

MINUTES OF SYNOD.

FIRST DIET.

*St. Andrew's Church,
Halifax, June 28, 1865.*

The Synod of Nova Scotia and P. E. Island in connection with the Church of Scotland, met, after sermon by the retiring Moderator—the Rev. Daniel McCurdy of Wallace River and Folly Mountain—from 2 Timothy iv. 5, "Make full proof of thy ministry," and was constituted.

The Roll of Synod having been made up, was found to contain the names of thirty-eight ministers and elders, of whom twenty-six were present.

The Rev. George Monroe Grant, M. A., minister of St. Matthew's Church, Halifax, was unanimously chosen Moderator for the year.

The thanks of the Synod were unanimously accorded to the Rev. Daniel McCurdy, the retiring Moderator, for his conduct in the chair, and for the able and appropriate sermon preached this forenoon, which the Synod unanimously requested should be published in the *Monthly Record*.

The Rev. Charles S. Ogg, minister of St. Andrew's Church, Chatham, produced a commission from the Synod of New Brunswick, as correspondent from that Synod, which was sustained, and the name of Mr. Ogg was accordingly added to the Roll.

A letter was read from the Rev. A. McLean, of Belfast, P. E. I., apologising for absence from this meeting of Synod. The apology was considered satisfactory.

There was tabled and read a petition from the Rev. A. Romans, residing in Halifax, praying for re-admission into this Synod, whose case was referred *simpliciter* from the Presbytery of Halifax. The matter was referred to the following committee, viz.:—the Rev. the Moderator, Ex-Moderator, Mr. Pollok, Hon. J. Holmes, and James Thompson, Esq.—Mr. Holmes, convener, with instructions to examine into all the circumstances of the case, and report at a future diet.

The Records of the several Presbyteries having been called for, there were produced those of Pictou, Halifax, and P. E. Island. The following were appointed a committee to revise, viz.: Professor McDonald, Messrs. Duncan and Christie.

The usual committees on Overtures, Bills, References, and Appeals, and on Synod Fund, were appointed.

The Committee appointed last year to collect and publish the statistics of the Church, had no report. The Synod appointed a committee, consisting of the Moderator and Professor McDonald, to collect the statistics of the Church for the Synodical year 1865-66, with instructions to prepare a statement and report at the first diet of next Synod.

The Report on the Young Men's Scheme was read by the Rev. S. McGregor. It is as follows:—

"We have much pleasure in informing the Synod that this year we shall realize some of the benefits of this scheme. Messrs McMillan and McQuarrie have finished their curriculum. Mr McMillan completed his Divinity course at Queen's College in April, and has gained much distinction, both as a scholar and a missionary. As a proof of the esteem in which he was held at College, it may be mentioned that he was chosen, on behalf of the students bidding farewell to their Alma Mater, to deliver the annual valedictory oration. He was licensed this month by the Presbytery, and immediately thereafter left for Pictou, where he now is. It might be well for the Synod to decide to which Presbytery Mr McMillan should be first commissioned.

As to the students in Scotland, we learn that, in last General Assembly, an overture was agreed to, declaring that three full sessions in Divinity would hereafter entitle a student to be taken on trials for license, and as this will certainly apply to Messrs Campbell and Macdonald, we may expect them in three years from this time. They have both completed their Arts course with honor to themselves. If the overture referred to will apply to Mr James W. Fraser, he can arrive in Nova Scotia next summer. It would be desirable that the Synod should authorize the Convener of this Scheme to put himself in communication with the Convener of the Colonial Committee, soliciting his good offices in this matter, and in communication also with Messrs Gordon and C. M. Grant, two young men not connected with the scheme, but studying for the Church, and at the same stage in their curriculum as Mr Fraser, to ascertain their intentions as regards their return to their native Province."

Besides the gentlemen named, there are many others studying for the Church, both in Canada and Scotland, not a few of whom, we trust, will consider it their duty to return to labor, as ministers of the Gospel, to their countrymen. We feel that there is now before us the prospect of a steady and regular supply such as we never as a Church had before, and it gladdens our hearts to believe that soon all our vacancies will be filled up, and the borders of our Church extended.

The Committee were sorry to learn, only a few weeks ago, that Mr McQuarrie has been compelled to abandon the hopes of being able to preach the Gospel, at least for several years, owing to an affection of the throat, which renders public speaking difficult, if not impossible. He wrote accordingly to the committee, asking to be freed from his engagement with the Church in Nova Scotia, and offering to refund all the monies received by him from the funds of the Young Men's Scheme. The committee, while deeply regretting that their hope with reference to the return of Mr McQuarrie to labor amongst us must thus end in disappointment, still wrote to him expressing sympathy and granting his request. A statement of the financial condition of the Scheme has been rendered by the Treasurer, Mr Gordon, and is hereto appended.

It is impossible for your committee to say definitely what precise demands will probably be made upon the funds of the Scheme for the current year. It is, however, probable that £60 or £70 must be realized for this purpose, and your committee recommend that the Young Men's Scheme be retained as one of the ordinary Schemes of the Church, and that all congregations within the bounds be enjoined to contribute to the Scheme.