

engaged the attention of the commission. The committee to whom this matter had been entrusted, reported progress, and the discussion terminated in an injunction, that a draft of an act of incorporation be prepared by this committee, to be laid before the meeting of commission at Kingston in July. The Rev. R. McGill was appointed convener of this committee.

The convener of commission reported, that he in conjunction with Edward W. Thomson, Esq., M. P. P. Ruling, Elder, had prepared a petition, praying for the repeal of the clauses of the Act 31st George III, ch. 31,—authorising the institution of rectories in this Province, and that it had been presented to the several branches of the Legislature.

Mr. George produced according to appointment a draft of a letter, in answer to the letter of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States; which having been read and approved of in substance, was committed to a committee for revision; and then after ordered to be engrossed for the signatures of the convener and clerk, and to be by them transmitted to the stated clerk of the general assembly at Philadelphia.*

The report of the committee appointed at last meeting to prepare a plan of a Theological Institution was given in and read, from which it appeared that the committee had prepared a draft of a bill for the incorporation of Trustees to be appointed by the Synod, and merely authorized to hold the funds necessary for theological education; but that this draft had not been introduced into the Legislature; there was also given in a copy of a bill for establishing a college in connexion with the Church of Scotland, introduced into the Legislative Council by the Honourable William Morris; founded on the aforesaid draft, but containing material alterations thereon. The commission after prolonged discussion of this important matter, resolved unanimously, that the committee be instructed carefully to revise and mature their views on this subject; and report the same, in writing to the meeting of the commission at Kingston, together with the draft above mentioned; modified and extended in such manner as may seem to them most suitable for the accomplishment of the great object which the Synod contemplates. Mr. Rintoul appointed convener of the committee.

There was given in and read a letter from Mr. Secretary Macaulay, in reply to the memorial addressed to His Excellency the Lt. Governor, in behalf of the unendowed ministers of the Synod; which was ordered to be kept in retentis.

The reply as is follows:—

* See copy of this Letter, p. 150.

Government House,

Toronto, 10th April, 1839.

REVEREND SIR,

I have had the honour of laying before the Lieutenant Governor, the memorial transmitted by you, as Convener, on behalf of the commission of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connexion with the Church of Scotland, having date the 6th of February last.

His Excellency commands me to assure you, that he has perused the document with a painful interest; and that his consciousness of the general justness of the positions laid down in it, and the too true representations which it contains, of the unsupplied spiritual wants of your communion, add greatly to the regret with which he acknowledges his inability to offer any present remedy for such pressing evils.

His Excellency, however, indulges the hope, that the present Session of Parliament will not terminate without bringing the Clergy Reserve Question to something like a satisfactory arrangement, and that, this being accomplished, some means will soon become available for supplying the religious destitution of the people committed to the charge of your Venerable Synod.

I have the honour to be,

Reverend Sir,

Your most ob't humble servant,

JOHN MACAULAY.

The Rev. Alexander Gale,

&c.,

&c.,

&c.

HAMILTON.

There was given in to the commission by the convener and read; viz. A letter from certain members of the Legislature, addressed to the convener, on the propriety of incorporating the ministers and congregations of the United Synod of Upper Canada with this church; and the minute of a meeting of certain ministers, Elders, and members of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, and of the said United Synod, containing resolutions to the same effect as the said letter, and recommending that the commission may issue a respectful invitation to the United Synod, to meet with the Synod of the Presbyterian Church at their first ordinary meeting in Kingston, that both Synods may then and there take measures for the accomplishment of proposed union. These documents are as follows:—

Toronto, 9th April, 1839.

DEAR SIRS,

In bringing to a satisfactory conclusion the painfully protracted disputes respecting the appro-