

All communications connected with the Record and Agency of the Church, to be addressed to "THE EDITOR OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL AND MISSIONARY RECORD," Toronto. Communications connected with the Widows' Fund and Home Mission, to be addressed to "REV. ALEX. GALE," Mount Albion P. O., C. W.

The Record.

TORONTO, JULY, 1853.

FRENCH CANADIAN MISSION

The third Sabbath of July has been appointed for the Annual Collection, on behalf of the French Canadian Missionary Society. We would desire to press upon our readers the propriety, nay, the duty, of devising liberal things in this cause. It is painful to observe how little interest is taken in this scheme by many of our churches in Canada West. Many persons look upon the evangelization of our French fellow-countrymen as a matter in which they have but little interest. Surely, however, the political influence which they wield, the manner in which that influence has of late blasted measures that we would have hailed with joy, and the mournful scenes connected with popery, which we have witnessed, will lead the members of our Church in Canada West to strive to do something in order to remove the ignorance and superstitious blindness of the *habitans*. This motive we mention as a selfish one, secondary to the over-binding command of our Saviour—to preach the gospel to every creature, and to be added to the desire engendered in the heart of every true Christian, to give to others also a share of what he possesses, of the knowledge of the true God, and Jesus Christ his Son, for this is life eternal.

ORDINATION AT BLANDFORD.—On Thursday the 2nd inst., the Rev. Andrew Tolmie was ordained in the new Presbyterian Church, Blandford, to the pastoral charge of the United Congregations of Blandford and Melrose, in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

The Rev. Robert Wallace preached and presided on the occasion; the Rev. Donald McKenzie addressed the minister, and the Rev. Duncan McDiarmid the people. The attendance was large and encouraging, and the newly ordained pastor received a cordial welcome from the people over whom he has been placed in spiritual things.

The prospects of these congregations are encouraging. The congregation of Blandford have erected a neat and comfortable frame church; the people of Melrose have also commenced a church, and the united congregations have resolved to erect a comfortable brick manse.

Mr. Tolmie begins his public ministry under very favourable auspices. A large Presbyterian community, a warm-hearted and united people, a session already formed and ready to assist him, and the assurance of sympathy and assistance in the discharge of his manifold duties as a minister and messenger of Christ. We hope and pray that our brother may receive abundant supplies

of wisdom and grace, to cultivate that important field aright, and that the Chief Shepherd will crown his labours with His enriching blessing, and give him many seals of his ministry, many souls as his hire.

MEETING OF SYNOD.

The recent meeting of Synod at Hamilton, was the largest meeting of this body that has ever taken place—the number of Ministers in attendance being 66, and the numbers of Elders nearly 50; the number of Ministers on the roll being 86. Many most important matters were before the Synod, and these were in general decided in a spirit of harmony, if not of entire unanimity.

The minutes of the late Sessions of Synod will soon be printed. But, in the meantime, we consider it necessary to present a brief analysis of the proceedings.

On the afternoon of Wednesday, 8th June, the Synod was opened with an excellent and appropriate sermon, preached by the retiring Moderator, Rev. Thos. Wightman, from Hebrews xiii. 1, "Let brotherly love continue." Thereafter Rev. Alex. Gale was unanimously chosen Moderator, who, on taking the chair, delivered a deeply impressive address to the Synod, in the course of which he referred in affecting terms to the bereavements sustained by the Synod since its last meeting. The evening diet was spent in devotional exercises, with special reference to the bereavements and afflictions with which God has recently visited the Church, and the effect produced appeared to be of a solemnizing and salutary nature. The Synod appointed a Committee to draft a minute expressive of their feelings in view of the removal by death since last meeting of Synod of three esteemed members of this court, viz., the Rev. Henry Esson, Mr. John Burns of Toronto, and Mr. John Fraser of London.

On Thursday 9th, after the appointment of various Committees the Synod took up a Reference from the Presbytery of Toronto. The Reference was referred to a Committee whose Report and the deliverance of the Synod thereon will be found elsewhere.

The same day the College Report was brought before the Synod. The Report was referred to a Committee with instructions to consider specially the vacancy in the College occasioned by the death of Mr. Esson. At a subsequent Session this Committee presented a Report, and in accordance with its recommendation the Synod resolved 1st, That a second Professor of Theology be appointed, and 2ndly, That a select Committee be appointed to look out for a suitable Professor.

On Thursday evening the Committee on Sabbath Schools presented its Report, in reference to which the Synod adopted the following Resolution, viz.:—

That the Report now read be adopted and printed in the *Record*, and that Presbyteries be instructed to co-operate with the Sessions and Congregations under their care in carrying out the important suggestions embraced in the Report; farther that the Synod reappoint the Committee, as they now do, with the addition of Mr. Lowry, Mr. John Gray, Mr. Alexander,

Mr. Nisbet, and Mr. W. J. McKenzie, instructing them to direct their attention still to the same important subject, to give through the medium of the *Record* such additional suggestions as may tend to promote the efficiency of these important institutions, and especially to prepare a series of lessons for the use of the Sabbath Schools throughout the bounds of the Church.

The Report of the Committee on the subject of Intemperance was also brought forward the same evening. In reference to this Report the Synod adopted the following resolution, viz.:—

The Synod agree to sustain the Report, adopt the recommendations it contains, and re-appoint the Committee, empowering them to employ all competent measures, in general, to abolish the great evil of Intemperance, and for this purpose especially to facilitate the passage of a Prohibitory Law.

On Friday the case of Students to be licensed was before the Synod, and leave was granted to various Presbyteries to take on trials for license 10 Students, viz., Messrs. Blain, Black, Nicolson, Laing, Kedey, McMeekin, Tait, D. Wardrope, Crawford, and W. E. McKay.

The Report of the Committee appointed to prepare a Book of Discipline, having been called for and given in, the Synod resolved, That the Committee be reappointed, with the addition of Messrs. Irvine, and Lowry, and that the Committee be charged to give instant attention to the matter, and report progress to the ensuing meeting of Commission.

The Synod, on an overture from the Presbytery of London adopted the following resolution, viz.:

That in the prospect of a visit being paid to the Churches of the United States, by Dr. Duff, of India, or whether he shall visit the States or not this Synod do hereby address that distinguished minister and eminently successful missionary, in the language of earnest and affectionate entreaty, that he may be pleased, before he returns to the much loved scene of his evangelistic labours, to pay a visit to this and the other Provinces of British North America, and occupy as many of our pulpits as he may have time and strength to overtake; and the Synod earnestly recommend to their ministers and members, to make collections on all such occasions, on behalf of the missions to India under the care of the General Assembly of the Free Protestant Church of Scotland; and they appoint the following Ministers and Elders a Committee of Synod to arrange for the suitable reception of Dr. Duff and the carrying out the objects of his visit to this country, to wit: The Moderator, Dr. Burns, Mr. Irvine, Mr. Young, Mr. Webster, Mr. McMurrich, Dr. Burns, Convener.

On Friday evening the Synod heard the Report of the Committee appointed to prepare a note or explanation with reference to certain passages of the Confession of Faith regarding the duty of the civil magistrate. It was resolved to transmit the proposed note to Presbyteries, that they may consider it and report to next meeting of Synod, whether they sanction or disapprove of it.

On Saturday the Synod was engaged in the consideration of a Reference from the Presbytery of Montreal, with reference to the introduction of Mr. William Brown Clark, as Minister of Chalmers' Church, Quebec. After discussion and a vote, the following was the deliverance come to, viz.:—

The Synod having considered the Reference from the Presbytery of Montreal find, that while there was a departure from the strict letter of the