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MINUTES

OF

THE SYNOD

OF THE

Free Church of Nova Scotia.

HELD AT NEW GLASGOW, JUNE, 1860.

HALIFAX, N. S.:
PRINTED BY JAMES BARNES, 170 HOLLIS STREET.
1860.

1870
SPY

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COMMITTEES OF SYNOD--1860.

COLLEGE AND ACADEMY BOARD.—Rev. Professors King and Lyall, Dr. McLeod, W. Duff, W. Ferrie, W. Elder, J. Hunter, H. D. Steele and A. McKnight; Messrs. A. McKinlay, R. Boak, P. Ross, R. Romans, J. H. Liddell and F. W. George; R. P. Grant (Pictou), H. L. Dickie (Cornwallis), K. Henderson (Charlottetown), J. Munn (Harbour Grace), W. Gammell (Bras d'Or) and Hon. T. D. Archibald (Sydney Bar):—Mr. Mackinlay, Chairman; J. H. Liddell, Secretary and Treasurer. Five a quorum.

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FOREIGN MISSION COMMITTEE—Presbytery of Pictou, Rev. Dr. McLeod, A. Sutherland, M. Stewart, A. Munro, A. McIntosh and A. McKnight:—Rev. J. Stewart, senr., Convener.

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COMMITTEE ON THE SUSTENTATION OF THE MINISTRY.—Rev. W. Murray (Convener), Professor King, Dr. McLeod, A. Sutherland and M. Stewart.

COMMITTEE ON ECCLESIASTICAL STATISTICS.—Rev. W. Murray (Convener), Professor Lyall and A. McKnight.

COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH SYNOD OF NEW BRUNSWICK.—Rev. W. Murray (Convener), Professors King and Lyall, J. Hunter; Messrs. J. Forman and W. S. Stirling.

COMMITTEE ON UNION WITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NOVA SCOTIA.—Rev. A. McKnight (Convener), Professor King, Dr. McLeod, W. Duff, A. Sutherland, D. B. Blair, J. Hunter, W. Murray, G. Sutherland, and N. McKay.

COMMITTEE ON SABBATH OBSERVANCE.—Presbytery of Pictou:—Rev. D. B. Blair, Convener.

COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE—Presbytery of Prince Edward Island, A. Sutherland, A. McIntosh and H. D. Steele:—Rev. D. McNeill, Convener.

COMMITTEE ON POPERY—Rev. G. Sutherland (Convener), Professor King, A. Sutherland, J. Ross and D. B. Blair; Messrs. E. Taylor and G. Sutherland.

SUB COMMITTEE ON TRI CENTENARY OF SCOTTISH REFORMATION.—Rev. A. Sutherland, D. B. Blair and G. Sutherland.

MINUTES OF THE SYNOD

OF THE

FREE CHURCH OF NOVA SCOTIA.

1860.

SESSION I.

*Knox's Church, New Glasgow, Twentieth Day of June, One
Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty Years.*

Which day the Synod of the Free Church of Nova Scotia met according to adjournment, and after sermon by the Rev. Mr. Blair, in the absence of the Moderator, from Col. i. 18, first clause, was constituted by the Rev. A. Munro, the previous Moderator.

The following was adopted as the Roll of the Synod:—

PRESBYTERY OF RICHMOND.

Roll of Synod.

Rev. Murdoch Stewart	-	-	-	-	West Bay,
William G. Forbes	-	-	-	-	Piaister Cove,
James Ross	-	-	-	-	Grand River,
Charles L. Ross	-	-	-	-	Whycocomah.

PRESBYTERY OF VICTORIA.

Rev. John Gunn	-	-	-	-	Broad Cove,
Abraham McIntosh	-	-	-	-	St. Ann's,
Kenneth McKenzie	-	-	-	-	Baddeck,
Donald Sutherland	-	-	-	-	Cape North.

PRESBYTERY OF HALIFAX.

Rev. Professor King	-	-	-	-	Lunenburg,
William Duff	-	-	-	-	
Professor Lyall	-	-	-	-	
Walter Thorburn	-	-	-	-	Hamilton, Bermuda,
John Hunter	-	-	-	-	Halifax,
William Forlong	-	-	-	-	South Cornwallis,
William Murray	-	-	-	-	North Cornwallis,
Alexander Stuart	-	-	-	-	Porter's Lake,
Howard D. Steele	-	-	-	-	Bridgewater,
Alexander McKnight	-	-	-	-	Dartmouth,
Alexander W. McKay	-	-	-	-	West Cornwallis.

PRESBYTERY OF PICTOU.

Rev. John Stewart	-	-	-	-	New Glasgow,
Alexander Campbell	-	-	-	-	Lochaber,
Alexander Sutherland	-	-	-	-	Earlton,
Duncan B. Blair	-	-	-	-	Barney's River,
John Munro	-	-	-	-	Wallace.

PRESBYTERY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Rev. Alexander Munro	-	-	-	-	Brown's Creek,
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George Sutherland	-	-	-	-	Charlottetown,
Neil McKay	-	-	-	-	Murray Harbour,
Donald McNeill	-	-	-	-	Woodville.

PRESBYTERY OF CAPE BRETON.

Rev. Hugh McLeod, D. D.	-	-	-	-	Sydney,
James Fraser	-	-	-	-	Boularderie,
Matthew Wilson	-	-	-	-	Sydney Mines,
Moses Harvey	-	-	-	-	St. John's, N. F.,
Alexander Ross	-	-	-	-	Harbour Grace, N. F.

The Roll being called, the following answered to their names:—Murdoch Stewart, William G. Forbes, Charles L. Ross, William Duff, William Murray, Howard D. Steele, Alexander McKnight, Alexander W. McKay, John Stewart, Alexander Campbell, Alexander Sutherland, Duncan B. Blair, John Munro, Alexander Munro, George Sutherland, Neil McKay, Donald McNeill, James Fraser, Abraham McIntosh, Kenneth McKenzie, Donald Sutherland.

Commissions were read in favour of the following Elders from their respective Kirk Sessions:—Alexander McKay, Pictou; Alexander Campbell, New Glasgow; Malcom Gillis, Scotch Settlement, P. E. I.—The commissions were sustained, and the said names added to the Roll of the Synod. The Synod also agreed to sustain the commission of John Cameron from Lochaber, noting however an irregularity in the date of his commission.

The Synod thereafter proceeded to the election of a Moderator, when the Rev. W. G. Forbes was unanimously chosen and took the chair.

The following was named a Committee on Overtures:—The Moderator and Clerk, J. Stewart, G. Sutherland, N. McKay; Messrs. Alexander McKay and John Cameron, Elders. Messrs. John Munro and Murdoch Stewart, with the other members of Synod not named on the Committee on Overtures, to be a Committee on Bills, References and Appeals.—Both committees to meet here half an hour before the evening session of Synod.

Messrs. J. Stewart (convener), McKnight, Murray, A. Sutherland, and John Ross, Elder, were appointed a Committee for the Arrangement of Business.

The Synod adjourned to meet at a quarter past six this evening.
Closed with prayer.

WILLIAM DUFF, *Synod Clerk.*

SESSION II.

Knox's Church, New Glasgow, half-past Six.

The Synod met and was constituted. Sederunt *ut supra*, with the addition of Rev. Alexander Stuart, Lake Porter. The minutes of last sederunt were read and sustained.

It was moved and agreed to that the thanks of the Synod be tendered to the Rev. D. B. Blair for his able discourse delivered at the opening of the Synod, with the request that it be published in the *Missionary Record*; which the Moderator accordingly did.

The Synod agreed to add the names of William Anderson, Musquodoboit Harbour, and John Ross, Blue Mountain, to the Synod Roll, al-

though unable to table their commissions, the Synod being satisfied from the records of their respective Presbyteries that they have been regularly appointed by their Sessions to represent them in the Superior Courts.

The minutes of last meeting of Synod were read and sustained.

The Committee on Overtures gave in their report that no business was brought before them. The Committee on Bills, References and Appeals transmitted a petition from Murdoch McLeod and others of New London, P. E. I., with accompanying papers from Scotch Settlement.

An extract minute from the Presbytery of Halifax, with certificates from the Professors and Hebrew Tutor of the Free Church College in favour of Messrs. Duncan McKinnon, Hugh McMillan, and Donald Morrison, Students in Divinity who have finished their course of study, were read:—the Presbytery of Halifax making application for leave to the Presbytery or Presbyteries within whose bounds they may happen to reside to take them on trials for license. The certificates were ordered to be laid on the table.

Leave was granted to the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island to meet to-morrow at half-past eight, A. M.

It was moved and agreed to that the Synod appoint supply for Sabbath services during the sitting of Synod for Knox's Church, New Glasgow, leaving the other supplies to private arrangement. The following appointments were made for New Glasgow:—Rev. Alexander Stuart, morning service; A. Munro, afternoon, in Gaelic; H. D. Steele, evening.

The following committee were appointed to visit and examine the Records of the following Presbyteries:—Victoria, Neil McKay, Charles L. Ross, Alexander Stuart; Halifax, A. Campbell, D. McNeill, Donald Sutherland; Pictou, Alexander Munro, H. D. Steele, Abraham McIntosh; Prince Edward Island, Kenneth McKenzie, William Murray, John Munro.

It was moved and agreed to, that the Synod meet in future at half-past nine, to adjourn at one; for afternoon diet at three, to adjourn at six; for evening sederunt at seven.

The Synod adjourned to meet to-morrow at half-past nine, A. M.

Closed with prayer.

WILLIAM DUFF, *Synod Clerk.*

SESSION III.

Knox's Church, June 22nd, half-past Nine, A. M.

The Synod met according to adjournment and was constituted. Sederunt *ut supra*.

The minutes of last sederunt were read and sustained.

Leave was granted to the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island to take Messrs. D. McKinnon, Hugh McMillan and Donald Morrison on trials for license.

The Committee on the Order of Business gave in their report, suggesting the following arrangement:—

1st. State of religion within the bounds of the Synod, together with devotional exercises. 2nd. Report of Commission to New London. 3rd. Petition from New London, with accompanying papers. 4th. Home Mission. 5th. Report of Committee of Correspondence with Synod of

New Brunswick. 6th. Sabbath observance. 7th. Temperance. 8th. Synod Fund. 9th. College Board Report, Library Report, Bursary Report, and state of College Classes. 10th. Sustentation of ministry.—11th. Popery. 12th. Union with Presbyterian Church—Report of Committee. 13th. Foreign Mission. 14th. Tricentenary of Reformation. 15th. Record Committee. 16th. Statistics.

State of Religion.

It was moved and agreed to, that the Synod hear one member of each Presbytery on the state of religion.

Mr. Charles L. Ross addressed the Synod in reference to the congregations within the bounds of the Presbytery of Richmond, from which it appears that there is a very general attendance upon the services of the Church in the several congregations of that Presbytery, while in several localities there is a growing earnestness manifest in waiting upon the means of grace.

Mr. Abraham McIntosh, in reference to the Presbytery of Victoria, lamented the inadequate improvement of religious privileges among their congregations; while D. Sutherland had encouraging tokens of progress in the new charge over which he has been placed.

Mr. Fraser, of Boularderie, reported from the Presbytery of Cape Breton. In that Presbytery, and more especially in the congregations constituting the charge of Dr. McLeod, the preaching of the gospel was evidently accompanied with the Divine blessing, while many were being awakened to an interest in the message of Divine grace.

The Synod here engaged in devotional exercises, after which Mr. McKnight was called upon and addressed the Synod in reference to the congregations within the bounds of the Presbytery of Halifax. Messrs. Stuart, Steele and Murray followed with supplementary statements in reference to their own charges, manifesting upon the whole very encouraging progress both as regards the external and religious state of these congregations.

Mr. Blair addressed the Synod on the state of the congregations within the Presbytery of Pictou, referring especially to difficulties in the congregation of Lochaber requiring the attention of the Church.

The Synod adjourned to meet at three, P. M.

Closed with prayer.

WILLIAM DUFF, *Synod Clerk.*

SESSION IV.

Knox's Church, New Glasgow, Three O'Clock, P. M.

The Synod of the Free Church met and was constituted. Sederunt *ut supra*. The minutes of last sederunt were read and sustained. The Synod resumed the subject of the state of religion.

Mr. George Sutherland spoke in reference to Prince Edward Island, showing that the bounds of the Church are being extended there, affording the prospect of an increase of ministerial charges in the course of the present summer.

Mr. Neil McKay followed with a short statement in reference more especially to his own congregation.

Mr. Kenneth McKenzie spoke of the difficulties he and his congregation had to encounter, but which were in the way of being surmounted.

It was moved and agreed to, that a special committee be appointed to

prepare a statement or Synodical deliverance on the state of religion within the bounds of the Synod, founded on the reports to which the Synod have listened. Messrs. George Sutherland, William Murray and Charles L. Ross were named as a committee, and instructed to report before the rising of the Court.

The Report of the Commission to New London was called for, but Dr. McLeod, who was the only member of that commission who visited New London, was not present, and there was no report presented.

The petition from parties in New London and the statement from parties in Scotch Settlement were read, and the petitioners were called to the bar. Mr. Murdoch McLeod was heard in support of the petition, and the Synod adjourned to meet at six P. M. New London Case.

Closed with prayer.

WILLIAM DUFF, *Synod Clerk.*

SESSION V.

Knox's Church, Six O'Clock, P. M.

The Synod met according to adjournment and was constituted. Sederunt *ut supra*. The Synod proceeded with the case from New London. Messrs. Campbell and Buchannan were heard in support of the petition. After which the Rev. Alexander Sutherland was heard fully in reply.—Parties having been removed from the bar, the Synod, after reasoning, found unanimously that the petitioners have held erroneous views of Church order, which have led them to conduct in a high degree censurable, injurious to their late pastor, Rev. A. Sutherland, to the Kirk Session and to the interests of the cause of Christ in that section of the Church; and, in the circumstances, the Synod must decline the prayer of the petitioners and urge them to acknowledge their errors, and in case of their submitting in a right spirit to the authority of the Presbytery, commend them to the tenderest consideration of that Court.

The Synod adjourned to meet to-morrow at ten o'clock, A. M.

Closed with prayer.

WILLIAM DUFF, *Synod Clerk.*

SESSION VI.

Knox's Church, New Glasgow, June 23rd, Ten O'Clock.

The Synod met and was constituted. Sederunt *ut supra*.

The statement from parties in Scotch Settlement was read, and the Synod agree to remit the matter to the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island, to be dealt with according to the rules of the Church.

The Report of the Committee on Correspondence with the Synod of New Brunswick was called for, and the convener, Mr. Murray, gave in a verbal report—that he found in his correspondence with members of the Synod of New Brunswick an earnest desire to co-operate with this Synod and to unite under a General Assembly of the Lower Provinces. Correspondence with Synod of N. B.

The Home Mission Committee's Report was given in by the convener. Home Mission.

Leave was granted to the Committee on Union to meet the Corresponding Committee of the Presbyterian Church at twelve o'clock.

The thanks of the Synod were tendered to Mr. Steele for his diligence as convener of the Home Mission Committee. After reasoning it was agreed, as several members were absent, to defer the farther consideration of this subject to a future sederunt.

The Report of the Committee appointed to examine the Records of the Presbytery of Victoria was given in, and the clerk was instructed to attest the record.

The Report of the Committee appointed to examine the Records of the Presbytery of Halifax was received, and the Clerk instructed to attest the record. And as the attention of the Synod was directed to the absence of the Rev Mr Hunter during the whole of the past year, the Presbytery was enjoined to cite Mr Hunter to the Presbytery, and to proceed according to the rules of the church.

Leave was granted to the Presbytery of Halifax to meet here this afternoon.

The Synod adjourned to meet here at 10 A. M. on Monday.

Closed with prayer.

WILLIAM DUFF, *Synod Clerk.*

SESSION VII.

Knox's Church, June 25th, Ten O' Clock.

The Synod met and was constituted. Sederunt *ut supra.*

The minutes of last sederunt were read and sustained.

Union with
Presbyterian
Church of N.
Scotia.

It was moved and agreed to that the Report of the Committee on Union be now received. The minutes of the Joint Committees were read, and also the returns from Kirk Sessions on the subject of Union with the other Presbyterian body. Members of different Presbyteries addressed the Synod, expressing their own views, and, as far as they had ascertained, the views of the people, clearly indicating a very general feeling in favor of a union of the two bodies.

Conference.

The Synod agreed to meet the Synod of the Presbyterian Church in conference this evening at Pictou, and it having been intimated that James W. Carmichael, Esq. and the Steamboat Company kindly offered the use of their steamboat to convey the Synod of the Free Church to Pictou to conference, the Synod cordially accept of this offer and instruct the Clerk to tender to the Steamboat Company the thanks of the Synod for the generous accommodation.

The Synod adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock.

Closed with prayer.

WILLIAM DUFF, *Synod Clerk.*

SESSION VIII.

Knox's Church, Two O' Clock.

The Synod met according to adjournment and was constituted. Sederunt *ut supra.*

The Synod resumed the subject of Union. The Committee reported, and after reasoning, the Synod unanimously agree to adopt the report and act on the various recommendations therein contained. (*See Appendix No. 1.*) The Committee was reappointed with instructions to attend

to all the details of arrangement necessary to the consummation of the Union.

It was further moved that the Committee on Union be instructed to negotiate with the Synod connected with the Established Church of Scotland, and to confer with any Committee which that Synod may appoint on the subject of Union. It was moved in amendment, and seconded, that the Clerk of the Synod be instructed to transmit the basis and formula agreed upon by the other two bodies to the Synod of the Established Church about to meet in Pictou, and to call the attention of the brethren to this important matter. The further consideration of this subject, this being the hour of adjournment, was deferred to next diet.

The Synod adjourned to meet here to-morrow at 10 o'clock.

Closed with prayer.

WILLIAM DUFF, *Synod Clerk.*

Correspondence
with the Synod
in connection
with the
Established
Church of
Scotland.

SESSION IX.

Knox's Church, Ten O'Clock.

The Synod met according to adjournment. Sederunt *ut supra*.

The minutes were read and sustained.

The Synod resumed the subject of negotiating with the Synod in connection with the Established Church. After reasoning, the amendment was unanimously agreed to.

The Synod resumed the consideration of the Home Mission, and after deliberation, it was moved and seconded that the Catechists already on the list be paid, and whatever remains after payment of Catechists be apportioned among weak congregations according to the judgment of the Synod, brethren being urged to forward as soon as possible all sums due this fund. It was moved and seconded in amendment that the Synod proceed to apportion the funds of the mission in the proportion of last year's allocation. It was agreed that the vote be motion or amendment, and being put to the vote the amendment was carried. It was agreed to put Charlottetown in place of West Bay on this fund, and Western Cornwallis in place of Bridgewater.

Home Mission.

The Committee was re-appointed, and the Rev. Geo. Sutherland added.

The convener was instructed to correspond with the convener of the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland on the subject of the second year's grant.

Free Church
Grant.

Presbyteries are instructed to send returns to convener of Stipends paid to ministers of congregations claiming aid from this grant.

The Report of the College Board was called for and submitted. The Report was approved. It was moved and agreed to that the thanks of the Synod be tendered to Mr Liddell the Secretary, for his diligence in connexion with the Board. It was also agreed to appoint Mr Liddell treasurer as well as secretary to the College Board. The Synod adjourn to meet at 3 o'clock.

Colleg Board.

Closed with prayer.

WILLIAM DUFF, *Synod Clerk.*

SESSION X.

Knox's Church, June 26th, Three O'Clock.

The Synod met and was constituted. Sederunt *ut supra*.

Minutes were read and sustained.

Synod Fund.

The Report of the Synod Fund Committee was given in. It was found that the amount in the hands of the Convener did not admit of the payment of travelling expenses. The convener was instructed to pay over the amount in hand to the Foreign Mission, to liquidate debt due the Mission.

Library.
Bursaries.

Mr. McKnight, in the absence of Professor Lyall, gave in the Report of the Library, as also of the Bursary Committee. Mr. McKnight stated that a bursary had been provided by Mr. Murray's congregation, to be awarded to the author of the best essay on "The Value of Intellectual Philosophy." This bursary was not competed for. A prize was also provided by the Presbytery of P. E. Island, but the requisite number of competitors did not write. The prize was not therefore awarded.

State of the
Classes.

Mr. McKnight read a statement from Professor King as to the state and progress of his classes. Mr. McKnight also gave a verbal statement in reference both to Professor Lyall's classes and his own.

The Sabbath Observance Committee's Report was called for, but the convener was not prepared to present it at this diet.

Temperance.

The Report on Temperance was read by the convener and approved of, and the thanks of the Synod tendered to the convener for diligence.—Mr. Sutherland resigned the convenership of this committee, and Mr. McNeill was appointed.

Popery.

The Report on Popery was read and approved of, and the thanks of the Synod tendered to the convener for his diligence.

Widows' Col-
lection.

The following committee was appointed for apportioning the monies collected for the widows of the Rev. A. Farquharson and M. Sutherland:—Messrs. J. Stewart, Fraser and McKnight.

The committee appointed to draw up a report on the state of religion within the bounds of the Synod gave in their report. The Synod defer the consideration of this report to the evening sederunt. The Synod adjourn to meet here at half-past seven.

Closed with prayer.

WILLIAM DUFF, *Synod Clerk.*

SESSION XI.

Knox's Church, half-past Seven.

The Synod met according to adjournment and was constituted. Sederunt *ut supra*, with the exception of the Rev Kenneth McKenzie.

The minutes were read and sustained.

Deliverance on
the State of
Religion.

The Synod resumed the consideration of the Report of the Committee on the State of Religion, and agreed to adopt the report. (*See Appendix No 2*)

Foreign Mis-
sion.

The Report of the Foreign Mission Committee was called for and read. The report was approved, and the thanks of the Synod tendered to convener for diligence. The committee was re-appointed, with the Rev A. Munro added. The convener was instructed to renew correspondence with the Synods of Canada and New Brunswick to enlist their interest more fully in support of our Foreign Mission, with a view to add more labourers to the agency on the field.

Mr Murray stated that he had not received so full returns from ministers as to enable him to fill up the statistical table, and requested more time, which was granted; and ministers who have not furnished the convener with returns, are instructed to do so before the 16th of July. Statistics.

The Sabbath Observance Committee's Report was read. The report was adopted and the thanks of the Synod presented to the convener for diligence. Sabbath Observance.

The Synod adjourn to meet to-morrow at ten o'clock.

Closed with prayer.

WILLIAM DUFF, *Synod Clerk.*

SESSION XII.

Knox's Church, June 27th, Ten O'Clock.

The Synod met according to adjournment, and was constituted. *Sederunt ut supra*, with the exception of Messrs. Steele, M. Stewart, A. Stuart, and Messrs. Anderson, McKay, Ross, and J. Cameron, Elders.

The minutes were read and sustained.

The Committee on Tricentenary Celebration gave in their Report, which was adopted. It was remitted to the joint Committee on Union to make arrangements for carrying out the suggestions of this Committee. Tri-centenary of the Scottish Reformation.

The Report on the Sustentation of the Ministry was read and adopted. Reference was made to the congregation of Lochaber, and after due deliberation, the Synod agree to appoint the following commission: The Moderator, Messrs. M. Stewart, Blair, George Sutherland and McKnight, to visit the said congregation on the third Tuesday of August, and report to the Synod in October. Support of the Ministry.
Commission to visit Lochaber.

All the committees were re-appointed except that on the Tricentenary Celebration, which has transacted its business. Rev Neil McKay and Alex. Sutherland were added to the committee on Union.

The Report of the *Record* Committee was given in, shewing a considerable debt due for printing, &c. The Synod authorise the committee to borrow from the College Board a sum not more than ninety pounds; at the same time the Synod instruct the committee to use all diligence to collect the subscriptions due, and report to the Synod in October. The Record.

The Presbytery of Halifax were appointed a committee to draw up and present an Address to the Prince of Wales, on the event of his visit to the Province. (*See Appendix No. 3.*) Address to the Prince of Wales.

The committee on Widows' Collection reported. Report adopted.

Messrs. McKnight and Duff were appointed a committee to revise the minutes.

The Synod adjourn to meet on the third day of October at the Free Church, Pictou.

This having been intimated, closed with prayer.

WILLIAM DUFF, *Synod Clerk.*

APPENDIX.

No. 1.—MINUTES OF COMMITTEE ON UNION.

The minutes of meetings held in March last are printed in the Minutes of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia. The following brief extract is repeated here, as it may be of some use towards satisfying those whose hesitancy about the Union arises mainly from their attachment to a name :—

AT HALIFAX, 7th March, 1860.

Names of Congregations—the word *Free*.

“ It was agreed to suggest that all congregations so inclined were at perfect liberty to retain that name, although it should form no part of the designation of the general body.”

The following minutes are of later date :—

NEW GLASGOW, 23rd June, 12 o'clock, noon.

At which place and time the Joint Committees of the Free Synod and of the Presbyterian Synod of Nova Scotia met. Present on the part of the Free Synod—Rev. Messrs. Duff, McKnight, Blair, G. Sutherland and Murray; and on the part of the other Synod—Rev. Messrs. Murdoch, McCulloch, Sedgewick, Bayne, Cameron and McGregor.

On motion unanimously agreed to Rev. Mr. McCulloch was called to preside, and, having taken the chair, opened the proceedings with prayer to God for Divine direction. Rev. P. G. McGregor was appointed Secretary.

The whole proceedings of the Joint Committees at their meetings held in Halifax in March last were then read by the Rev. A. McKnight. Mr. McKnight then read some additional information from Presbyteries and congregations in connection with the Free Church respecting their views of the Basis and respecting the time of the consummation of the Union, from which it appears that while there is an agreement, almost universal, respecting the *basis*, there are individuals in different congregations, and particularly in the congregations of Earltown and West Branch, Roger's Hill, Barney's River, Pictou and New Glasgow, who feel unprepared for an *immediate* incorporation with the other body.

Intimation was given by the members of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia that their Synod had by resolution declared their readiness to proceed to Union, whenever their brethren of the other Synod thought their people were willing.

After a free conversation on the whole subject the Joint Committees proceeded to consider whether, with this additional information, they are prepared to reaffirm their recommendation agreed to in March last that the Union be consummated during the present year and in the month of October, when the following resolution, moved by the Rev. G. Sutherland and seconded by Rev. J. Cameron, was unanimously agreed to, “ That the Committees, having found such a large measure of unanimity on this subject, agree to recommend that the Union be consummated on Thursday, the 4th day of next October.”

On motion of Rev. J. L. Murdoch it was then agreed unanimously that it be recommended that during the intervening months *united* prayer meetings should be held by the congregations of the two bodies wherever practicable, at which earnest supplications should be offered for a large outpouring of the Spirit—that brotherly love and fervent zeal for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause and kingdom might be largely increased.

It was then moved that the Committees recommend to their respective Synods that the Union should be consummated in the town of Pictou. It was moved in amendment that New Glasgow, or some suitable place on the East River, be selected.

After discussion the vote was taken, when New Glasgow or East River was chosen by a majority.

This vote was after farther consideration rescinded, when it was agreed that a Conference between the two Synods be recommended by the Committees, to be held in Prince Street Church, Pictou, on Monday evening, at half-past seven o'clock, at which the place and other arrangements for consummating the Union may be determined, should the preceding recommendations of the Joint Committees be approved by their respective Synods.

Some conversation followed about the union of our Theological Halls during the present season in the event of Union of the Churches taking place, when it was agreed that the question be deferred, and that we meet again in Prince Street Church at half-past six o'clock on Monday evening.

Concluded with prayer.

P. G. MCGREGOR, *Secretary.*

No. 2.—STATE OF RELIGION.

The Synod, having heard the Reports of Presbyteries on the State of Religion within their bounds, agree to the following deliverance:—

First. The Synod would express their gratitude to God for the benign influences which he has been pleased to exert on various sections of our Church, generally, in vouchsafing a spirit of prayer and supplication on old and young, and specially in the bestowment of his convincing and converting grace on certain localities in Prince Edward Island and Cape Breton.

Secondly. They would humble themselves under His mighty hand because of the lukewarmness and worldliness still marking the conduct of too many professors of religion, and the deadness and indifference to salvation distinguishing multitudes of those who stately enjoy the means of grace; and would unitedly and earnestly implore Him to rend the heavens and come down that the mountains might flow down at His presence.

Further, the Synod direct the attention of the Presbytery of Halifax to the duty of securing without delay a site for a Church in the North End of the city of Halifax, and of employing as soon as practicable in that locality an active and devoted probationer or missionary.

Also, the Synod cannot regard with satisfaction the Presbyterial supervision of the congregation of Lochaber and St. Mary's, and the non-occupation of the Albion Mines as a station for regular, weekly religious services;—and call the attention of the Presbytery of Pictou to the duty of immediately providing for the necessities of these localities.

As no report has been received from the large Island of Newfoundland, containing a population of upwards of 110,000, the majority of whom are Protestants, and in which this Synod has had for several years but two congregations, the Synod direct and appoint the Rev. Moses Harvey, of St. John's, N. F., to visit and explore certain settled harbours on the South side of the Island, and the Rev. Alexander Ross, of Harbour Grace, similar harbours and settlements on the North side, with the view of selecting suitable stations for the location of one or more missionaries, and report as early as possible to the Presbytery of Cape Breton and the Synod's Home Mission Committee.

Lastly, considering the signs of the times and the manifest indications of God's providence, the Synod appoint the first week of January, 1861, as a week of general prayer for the outpouring of the Spirit, and direct the brethren to invite the co-operation of all evangelical brethren in the same grand and urgent duty.

GEORGE SUTHERLAND, *Convener.*

No. 3.—ADDRESS TO THE PRINCE OF WALES.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS,—

We, as representatives of the Free Church of Nova Scotia, beg to be permitted, with other classes of our fellow citizens, to tender to your Royal Highness a cordial welcome to the shores of this Province.

Fully sensible of the advantages enjoyed in these Colonies under the enlightened and benignant sway of the Parent Country, the Religious Body which we represent will yield to none in their devoted loyalty to the British Throne; and the personal virtues which adorn Her Majesty, the August Mother of your Royal Highness, by whom that Throne is so happily filled, deepen and enhance their loyalty, by the superadded force of a strong attachment to the Person of Her Majesty,—on whom it is their earnest prayer that God may bestow long life, and every blessing that renders life desirable.

Whilst these virtues are known and admired, and exert a powerful influence for good, throughout the bounds of the British Empire, it is within the circle of a closer intimacy than ordinary subjects can enjoy, that your Royal Highness has been accustomed to behold their mild radiance and feel their sweet assimilating power; and hence the highest expectations are cherished, by the loyal and attached subjects of Her Majesty, that the fruits of Her Majesty's training, and that of His Royal Highness the Prince Consort, will, through God's blessing, be abundantly manifest, in preparing your Royal Highness for worthily occupying the exalted sphere which your Royal Highness may be called, in Providence, to fill.

Sharing fully these expectations, we hail the visit of your Royal Highness as an encouraging token of felt interest in the state and welfare of these North American Dependencies of the British Crown.

In name and by order of the Synod of the Free Church of Nova Scotia,

WILLIAM G. FORBES, *Moderator.*
WILLIAM DUFF, *Clerk.*