

Also a letter from the Rev. W. E. Catlin, delegate of the General Association of Michigan, to the same effect.

Also a letter from Rev. William Ormiston, D.D., delegate of the United Presbyterian Synod of Canada, expressing regret at being unable to be present, the Synod being in session at Hamilton simultaneously with this Union. The letter referred to the Tri-centenary celebration of the Reformation, in Scotland. On motion, this part of the letter was referred to the Business Committee.

Also, a written application from Rev. J. Howell, for a letter of dismission and introduction to the Congregational Union of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. A letter was accordingly granted.

The Rev. James Boyd, through the Secretary, made verbal request that since, in consequence of failure of health, he had entered into commercial engagements, his name may be erased from the roll. The request was granted.

The Secretary brought up the Report of a Committee on the reconstruction of Missionary Districts, which remained on the table, from last annual meeting. This Report was referred to the Committee of the whole at its next sitting.

The Committee, appointed last year, to report to this meeting, upon Dr. Ryerson's circular, relative to existing provisions for religious instruction in the Common Schools of Canada West, reported through Rev. D. McCallum. The report was received and after discussion, the following resolution was carried unanimously, viz :—

Resolved, That this Body, having considered a document sent it by the Rev. Dr. Ryerson, containing regulations in reference to religious instruction and prayer in our Common Schools, passed by the Board of Public Instruction in Canada West, and also a request from himself, that we should give our views in reference to the subject matter involved,—we beg most distinctly and most respectfully to reply, that in our opinion the whole matter of religious instruction and prayers, in common schools, should be left to the regulation of the Teachers and Trustees in each section, without doing violence to the conscience of any one concerned in such arrangement.

TOTAL ABSTINENCE.

The following declaration, introduced by the Business Committee was unanimously adopted :—

That this Union in view of the alarming prevalence of Intemperance and its attendant evils, deems the present a fitting time to renew its testimony in favour of Total Abstinence, and in opposition to all customs, examples, and legal enactments, tending to uphold and encourage the use of intoxicating drinks as beverages, and the traffic in them as such.

Resolved therefore, (1.) That it is of the highest importance, and in the opinion of this Union, the solemn duty of all ministers of the Gospel, personally to act upon the principle of Total Abstinence, and in all suitable ways to discountenance the use of intoxicating drinks as beverages, by all men, and especially by members of Christian Churches.