

and addressed the Synod in suitable terms on his appointment.

After appointing a Committee on Bills and Overtures, and arranging as to the hours of the daily meetings of Synod, an adjournment was made to the following day at 11 o'clock.

On Wednesday, the Synod met, and spent the first part of the diet in devotional exercises, which were conducted by the Moderator, Mr. A. Wilson, Mr. D. McKenzie, and Professor Young. Thereafter, Committees for the Examination of the Synod and Presbytery Records, &c., were appointed. At the afternoon meeting, leave was granted to Presbyteries to take the following young men on public trials for license, they having completed their curriculum at Knox's College,—Mr. A. McDonald, Mr. Archibald McDiarmid, Mr. Donald McLean, and Mr. Adam McQueen.

The Rev. Messrs. Thornton, Aitken, and Ormiston, of the United Presbyterian Church, being present, were invited by the Synod to sit as corresponding members.

The Synod then proceeded to consider the report of the Committee appointed on the Act of Incorporation for Knox's College. The report was given in by Mr. Kemp, who detailed the proceedings of the Committee, and the various steps taken for having the proposed Act of Incorporation passed into law. After full discussion, the following motion was agreed to:—

"The Synod receive the report of the Committee, tender their thanks for the diligence they have shown in the matter committed to their care; re-appoint said Committee with the addition of Mr. M. Y. Stark, minister; and Messrs. A. Jeffrey, A. Fraser, and A. Mitchell, Elders, and with reference to the points they have submitted to the Synod for consideration, approve of the alterations which they have made in the Act, and instruct them to endeavour to get said Act passed into law without delay."

At the evening meeting of Wednesday, the Synod received the deputies of the United Presbyterian Church, viz., Rev. Messrs. Aitken and Thornton. These brethren, after being welcomed by the Moderator, proceeded to address the Synod, after which the following motion was unanimously adopted, viz.,—"That the thanks of this Court be given to the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church, for the appointment of a deputation to this Synod, to convey an expression of their hearty good will towards our Church and its members, and to state their earnest and sincere desire to bring about such a union, as may best give efficiency under the divine blessing to their united efforts for promoting the glory of God, and the interests of the Redeemer's Kingdom.

"That moreover, the Synod thank the members of the deputation most heartily for the manner in which they have discharged their commission, and for the sentiments which they have evinced. The Synod sincerely reciprocate the feelings of respect and brotherly love expressed by them, alike towards the members of the deputation individually, and to the Church with which they are connected; and indulge the fond hope that the efforts of the two Churches to come to a satisfactory ground of union, and to a full unity of principle and of spirit may, by the blessing of God, be speedily crowned with success."

On motion made and seconded, the Synod

engaged in devotional exercises. The 133rd Psalm having been sung, prayer was offered up by Mr. Kemp.

The Synod then took up a letter from Rev. Dr. Hatfield, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (N. S.) proposing fraternal intercourse between the two churches.

The matter was referred to the following Committee, viz., Mr. Lowry, (Convener) Dr. Burns, Messrs. Stark, Scott, D. Fraser, King, and McLaren, with instructions to them also to consider and report as to the expediency of correspondence with the United Presbyterian Church of America.

The Synod afterwards proceeded to consider an overture from the Presbytery of Montreal on the subject of the relation of Baptized Children to the Church. The overture was in the following terms, viz:—

"Whereas there is reason to believe that a confusion of sentiment widely prevails regarding the connection of baptized children and youth with the Church; it is respectfully overtured by the Presbytery of Montreal, to the Reverend the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, to take into its serious consideration, the best mode or modes of practically recognizing that connection, and securing the benefits that may accompany or flow from it, as respects alike the Church's maternal duty to her children, and their filial obligation to her."

After discussion, the following motion was unanimously adopted, viz:—"That the Overture be received, and the object of it cordially approved, and a Committee appointed to take into consideration the best means of attaining the ends contemplated thereon and report, the Committee to consist of Mr. D. Fraser, Convener, Dr. Bayne, Dr. Boyd, Mr. H. Campbell, Mr. McLaren and Mr. Burns."

On Thursday evening, Dr. Thomson, of Grand Street Church, New York, who was present in the house, was invited to take a seat with the Synod. At subsequent diets, Dr. Wilkes, of Montreal, and Mr. Balfour, of the Free Church of Scotland, were invited to sit with the Synod.

The Synod then proceeded to take up the question of baptism of converts from Popery. The returns from Presbyteries to the overture sent down by last Synod were read. The following motions were duly made and seconded:

1. It was moved by Mr. A. Wilson, and seconded by Mr. W. McLaren, That the Synod having considered the report of the Committee appointed to classify returns from Presbyteries on the question of Romish Baptism, appoint a Committee to prepare an overture to be sent down to Presbyteries on the subject of the Baptism of converts from the Church of Rome, and to report at a subsequent diet, the Committee to consist of Mr. McLaren, Convener, Messrs. McPherson, A. Wilson, Dr. Bayne, ministers; and Messrs. McLaughlin, Joseph Reed, J. Rogers, and Dr. Holden, elders.

2. It was moved in amendment by Dr. Bayne, and duly seconded, "That the Synod having considered the returns from Presbyteries on the overture aforesaid Romish Baptism find, that, in view of the diversity of opinion which obtains on the subject of the validity of said Baptism, and the difficulties with which the whole subject is confessedly surrounded,

it would be unsafe in present circumstances to come to a final decision regarding it, at the same time they recommend the question to the thorough and prayerful investigation of other-bearers, and others, and to such deliberation and discussion on the part of Presbyteries, as may seem to them best fitted for eliciting the truth, and promoting harmony of opinion regarding it, and in the meantime declare that the practice of our Church with reference to converts from Popery shall remain unchanged, and, further, in view of the importance of securing unity and weight to the testimony borne by Protestants against the errors of Popery, and of obviating the confusion that might result from a diversity of practice in the treatment of converts from Rome, among the Protestant Churches, the Synod record their opinion that, in the event of any movement being at a future time made within this Synod for declaring Romish baptism to be invalid, it is highly desirable that steps should be taken, before a final decision is come to, for bringing the subject before the Protestant Churches, and especially those with which we are in friendly communion, and securing, as far as possible, simultaneous and harmonious action regarding it."

3. It was moved as another amendment by Mr. T. McPherson, and seconded by Mr. J. McLaughlin, "That while this Synod willingly admits, that in spite of the Popish system itself, individuals connected therewith may be converted and saved by the Spirit of God, who worketh when and where he pleaseth, and in this sense a portion of Christ's people may be found in its pale, yet this Synod cannot but consider the Church of Rome as having now so far, and amidst so much light, departed from the truth as it is in Christ, and become so corrupt, that she ought, as an organized body, no longer, whatever she may have been in former time, to be regarded as a section of Christ's visible Church. Holding these views, and considering the corrupt and superstitious manner in which this ordinance is administered, as well as the erroneous views held regarding it, they are of opinion, that, when converts from Romanism are admitted into the communion of this Church, they ought to be baptized."

After full discussion a division was called for. Dr. Bayne's amendment, and Mr. McPherson's were first put against each other, when 79 voted for Dr. Bayne's, and 48 for Mr. McPherson's. Dr. Bayne's amendment was then put against the original motion, when the motion was carried by a large majority.

The Committee appointed in terms of this motion, at a subsequent diet reported the following overture which was sent down for the consideration of Presbyterians:—

"Whereas doubts as to the validity of Romish Baptism are known to prevail largely among the members of this Church, and especially among that class of them who have been delivered from the errors of Antichrist;

"And whereas, there is known to be a variety of practice among the sessions of this Church in respect to the manner in which such baptism should be treated, and whereas it is highly important for the interests of truth, and for the consistency of our testimony against the Romish Church, that that organization should be recognized in no other character than that which accords with its own nature, and the declaration of the word of God; and whereas the Church of Rome has so far concealed and distorted the cardinal truths of the Gospel, has so lapsed into gross idolatry and superstition, and has by the infallibility which she claims, so taken away the liberty of private judgment that her members are in all respects,