the committees—the special object being to settle disputes respecting Church Property in Cape Breton, although the terms in which the Synod of the Lower Provinces appointed the committee are general, empowering them to correspond and co-operate on matters of common interest.

The following places were named, in which it is understood that there are claims of a joint interest in Church property—River Dennis, Whyecocomagh, Lake Ainslie, Middle River, Cape North, Baddeck, Boularderie, Little Narrows.

The case of Middle River was selected for consideration, in the first place as being the most clamant. After some conversation on the subject, it was agreed to adjourn, to meet to-morrow morning at a quarter past nine o'clock in St. Matthew's Session Room, and this meeting was closed with prayer.

(Signed) ALEX. MCKNIGHT, *Sec'y.*

ST. MATTHEW'S SESSION ROOM,
25th October, 1866, 9½ a. m.

The joint committee met according to adjournment, Mr. Pollok in the chair. The meeting was constituted with prayer by Mr. McGregor. The same members were present as yesterday evening, with the exception of Dr. Hattie. The minutes of previous meeting were read and the business resumed.

Mr. Grant suggested that a scheme of compromise in disputed cases be arranged by the committee, providing that when there is a large minority, their claim to the use of the church for one half or some other definite proportion of the time be recognised, and that where the minority is small they waive any claim they may think themselves possessed of and depend on the christian courtesy of the larger body for the occasional use of the church when it was not otherwise required.

Another course was proposed by Mr. Maxwell—that the settlement of all such disputes in C. B. be entrusted to a committee of arbitrators, constituted as proposed by a committee of the House of Assembly in the Middle River case.

Various difficulties were suggested and

talked over; the committee adjourned to meet again in the evening at half past seven o'clock, in the hope that some of the other members of committee might then be present to aid them in arriving at a conclusion in the matter. The meeting was closed with prayer.

(Signed) ALEX. MCKNIGHT, *Sec'y.*

SAME PLACE AND DAY, 7½ P. M.

The joint committee met according to adjournment, and was constituted with prayer by Mr. McDonald. The same members were present as in the morning, with the exception of Mr. Maxwell. The minutes of last meeting were read.

It was agreed to draw up a proposal of arrangement by going over the separate cases seriatim, in a provisional way. In reference to Middle River and Lake Ainslie it was thought that the larger body might occupy the Churches two thirds of the time and the minority one third. Respecting Baddeck the brethren representing the Church of Scotland proposed that their friends be recognised as entitled to the Church one third of the time, and have the appointment of one third of the trustees or else that they be refunded the estimated present value of their contributions to the property; and that in lieu of a settlement Baddeck in one or other of these ways, the waive all claims of their people in Little Narrows, Whyecocomagh, River Dennis, and a other places where there are disputes. As the representatives of the other church could not recognize any right of the the minority in this case, they were not prepared to accept either of the proposals, though they were willing to recommend to their friends in Baddeck to grant the use of the Church for one third of the time. Being desirous however, of consulting the absent members of their committee, before this correspondence be finally closed, it was agreed that in the event of their deciding, on fuller consideration, to accept some such arrangement this joint committee meet again in Mr. McGregor's house to-morrow at 3 o'clock p. m. but if it should be otherwise this joint committee have come to the conclusion that they can do nothing in the matter committed to them. The meeting was closed with prayer.

(Signed) ALEX. MCKNIGHT, *Sec'y.*

In addition to the minutes furnished about your committee have to make the following observations.

1st. That it was an unfortunate circumstance, whether accidental or otherwise, that the two committees were not invested with equal powers by their respective Synods, for while your committee were fully empowered to arbitrate on the matter in dispute without further reference to the Synod, other committee were empowered with such powers, they being under the necessity of still consulting their Synod.

2nd. Another infelicitous circumstance