

much to be regretted, for the sake of the Gospel, and for the sake of our common Presbyterianism, that the representatives of the two bodies had to separate without doing anything to put an end to these lamentable disputes:—

HALIFAX, 24th Oct., 1866—8 P. M.

The Committee appointed by the Synod of Nova Scotia in connexion with the Church of Scotland to adjudicate on disputes respecting Church property in Cape Breton, 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 Rev. 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 Rev. 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 their 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, Whycocomagh, Lake Ainslie, Middle River, Cape North, Baddeck, Boularderie, and 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 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 Oct., 1866—9 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 claims to the use of the Church for one-half, or some other definite

proportion of the time, be recognized; and that when 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 is not otherwise required.

Another course was proposed by Mr. Maxwell: that the settlement of all such disputes in Cape Breton 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; and the committee adjourned to meet again in the evening at half-past 7 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, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 minute of last meeting was 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 of the Church of Scotland proposed that their friends be recognized 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 at Baddeck in one or other of these ways, they waive all claims of their people in Little Narrows, Whycocomagh, River Dennis, and all other places where there are disputes. As the representatives of the other Church could not recognize any right of 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, the 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.