

struction or subversion of our free school system.

All which is respectfully submitted.

C. B. PITBLADO, *Convener*.

The following resolution drafted by a Special Committee was adopted unanimously:

"The Synod receives the Report, approves of the principles expressed in it, and instructs the Committee to continue their labours, giving them full power to act as may seem advisable to them.

"And whereas this Synod has reason to believe that efforts both open and covert, are being made to overturn the Educational System of the Maritime Provinces, therefore be it resolved:

"1. To protest decidedly against any tampering with our Educational rights and institutions.

"2. To call upon the people under our jurisdiction to exercise the strictest vigilance with reference to this matter, and on the slightest appearance of danger to take the necessary steps to awaken the Church to a sense of its responsibility, and if need be to withdraw their countenance and support from the public men that originate or abet such proceedings.

"4. To express the deepest sympathy with the brethren in New Brunswick and P. E. Island in the struggle they have to maintain with the advocates of Sectarian Education, who are insidiously endeavouring to uproot the Free School System of these Provinces; and the Synod declares its determined purpose to stand by the said brethren in that struggle."

Letter from Scotland.

Read a letter from the Clerk of Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Synod of Scotland, announcing the appearance before that body of Rev. Robert Sedgewick, our delegate; and expressing the great satisfaction experienced in receiving the Deputy of this Church. Ordered that the letter be acknowledged and filed.

The Queen.

The address of the Synod to Her Majesty the Queen, prepared and forwarded last year by a Committee in the name of Synod, was read. The reply of Her most gracious Majesty was next read, and heard with much satisfaction. It was also reported that an address to Lord Dufferin, the Governor General had been presented to which his Excellency had given a very cordial response. These documents being published were regarded as read.

Sabbath Schools.

The Report was submitted by Mr. Simpson. The following statistics were given, There are 383 schools, attended by 13,920 children, and 1,748 Teachers: increase of 10 schools; 140 Teachers, and 800 children. The International Series of Lessons has been adopted and notes issued in the *Record*.—The Report was received and approved.

With regard to books, the supply of books in the British American Book and Tract Society was highly spoken of.

Gift Enterprizes and Lotteries.

The attention of Synod was called to the prevalence of illegal and demoralizing practices such as Lotteries and Gift Enterprizes. The following motion submitted by Rev. E. A. McCurdy was adopted unanimously:—

That the Synod in view of the existence of certain "Gift Enterprizes" within their bounds, and of the great publicity given to the same, desire to protest in the strongest terms against all such movements, which do so much encourage the spirit of gambling throughout the country.

STATE OF RELIGION.

Rev. S. Houston submitted the Report on this subject, as follows:—

Your Committee have the gratification of reporting that more Presbyteries than ever before have made returns this year. Eight of the ten Presbyteries have complied with the order of Synod, having made returns to the Convener. The two that still neglect to do so are Cape Breton and Miramichi.

In accordance with the leave granted at last meeting of Synod, queries were issued to which answers were requested to be sent by Sessions to their respective Presbyteries. These queries were inserted in the December number of the *Record*, the Committee believing that in that way they would not fail to be read by every minister at least of this Synod. Nevertheless the report of one Presbytery contains the following statement: "As the queries which had been expected from the Committee have not reached any of the members of Presbytery, they cannot give so particular a report as would be desirable." Can it be that in the bounds of an entire Presbytery no copies of the *Record* are taken?

From statements made in the reports that came to hand it appears that Presbyteries have as much trouble in getting re-