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MEETING OF SYNOD.

[In our last we gave an account of the proceedings of Synod during the first and part of the second day's proceedings. We then omitted to mention that the Rev. James Watson of Economy, had been elected Moderator.]

WEDNESDAY, June 25th.

At the afternoon sederunt the report of the Committee on Sabbath School Education was called for. The Convener stated that as no instructions had been given, and the measures which they had formerly proposed not having been adopted, nothing farther had been done. Presbyteries were directed to add to the questions used at Presbyterial visitation one or more to the session, to elicit the state of the Sabbath Schools under their charge. The Committee was then discharged.

The report of the Board of Home Missions was then called for and read by the Secretary. It gave a detailed account of the labors of the preachers in employment during the past year, as also Missionary labour done by settled Ministers. The report was after consideration received and the diligence of the committee approved.

The report having brought to the notice of the Synod the question of the propriety of licensing some of the young men now studying for the ministry who may be found qualified, a long discussion ensued, which continued till the hour of adjournment.—It was agreed on all hands, that nothing should be done to lower the standard of ministerial qualification; but that efforts should rather be made to raise it, but it was urged that the calls for ministerial labour were most pressing and urgent, and the means at our disposal extremely limited—that while as a general measure, shortening the term of study would not be advisable, yet that on such an emergency it seemed not only justified but imperatively demanded—that several of our students were far advanced in their studies, and were as well qualified as some now in the ministry were at the time of their licen-

sing—that qualification did not depend upon the length of time employed in study,—one being as well qualified after two years study as another after four—that the plan had been adopted in other churches, particularly in the early days of the Secession, some of the most useful of the fathers of our church in this Province, having been licensed before the completion of their studies. In opposition it was urged that deviating from our usual practice even in an emergency had a tendency to lower the standard of qualification, that the young men needed all the time for study that was allowed them—that the labour devolving on them after commencing their pastoral labours rendered it necessary that they should be well qualified before entering upon the field—that the plan proposed would place them under a disadvantage—that other bodies such as the old School Presbyterian Church of the United States had stood firm under as great emergencies as ours, and had felt the benefit of having done so—and that the scheme was just gaining a present advantage, at the risk of serious loss for the future.—The Rev. George Patterson moved that “Presbyteries be authorised to employ the more advanced students of Theology, in occasional Missionary labour, as they may deem for the edification of the church.”

The consideration of the subject was resumed at the evening sederunt, when Mr. Patterson withdrew his motion in favor of an amendment, moved by the Rev. Wm. McCulloch, that the whole subject be deferred till next meeting of Synod.

The Home Mission report having brought under the notice of Synod the subject of aiding Missionary stations in church building, it was agreed that the Board be authorised to act as they have been doing during the past year. It was farther agreed that sessions be enjoined to bring the claims of Home Missions before their respective congregations, and that Presbyteries be directed at their Presbyterial visitations to enquire how far the congregations are