

necessary for every church to send the names of their delegates a week before each meeting to the Secretary of the Convention, and at the same time to send their statement of the statistical condition of the church and its pecuniary affairs, and that they recommend that the Secretary of the Convention be desired to send to every church from year to year, a month before its meeting, a letter reminding them that they are required to send the names of their delegates and the statistical statement as aforesaid.

All which is respectfully submitted.

REPORT ON PUBLIC AND DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION.

The Committee on Public and Denominational Education report : That they presented a petition to the Dominion Parliament, of which the following is a copy :—

"To the Commons of the Dominion of Canada.

"The petition of the undersigned humbly sheweth :—

"That your petitioners represent the Baptist Convention of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, having been appointed by that Body at its last annual meeting held at Hillsburg, N. S., on the 23rd day of August, 1875, as a Committee of Public and Denominational Education :—

"That the attention of your petitioners has been drawn to an Act prepared by your Honorable House at its last Session, to amend and consolidate the laws respecting the North-West Territories :—

"That the said Act contains a clause, of which the following is a copy : '11. That when and so soon as any system of taxation shall be adopted in any district or portion of the North-Western Territories, the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the consent of the Council or Assembly, as the case may be, shall pass all necessary ordinances in respect to education, but it shall therein be always provided that a majority of the rate-payers of any district or portion of the North-West Territories or any lesser portion or sub-division thereof, by whatever name the same may be known, may establish such Schools therein as they may think fit, and make the necessary assessment and collection of rates therefor : and further, that the minority of the rate-payers therein, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic, may establish Separate Schools therein, and that, in such latter cases, the rate-payers, establishing such Protestant or Roman Catholic Schools shall be liable only to assessments of such rates as they may impose upon themselves in respect thereof' :—

"That in passing the clause above quoted, your Honorable House, as your petitioners judge, and now respectfully submit, overstepped the limits of the powers granted to the Dominion Legislature by the British North America Act :

"That by the British North America Act each Province is invested with power and authority to legislate on the subject of education :