

The scattered and scanty population that at an early period inhabited this province. We honor and love you for the wondrous and self-denying efforts which you have put forth to render yourselves a missionary Church—efforts which, while they have opened the hearts of your people to devise liberal things in connection with the Home Mission field, and particularly your seminaries of learning, have received so many marks of the Divine favor, and converted the wilderness of heathenism into a fruitful field. We gladly stretch out the hand of affection to those of your brethren who have not been separated long enough to forget that we have in former times subscribed the same standards, long revered and familiarly uttered the same honored names, cherished the same hallowed and thrilling associations, and labored in the same portion of the Lord's vineyard.

These are sincere feelings on our part, and we desire to give them practical expression, lamenting much that has occurred on both sides in past times, as well as recently, to disturb the harmony that ought to prevail among bodies which possess so much in common. With the above view, we are of opinion that we ought to co-operate in general measures, and cultivate brotherly feeling, by more frequent exchange of pulpits. It is quite evident to us that if, in God's providence, a union takes place such as we would desiderate, it must follow as the result of such a course of preparation.

Reminding you, that in our reply of last year we stated that a measure of so important a character would require very serious deliberation, and that we had then enjoyed no opportunity of ascertaining the feelings and opinions of our people, we have now to inform your Synod that, after a sufficient interval of time, and careful consideration of the whole matter, we have arrived at the conclusion, that any amalgamation of the two bodies is, however, desirable, at present impracticable. Let us express the hope that, in the course of time, many of the obstacles to union that now exist may be removed. Meantime we trust that, in this, as in other countries, the existence of two or more Presbyterian bodies engaged in the work of spreading their principles, and promoting the cause of Christ, may not retard but, on the whole, advance the great work, in which we are all engaged, afford an opportunity for the exercise of Christian charity and forbearance, and exhibit a rivalry alone in good works."

It was moved by Hon. John Holmes, seconded by Mr. Maclean, and unanimously agreed to, that the report be received and adopted, and the letter transmitted immediately through the Clerk of Synod.

It was moved by Philip Thomson, Esq., seconded by Mr. Tallach, and unanimously agreed to, that the Clerk be instructed to write to the Secretary of the *Monthly Record*, asking what sum would be required to pay

the deficit for 1861—62, supposing the deficit of the past and present year were paid up; and the Presbytery of Pictou being required to see to it that the *Record* be continued in circulation until next meeting of Synod.

The Presbytery of Halifax reported that they had discharged the duty entrusted to them of presenting the address of this Synod to the Prince of Wales.

Mr. Boyd on motion left the chair, when he moved that the resolution of last Synod—announcing communications of a private nature to the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland be forwarded by the Clerk.

Ministers reported that they had obtempered the instructions of last Synod with regard to the celebration of the Tricentenary of the Reformation.

The attention of the Synod having been directed to the Home Mission Association of Halifax, it was moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed to, that they express their gratification at the zeal and success with which the scheme has been conducted; that the thanks of the Synod be conveyed to the Rev. John Martin, Superintendent of Missions, for originating and carrying it forward, and to the laymen for the cordial support which they have given it. Which was done by the Moderator accordingly.

After some discussion, it was agreed that henceforth only three copies of the *Monthly Record* be sent to ministers.

The Clerk having read a call from forty-eight families residing in Middle River, Cape Breton, addressed to Mr. Sinclair to be their minister, and also a letter from Mr. J. Macleod, schoolmaster, stating that calls were being signed at Baddeck and Boularderie Island, it was agreed to that it be remitted to the Presbytery of Pictou to gather from the late deputation and other sources of information as to the state of our people in Cape Breton, and to lay the same before the Colonial Committee.

Mr. Cameron was appointed to conduct devotional exercises to-morrow morning. The Synod then adjourned to meet to-morrow at half-past nine in the morning, of which public intimation was given, and this sederunt was closed with prayer.

JAMES CHRISTIE, *Synod Clerk*.

#### FOURTH SEDERUNT.

*St. Matthew's Church, Halifax,  
June 29, 1861.*

The Synod met after devotional exercises conducted by Mr. Cameron, and was constituted with prayer by the Moderator, the Rev. George Boyd, Sederunt *ut supra*, with the exception of Messrs. Pollok, Maclean, Mackay, Hon. John Holmes and John Mackay, Esq.

The minutes of last sederunt were read and sustained as correct.