

James P.

MINUTES

OF THE

SYNOD

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OF

NOVA-SCOTIA.

JUNE, - 1847.

BOARDS, STANDING COMMITTEES, &C.

COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN SCOTLAND—The Rev. Messrs Trotter and Campbell,—Mr. Trotter Convener.

BOARD OF DOMESTIC MISSIONS—The Rev. Messrs. Murdoch, Smith, MacCulloch, Christie, Bayne, MacGregor, with the Presbytery Elder of their respective Sessions,—Mr. Murdoch, Convener; Mr. MacCulloch, Secretary; and Mr. James Dawson, Treasurer.

BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS—The Presbytery of Prince Edward Island, the Rev. Messrs. Baxter, Bayne, Waddell, MacCurdy, Roy and Christie; and Messrs. John Waddell, Isaac Logan, J. W. Dawson, and R. MacGregor,—Mr. Baxter Convener.

STANDING COMMITTEE OF BILLS AND OVERTURES—The Rev. Messrs. MacKinlay, Roy and Ross,—Mr. MacKinlay Convener.

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MINUTES OF THE SYNOD
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NOVA SCOTIA.
June, 1847.

FIRST SEDERUNT.

PICTOU CHURCH, 22d JUNE, 1847.

Sermon

The Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia met, after a sermon by the Rev. John Kier, the moderator, from 2 Cor. iv. 1, 2, "Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; but have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth, commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God;" and was constituted.

Members present

Were present—the Rev. Messrs. John Kier, Robert Blackwood, Robert S. Patterson, John I. Baxter, James Ross, John Campbell, and George Christie; with Messrs. John Currie from the congregation of Tatamagouche, James Patterson from the congregation of Pictou, James Crow from the congregation of Onslow, Hugh McDonald from the congregation of St Mary's, and James Hill from the congregation of Economy, Ruling Elders.

Presbyterial Reports

The Presbytery of Prince Edward Island reported that the Rev. Robert Douglas has been removed by death since the last meeting of Synod, and that his name has been taken from the roll of Presbytery. His name was taken from the Synod roll.

The Presbytery of Truro reported that they have inducted the Rev. James Watson into the collegiate charge of the congregation of Economy, Five Islands and Parshore, since the last meeting of Synod, and that his name has been added to the roll of Presbytery. His name was ordered to be added to the Synod roll, and being called, he was present.

The Presbytery of Truro further reported, that the Rev. John Sprott has been loosed from the pastoral charge of the congregation of Musquodoboit, and that his name has been taken from the roll of Presbytery. His name was also taken from the Synod roll.

Moderator chosen

Proceeded to choose a new Moderator. The Rev. James Waddell was unanimously chosen, and took the chair accordingly.

Devotional exercises

Agreed that a part of the evening sederunt be spent in devotional exercises—the Moderator to commence, constituting the Synod, and to be succeeded in prayer by the Rev. Messrs. Watson and Baxter, with the singing of psalms at intervals.

Adjourned, to meet again in this place at half past seven o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with prayer.

SECOND SEDERUNT.

Half past 7 o'clock, p. m.

The Synod met and was constituted by the Moderator, who was succeeded in prayer by the Rev. Messrs. Watson and Baxter, with the singing of psalms at intervals.

Were present as at last sederunt, with the Rev. Messrs. J. L. Murdoch, David Roy, John McCurdy, William McCulloch and James Bayne; and Mr. Matthew McCurdy from the congregation of Truro, Ruling Elder.

Committees appointed

Read the minutes of last sederunt.

The Rev. Messrs. Murdoch, Patterson and McCulloch, and Messrs. Crow and McDonald, Ruling elders, were appointed a committee of Bills and Overtures—Mr. Murdoch to be convener.

The Rev. Messrs. Keir and McCurdy, and Mr. Matthew McCurdy, Ruling elder; were appointed a Committee to examine Presbytery minutes—Mr. Keir to be convener.

The Rev. Messrs. Bayne and Watson, and Mr. John Currie, ruling elder, were appointed a committee to audit the Treasurer's account—Mr. Bayne to be convener.

Read the minutes of last meeting of Synod.

On account of the decease of the Rev. Robert Douglas,

and the peculiar circumstances of the Rev. Robert Blackwood, two of the brethren appointed to deliver lectures during the present session, the standing order of the Synod, so far as the time at which said lectures were to be delivered, was set aside, and a committee, consisting of the Rev. Messrs. Roy and Christie, was appointed, to determine the time at which the said lectures shall be delivered, and to give public notice thereof without any unnecessary delay.

Adjourned to meet again in this place to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

THIRD SEDERUNT.

Wednesday, 23d June, 9 o'clock, a. m.

The Synod met and was constituted.

Were present, as at last sederunt, with the Rev. Messrs. James Smith, James Eyers, Thomas Trotter, Angus McGilivray, Peter G. McGregor and John Cameron, and Messrs. John McKay from the Lower Settlement of the East River, and C. Blaikie, from the congregation of Stewiacke, Ruling elders.

Read the minutes of last sederunt.

On motion of the Rev. J. I. Baxter, it was agreed, "that the missionary business for the information of the public, be taken up on Friday evening, at half past 7 o'clock."

The Clerk laid upon the table a communication from the Board of Missions of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland, which was read. On motion of the Rev. Thomas Trotter, it was agreed to record upon the minutes, an expression of the very great pleasure with which the Synod have heard the said communication, and to appoint the Rev. Mr. McKinnlay, and the clerk, a committee to prepare and forward a respectful reply thereunto.

The Convener of the Committee on Union assigned reasons on account of which the said committee have not been called together. Whereupon, the following motion was unanimously adopted, viz:

"That the Synod, having heard the statement of the committee on Union, and finding that for the last two years, no similar committee has been appointed by the Synod of Nova Scotia adhering to the Westminster standards, do not judge it necessary to reappoint their committee; but appoint a committee to draw up a statement of the negotiations which have been carried on with the different Presbyterian bodies in this Province, respecting a union, and report to the Synod at its next meeting. The Rev. Messrs. Trotter, Campbell and Roy were appointed a committee to carry the preceding resolution into effect—Mr. Trotter to be convener.

The Rev. Messrs. Murdoch and Ross were appointed a committee to correspond with the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick respecting a union.

The Rev. Messrs. McGregor, Murdoch and Watson, and Mr. John Currie, Ruling Elder, were appointed a committee to revise and amend the Schedule of Statistical questions, and to report thereupon to the Synod as soon as possible during the present session.

Adjourned to meet again in this place, at 3 o'clock, p. m. Concluded with prayer.

FOURTH SEDERUNT.

3 o'clock, p. m.

The Synod met and was constituted.

Were present as at last sederunt, with the Rev. Andrew P. Miller, and Messrs. Samuel Cameron from the Upper Settlement of the East River, and William Copeland from the congregation of Merigomische, Ruling elders.

Read the minutes of last sederunt.

Agreed that it be the order of the day for to-morrow, at

Miss. Meet. appointed.

Communication from Board of Missions of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland

Union with Synod of Nova Scotia adhering to the Westminster Standards

Reformed Pbn. Church

Com. on Statistical Questions.

the commencement of the afternoon sederunt, to receive the Reports of the Synod's Missionary Boards.

Moved by the Rev. Thomas Trotter, "That whereas the proposal for Presbyterian visitation was taken up, and in a great measure disposed of by the Synod, in the absence of the committee by whom it was introduced, and without having heard the views of the committee, the Synod do agree to reconsider the matter, with a view to improve the measure.

Moved in amendment, by the Rev. John L. Murdoch, "That a committee be appointed to revise and improve the questions put at Presbyterian visitations;" and a question being stated, "For or against" the amendment, and the roll being called, and votes marked, the amendment was carried. The Rev. Messrs. Trotter, Campbell and A. P. Miller were appointed a committee for that purpose, and enjoined to report at next meeting of Synod—Mr. Trotter to be convener.

It was moved "that the Synod do now adjourn, to meet again in this place to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock, in order to afford to Presbyteries and committees an opportunity to meet and prepare business."

It was moved in amendment, "that the Synod do now adjourn, to meet again in the Mason Hall to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock."

A question was then stated, "Prefer the motion or amendment?" and the roll being called and votes marked, the motion was carried and the Synod adjourned accordingly.

Concluded with prayer.

FIFTH SEDERUNT. Thursday, 24th June, 9 o'clock, a. m.

The Synod met and was constituted.

Were present as at last sederunt.

Read the minutes of last sederunt.

Proceeded to receive from numbers who were absent from the first and some subsequent sederunts of this session of Synod, reasons for their want of punctuality.

The Clerk was enjoined to report to the Synod at each meeting, the names of absentees without leave, at the close of the preceding session; and also to bring up at the first sederunt at which they shall be present, the names of those who are absent at the opening of the Synod.

Agreed that a standing committee of Bills and Overtures be now appointed for the purpose of carrying out more efficiently the business assigned to them, by having a docket prepared to lay before the Synod at its first sederunt; and to enjoin all persons having business to bring before the Synod, to forward the necessary papers to the clerk of said committee at least ten days before the meeting of Synod. The Rev. Messrs. McKinlay, Roy and Ross were appointed a committee for that purpose—Mr. McKinlay to be convener.

The committee appointed to make arrangements respecting the Theological Hall, stated, that considering themselves restricted exclusively to the department of Biblical Literature, they are only prepared to report upon that department, and requested that they might be allowed until next meeting of Synod to report upon the management of the other branches of Theological study, and that the Rev. John Keir be added to the committee. Their request was granted. The committee then submitted their report. The diligence of the committee was approved, and the Report ordered to be printed in the Appendix to the Synod minutes; and members of Synod were enjoined carefully to examine the same, and to come up to the next meeting of Synod prepared to mature a plan for the future management of the Divinity Hall.

Agreed to leave the time and place of meeting of the Hall, in the meantime, to the judgment and discretion of the Professors.

Mr. James Crow, Ruling elder, obtained leave of absence during the remainder of this session of Synod.

The Rev. John Campbell also obtained leave of absence for a time.

Adjourned to meet again in this place an hour and a half hence.

Concluded with prayer.

SIXTH SEDERUNT. Half past two o'clock, p. m.

The Synod met and was constituted.

Were present as at last sederunt, with the Rev. Messrs. James Allen and John McKinlay.

Read the minutes of last sederunt.

The Report of the Board of Foreign Missions was received and adopted, and the diligence of the Board approved.

On motion the Rev. Messrs. McCulloch, Watson and McGregor, and Mr. Matthew McCurdy, ruling elder, were appointed a committee to mature a plan by which the secular affairs of congregations may be more efficiently conducted, and to submit the same to the Synod as soon as practicable.

The Educational Board of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia submitted their annual Report, which was read, and ordered to lie upon the table.

Transmitted through the committee of Bills and Overtures, and read, a reference from the Presbytery of Pictou, respecting an extract from the minutes of the session of St. John Church, Miramichi, which had been laid before said Presbytery. The extract was read. The Rev. John McCurdy was heard in explanation thereof. The Rev. Messrs. Keir and Ross were appointed to assist the Rev. Mr. McCurdy at the dispensation of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper at Miramichi, on the third Sabbath of July next.

Adjourned to meet again in this place immediately after the lecture.

Concluded with prayer.

SEVENTH SEDERUNT. 9 o'clock, p. m.

The Synod met, after a lecture by the Rev. Robert S. Patterson, "On the study of moral science," and was constituted.

Were present as at last sederunt, except the Rev. James Smith, who was absent.

Read the minutes of last sederunt.

Received the report of the committee of correspondence with the United Secession Church of Scotland. The diligence of the committee was approved, and the Rev. Messrs. Trotter and Campbell were appointed a committee of correspondence for the ensuing year—Mr. Trotter to be convener.

The Rev. Robert Blackwood requested leave of absence after to-morrow evening. After reasoning, leave was granted.

Adjourned to meet again in this place to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.

EIGHTH SEDERUNT. Friday, 25th June, 9 o'clock, a. m.

The Synod met and was constituted.

Were present as at last sederunt.

Read the minutes of last sederunt.

The Rev. James Ross requested to be relieved from the duties of the Clerkship to this Synod, that he might be able to devote a greater amount of time to the labours of the Professorship of Biblical Literature. His request was granted.

The Synod ordered an expression of their grateful acknowledgement to the Rev. James Ross for his faithful and diligent services as Clerk to this Court, to be inserted upon their record.

The Rev. Peter G. MacGregor was unanimously chosen Synod Clerk.

The Report of the Board of Domestic Missions was received and adopted with modifications, and the diligence of the Board approved.

The Rev. John L. Murdoch, pursuant to notice given, directed the attention of the Synod to the Rules of the Domestic Missionary Society with the view of adopting measures to carry into effect the objects contemplated by the constitution of that Society, particularly in reference to bringing forward young men of approved talents and piety, for the work of the holy ministry.

Adjourned to meet again in this place an hour and a half hence.

Concluded with prayer.

NINTH SEDERUNT. 3 o'clock, p. m.

The Synod met and was constituted.

Were present as at last sederunt.

Rep. of Bd of For. Mission

Management of secular affairs of congregations

Annual Report of Educational Board

Reference respecting Miramichi

Rep. of Deputation to Keswick Ridge

Management of sec. affairs of congregations Report thereon

Lecture

Report of Com. of Correspondence with United Seces. Church of Scotland

Clerkship

Rep. Board of Dom. Mission

Encouragem't to young men to study for the Holy Ministry

Treasurer's Account.

Acknowledgement

Treasurer appointed

Rep. of Deputation to Keswick Ridge

Management of sec. affairs of congregations Report thereon

Ordered to be printed

Phy. minutes

Ordes respecting Phy. min.

Address on Baptism

Thanks to Mr. Ross

Report of Ed. Board

Bye Laws

Presbyterian visitation. Motion to reconsider

Reasons for want of punctuality

Appointment to the clerk thereunto

Standing Com. of Bills and Overtures appointed

Theological Hall. Report thereupon

Rep. of Bd. For. Mission
Management of secular affairs of congregations
Annual Report of Educational Board
Reference respecting Miramichi
Rep. of Deputation to Keswick Ridge
Management of sec. affairs of congregations Report thereon
Ordered to be printed
Phy. minutes
Lecture
Report of Com. of Correspondence with United Seces. Church of Scotland

Read the minutes of last sederunt.
The committee appointed to Audit the late Treasurer's accounts, reported that they have examined said accounts, and find that they have been accurately kept, and that there is in fund the sum of £24 2s 10³d.
The Synod agreed to insert upon their minutes an expression of their grateful sense of their obligations to the late Treasurer, Mr. John Patterson, of Pictou, for his valuable and gratuitous services, and for the accuracy and integrity with which he uniformly discharged the duties of his office.
Mr. James W. Dawson was appointed Treasurer to this Synod, and the Clerk was authorized to certify to the Treasurer the Bills which the Synod have agreed to pay.
The brethren appointed at last meeting of Synod to visit the congregation of Keswick Ridge, N. B., gave in a report of their mission, and a statement of their expenses.
Ordered, That these expenses be paid out of the Synod funds.
The committee appointed to prepare a plan for the more efficient management of the secular affairs of congregations, gave in their report, which was received, and their diligence approved. The report was sent down to the several Presbyteries with injunctions to report thereupon to the Synod at its next meeting.
The Clerk was instructed to insert the said report in the Appendix to the Synod minutes.
The committee appointed to examine Presbytery minutes, reported that they have attended to that duty, and find the business of the several Presbyteries orderly conducted, and the minutes regularly kept. They, however, directed the attention of the Synod to the following points, viz.: that in the minutes of the Pictou and Prince Edward Island Presbyteries there is no marginal index, and in the minutes of the Prince Edward Island Presbytery there is nothing to mark the introduction of new business.
Adjourned to meet again in this place on Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock.
Concluded with prayer.

TENTH SEDERUNT.
Tuesday, 29th June, 9 o'clock, a. m.

The Synod met and was constituted.
Were present, the Rev. Messrs. John Keir, John MacKinlay, Angus MacGillivray, Robert S. Patterson, John L. Murdoch, David Roy, John McCurdy, James Ross, William MacCulloch, James Bayne, James Waddell, James Byers, James Allan, James Watson, Peter G. MacGregor, and George Christie; and Messrs. John Adamson, Robert O. Christie, James Hill and James Patterson, ruling Elders.
Read the minutes of last sederunt.
The Presbyteries of Pictou and Prince Edward Island were enjoined to insert a marginal index in their minute Book.
The Rev. James Ross assigned reasons on account of which the address upon Baptism which he was ordered to publish had been so long delayed, and informed the Synod that it is now ready for distribution.
The thanks of the Synod were given to Mr. Ross for the labour which he has bestowed upon the preparation of the said Address.
Adjourned to meet again in this place an hour hence.
Concluded with prayer.

ELEVENTH SEDERUNT.
12 o'clock, noon.

The Synod met and was constituted.
Were present as at last sederunt, with the Rev. Messrs. Thomas Trotter, John I. Baxter, John Campbell, and John Cameron; and Mr. John MacKay, Ruling Elder.
Read the minutes of last sederunt.
Resumed the consideration of the report of the Educational Board of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia.— The report was adopted and the diligence and prudence of the Board highly approved.
Read also a draft of Bye-laws prepared by the Board in terms of the Act of Incorporation.
Proceeded to consider the said Bye-laws, *seriatim*.
Adjourned to meet again in this place an hour and a half hence. Concluded with prayer.

Ordres respecting Phy. min.
Address on Baptism
Thanks to Mr. Ross
Report of Ed. Board
Bye Laws

TWELFTH SEDERUNT.
Half past 3 o'clock, p. m.

The Synod met and was constituted.
Were present as at last sederunt.
Read the minutes of last sederunt.
The Moderator informed the Synod that several members of the Board of Trustees of the Pictou Academy, had waited on him, and desired him to convey to the Synod the respectful request of the said Board that this Court, by deputation, or otherwise, would visit that Institution, and having examined the way in which its affairs are conducted, suggest such improvements therein as may occur to them; and also, that in consequence of the sickness of the Secretary of said Board, it was impossible to send a written official request. The Synod agreed to adjourn to-morrow at 11 o'clock, a. m., to afford members an opportunity of visiting the Pictou Academy; and the Moderator was directed to inform the Trustees of this arrangement.
Resumed the consideration of the draft of Bye-laws submitted by the Educational Board. The draft was adopted with some alterations, and remitted to the Board for revision and correction, and ordered to be printed in the Appendix to the Synod minutes; and the members of this Court were enjoined carefully to consider the said draft and to come up to the next meeting of Synod fully prepared to mature the same, and in the meantime the Synod convert the said draft into a code of Interim-laws for the guidance of said Board.

Request Trustees Academe
Bye-law Ed. Board
converte Interim-
Mr. MacG resins his seat at Board— Ross app
Encouragem't to young men to study for the Ministry
Dom. Miss. Bd. appo

The Rev. Peter G. MacGregor laid upon the table of the Synod the resignation of his seat at the Educational Board of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia. His resignation was accepted. The Rev. James Ross of the West River was appointed a member of the said Board in lieu of the Rev. Peter G. MacGregor, resigned.
Resumed the consideration of that part of the constitution of the Domestic Missionary Society which refers to the encouraging of young men of approved talents and piety to come forward and prosecute their studies with a view to the Holy Ministry.
Reappointed the Domestic Missionary Board with the addition of the Rev. Messrs. Murdoch and Cameron, Mr. Murdoch to be convener, with directions to bring the subject of the education of young men for the office of the Holy Ministry prominently before the Church without any unnecessary delay, and to solicit contributions for that object; and also to devise a definite plan of action for the future to be submitted to the Synod at its next meeting.
Adjourned to meet again in this place an hour hence.
Concluded with prayer.

THIRTEENTH SEDERUNT.
8 o'clock, p. m.

The Synod met and was constituted.
Were present as at last sederunt.
Read the minutes of last sederunt.
Reappointed the Board of Foreign Missions the Rev. John I. Baxter to be convener.
The Rev. Messrs. MacCurdy, and Campbell, were appointed to lecture before the Synod at its next meeting.
The Synod authorized the committee of Correspondence to guarantee the payment of the outward passage of any Preachers or Ministers that may be sent from the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland, and constant employment after their arrival.
Adjourned to meet again in this place to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.
Concluded with prayer.

Bd. of For. Miss. reappointed.
Outward passage of preachers guaranteed

FOURTEENTH SEDERUNT.
Wednesday, 29th June, 9 o'clock, a. m.

The Synod met and was constituted.
Were present as at last sederunt.
Read the minutes of last sederunt.
The Rev. Mr. Watson obtained leave of absence during the remainder of this Session.
The Rev. James Ross obtained leave to retire from the Board of Foreign Missions.
The committee appointed to manage the Widows' Fund submitted their report. The prudence and diligence of the committee was approved, and the same brethren were continued a committee, with their former powers and instruc-

Mr. Ross retires from Miss. Board

Encouragem't to young men to study for the Holy Ministry

tions to carry out the objects of their original appointment, Mr. MacKinlay to be convener.

Received and read the report of the committee on Statistical Questions. The diligence of the committee was approved, and the report adopted with modifications and ordered to be printed in the Appendix to the Synod minutes.

Transmitted through the committee of Bills and Ordinances, and read a memorial from the Elders and some of the members of the Congregation of Poplar Grove Church, Halifax, praying the Synod, in its associated capacity, to give an expression of their approbation of the Total Abstinence principle.

Adjourned to meet again in this place at 2 o'clock p. m. Concluded with prayer.

FOURTEENTH SEDERUNT.

2 o'clock, p. m.

The Synod met and was constituted.

Were present as at last sederunt, except the Rev. Angus MacGillivray, who was absent.

Read the minutes of last sederunt.

Resumed the consideration of the memorial from the Congregation of Poplar Grove Church, Halifax. It was moved, "that the Rev. Messrs. Keir and Patterson be appointed a committee to prepare an address on the subject of the memorial, and submit it to the Synod at its next meeting." It was moved in amendment, "that the Rev. Messrs. Keir and Patterson be appointed to prepare an address on Temperance, to be submitted at next meeting of Synod, and that Sessions be recommended to direct the attention of applicants for admission to the communion of the Church, to the duty of discountenancing the use of intoxicating liquors." After reasoning, a question was stated "Prefer the motion or the amendment," and the Roll being called and votes marked, the motion was carried, and the Rev. Messrs. Keir and Patterson were appointed a committee accordingly.

The Rev. Mr. Keir was requested to draw up and publish an address to the ruling Elders in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia.

The Rev. John Sprott was appointed to preach at the West River on the third and fourth Sabbaths of July, and it was agreed that he should be paid out of the Synod funds.

The usual salaries were ordered to be paid to the Professors of Divinity and to the Clerk. The Printers' Bill was also submitted and ordered to be paid. Agreed also to give one pound to the door-keeper for his services, and to defray the expenses of lighting the house during this Session of Synod.

The Rev. James Ross intimated to the Synod that he intended, if he found it practicable, to visit some of the Theological Seminaries in the United States for the purpose of observing the manner in which these Institutions are conducted, and of otherwise promoting the efficiency of the course of Theological study to be prosecuted in this Church. His design was highly approved by the Synod, and it was agreed, in the event of his finding it practicable to carry it into effect, to pay his next year's salary as Professor of Biblical Literature in advance, and if the amount in the hands of the Treasurer should be found insufficient to meet this demand, he was authorized to draw upon the funds of the Educational Board to that amount.

The next meeting of Synod was appointed to be held in Halifax on the last Tuesday of June, 1848, at 7 o'clock, p. m.

Read the minutes of the present sederunt.

Called the Roll: only the Rev. Angus MacGillivray was absent without leave.

Concluded with praise, prayer, and the apostolic benediction.

PETER G. MACGREGOR, Sec'y of the Synod.
Pictou, June 29th, 1847.

Address to Ruling elders

West River supplied

Expenses

Next meeting appointed

Conclusions

APPENDIX.

TO THE MINISTERS AND OFFICE BEARERS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NOVA-SCOTIA.

ESTEEMED BRETHERN,

"Accept our cordial thanks for the kind fraternal manner in which you welcomed our deputies that visited you during the summer of 1846, and for the deep interest, which in the resolutions and addresses which you delivered to them, you expressed for our Church. We reciprocate very sincerely, the sentiments of esteem, affection and desire for your prosperity, which those addresses and resolutions breathe; and we desire earnestly that the cords of brotherly intercourse between us may be drawn still more close. We regard your Church as an offshoot of our own—as a part of ourselves—the same in doctrine, worship, discipline and government—seeking the same ends and following out your designs in exactly the same way. Love should unite all the disciples of Christ, and they should in their militant state, interchange many kind offices; and this should particularly be the case with those who, like you and us, are identical in our denominational views. There is nothing in our faith or practise, that can for a moment disturb our affection, or interrupt the harmony of our communion. Were it not for the wide sea that rolls between us, you would sit with us in the same courts, minister in the same pulpits, walk in the same path, and sit at the same communion table.

Considering these things, it is to us matter of regret that, during these years past, the intercourse between us has been so slender. The affairs of Nova Scotia were but little known to the great majority of our ministers and congregations, and the reciprocal affection that subsisted between your fathers and ours was not descending with warmth to the children. But the visit of the Deputation, and the means of communication that have recently been opened with you, have happily changed this state of things. Your situation has been disclosed to us—information respecting

your past and present condition has been widely diffused through our Church; and your names, labours and prospects, are becoming familiar both to our ministers and people. Interest in your welfare has thus been re-awakened; and your warmly expressed affection for us, as the Church of your fathers, has called forth similar feelings on our part. This better state of matters, will, we trust, be still further improved by the interesting and admirable book on "Missions to Nova Scotia," which one of our deputies, the Rev. James Robertson, has just published, descriptive, not merely of your present circumstances, but of the labours of the Smiths, the Coxes, the Grahams, the McGregors, and the McCullochs—those men of deep piety, strong faith, burning zeal, and high talent and attainment, who founded in the wilderness, your now promising and apparently vigorous Church. These are names of whom any portion of the christian church may be proud,—men whose exertions in the cause of education and religion,—whose labours for the advancement of the divine glory, and the salvation of sinners, entitle them to a place among the worthies of the Church, and the benefactors of the human family. Those on whom their mantle has fallen, would need large grace to enable them to tread in their footsteps.

We rejoice that you have taken the position of a Missionary Church, and have, even while deficient in the requisite number of ministers at home, sent forth two brethren to the heathen world, to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ. This is a fine example of open-hearted benevolence;—it evinces strong faith in the promise, "the Lord will provide." Your deep poverty with regard to labourers, has thus abounded to the riches of your liberality in respect to others; and there cannot be a doubt but that he who, for the perpetual honor of the Macedonian believers, caused his servant to write these words, "to their power, yea, and beyond their power, they were willing of themselves," will soon give you an all-sufficiency in all things,

and make enterpris of the C ing char; lowing of priate de of his pec means o nal, livin form bef excellen forms hab and the s the indiv for receiv more like love, cau our miser Oh, it is a Churches vering w manner i and prosp the benef us to say, who take this noble making p the result it has thro church co and called made us t the perist gational o ministers more libe as a peop them. It our feelin one, and bers of th perience, God to us notwithst and we an entirely d measure o beloved b grace, an Gospel in of Christ. We des your cong have rece appeals w have sent warmly to would ver pious, abl would ser matter of to withou will not b of preach deaths an

REPORT

The co the organ lows:— That y the matter

Address to
Ruling elders

West River
supplied

Expenditures

Next meeting
appointed

Conclusions

and make you ready for every good work. The missionary enterprise is at once the duty, the privilege, and the strength of the Church. It is that line of conduct to which the parting charge of our blessed Lord, calls us, and with the following of which, his blessing is associated. It is the appropriate development of the heavenly principles and graces of his people; while the carrying out of its operations is the means of invigorating in them every thing that is spiritual, living and holy. It brings divine truth in its sweetest form before the mind, it fills the heart with the claims and excellencies of Christ, it stirs up delightful feelings, and it forms habits which bind the soul more firmly to the throne and the service of God. It expands the energies alike of the individual christian and of the Church, prepares them for receiving more grace, and makes all who prosecute it more like him who, in the exercise of his own spontaneous love, came to seek and to save the lost; and who, whilst in our miserable world, went about continually doing good. Oh, it is a ground of deep lamentation, that evangelical Churches have, generally speaking, been so long in discovering where their true strength lies, and in finding out the manner in which they shall most successfully be enlarged and prospered. Our experience during these few years, of the beneficial operations of the missionary principle, induces us to say, "it is the work of the Lord, and blessed are they who take an interest in it." Though far from having, in this noble cause, done what we might, yet our Church is making progress in the work of missions. And what are the results? It has soothed and stilled the voice of strife—it has thrown the covering of prayer and of love over our church courts—it has vivified many of our congregations, and called forth the personal exertions of our people—it has made us more attentive to the claims of the destitute and the perishing at home—it has paid vast sums of our congregational debt—raised, in not a few cases, the stipends of our ministers, and rendered our members in various respects more liberal—and it has caused us to be known in the land, as a people who are seeking to make their light shine around them. It has removed the acrimony of party, liberalized our feelings, brought two large sections of the Church into one, and given us the privilege of rejoicing in being members of the United Presbyterian Church. Such is our experience, or rather we should say, such is the kindness of God to us, now that we are trying to go in the straight way, notwithstanding our many imperfections and shortcomings; and we are persuaded that if we shall more zealously and entirely devote ourselves to the Lord's work, a still larger measure of grace will descend upon us. We invite you then, beloved brethren, to co-operate with us in seeking more grace, and in labouring more energetically, to spread the Gospel in the world, and to subject the heathen to the law of Christ.

We desire to express our deep sympathy with you and your congregations, in your present want of preachers. We have received, and read, with sincere interest, the earnest appeals which you have made to us for aid. These we have sent abroad over the church, and recommended them warmly to the attention of ministers and preachers. It would very much delight us, were a considerable number of pious, able, and devoted men to offer their services; we would send them forth with great joy. Indeed it is to us a matter of real pain, that your fervent entreaties are hitherto without an answer; but we indulge the hope that this will not long be the case. Owing to various causes our roll of preachers has been much reduced, and the number of deaths among our ministers, and consequently of vacancies

in our church, has for some time been unusually large; and and perhaps the efforts that we have been making to raise the stipends of our ministers in country places, may have had the effect of rendering them more reluctant to leave their flock, to which, though small, they are warmly and dutifully attached. In addition to these things, the case of Nova Scotia was, as I have already stated, till within these few months, but little known in our church. Many prejudices existed with regard to it. It was looked upon as a country of woods, dangers and privations, a region of snow and ice, where human beings could scarcely exist. Our ability to help you, will, however, we trust, soon be greater. The growing demand will, ere long, raise up an adequate supply of preachers—our vacancies will soon be filled up—the recent union may place more agents at our disposal—and the pleasing information that has been spread regarding Nova Scotia, will do its work, and secure in all likelihood, the willing consent of some to come forth and labour among you. We shall do what we can, by keeping the subject before our church, and availing ourselves of every opportunity to urge it upon the consideration of those that are likely, and in our estimation, fitted to go forth to your assistance. In the meanwhile, dear brethren, were it not deemed improper in us, we would drop a word to your vacant congregations. We would say to them, "christian friends, exercise faith and patience, wait on the Lord, be united among yourselves, and in due season your eyes shall behold your teachers. Your church is in an interesting position. You have dutifully and properly sent a mission to the heathen. This is the true way to obtain the blessing of the Lord; but as it has so far diminished the numbers of your labourers at home, you will, should you on this account allow a spirit of discontent and division to assail you, lose your share of the blessings which this mission is certain to secure. It is generally the manner of our God, at the commencement of any great work on the part of his people, to try their faith and patience, that they may be brought to depend upon him alone. Though Paul went to Greece by a heavenly invitation, yet he laboured there long apparently without success; yea, dangers thickened around him, which appalled even his undaunted heart, and made necessary the divine encouragement, "Be not afraid, but speak and hold not thy peace; I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee; for I have much people in this city." Let the word of God animate and sustain you "when the poor and needy seek water and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Jacob will not forsake them, I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valley." And now, beloved brethren, farewell. May the God of all grace abundantly bless you, your congregations, your sessions, your presbyteries, and your Synod. May the Lord your Redeemer walk in the midst of your churches, holding the teachers in his right hand, and covering the people with the bright shining of his glory. May the Lord the Spirit multiply you and you shall not be few; glorify you and you shall not be small. And may a three one God, our father's God, make you the honoured instruments of spreading his name more widely in the province where you dwell, and throughout the world, and of preparing thousands and tens of thousands for the mansions of celestial rest.

Signed in the name of the Board of Missions of the United Presbyterian Church, by

J. S. YOUNG, Chairman.

ANDREW SOMERVILLE, Secretary.

Edinburgh, June 2d, 1847.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION OF CHURCHES.

The committee entrusted with the duty of reporting on the organization of Churches, beg leave to submit as follows:—

That your committee have taken into their consideration, the matters submitted to their care, and while bringing un-

der the attention of Synod the subjoined particulars, they do not consider these as applicable to all, nor when applicable, that they should be enforced, but recommended—

- 1st—That the Congregation be incorporated.
- 2nd—That an efficient Board of Managers be appointed.
- 3rd—That there be a Collector, or Sectional Collectors, and a Treasurer.

A P E N D I X .

- 4th—Regular (quarterly) meetings of the Managers.
- 5th—Report of Managers half yearly to the Congregation.
- 6th—A yearly report of the Managers to the Presbytery.
- 7th—Where a Congregation is Sectional, Sectional Committees of Management and Collectors; but a combined report.
- 8th—Mode of Collection; subscription, or assessment.
- 9th—An efficient Eldership.
- 10th—Employing means to enlist the energies of the young men in furthering the secular arrangements of the Congregations.

W. McCULLOCH, Convener.

Pictou, June 26th, 1847.

S C H E D U L E

Of the Statistical Information to be furnished to the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia.

By the several Sessions of the Congregations under their Inspection.

	1st. yr.	2nd yr.	3rd yr.	Total.
1. What is the local extent of your Congregation?				
2. What is the population within these bounds?				
3. What proportion of these belongs to the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia?				
4. What is the number of families in your Congregation?				
5. What is the number of Communicants?				
6. What is the number of accessions to the Communion Roll during the past three years?				
7. What number of Communicants have been removed by death, or otherwise, during the past three years?				
8. What is the number of Elders?				
9. What is the number of Churches, and amount of your Church accommodation?				
10. What is the average attendance?				
11. How often is the Lord's Supper dispensed during the course of the year?				
12. How many families observe the duty of family worship?				
13. What is the number of Day Schools?				
14. What is the number of Sabbath Schools in the Congregation; the number of Teachers, and the number of Pupils in attendance?				
15. How many Prayer Meetings are upheld in the Congregation; and what is the average attendance?				
16. How many Bible Classes, and by what number are they attended?				
17. What is the amount of Salary received by the Minister?				
18. What is the amount raised for religious and benevolent purposes for the last three years?				
Church Building?				
Missions?				
Benevolent?				
Miscellaneous?				

THE COMMITTEE WOULD RECOMMEND,

- 1st—That the Clerks of Presbyteries be enjoined to use their utmost diligence to collect and bring up to the Synod the Statistical Returns from all the Congregations under the charge of said Presbyteries.
- 2nd—The adoption of a uniform set of Congregational Blank Books, such as Communicant's Roll Book, Register of Baptisms and Deaths, Ministers' and Elders' Visiting Books; and that measures be taken to obtain a supply of them.

PETER G. MCGREGOR, Convener.

Report on the Management of the Theological Hall.

Your committee being deeply impressed with a sense of the vast importance of a proper course of Theological instruction to the usefulness and respectability of the Ministers of religion, and at the same time of preparing such a plan for it as might either satisfy their own minds or merit your approbation and acceptance, have given the fullest attention to the subject, and beg leave to report as follows:—

Biblical Literature as it is now taught in the more respectable Theological Seminaries includes a considerable number and variety of particulars, chiefly connected with one another by their respective tendencies to illustrate the Scriptures, but in other respects so different as to form separate and independent branches, and they should be divided into separate branches accordingly.

I. In the present state of Biblical learning in our body, particular attention should be paid to the elementary branch, which consists chiefly in the reading and translating with fluency and correctness the Hebrew, Chaldee, and Greek languages, in each of which, parts of the Scriptures were originally written, and are still extant. Your committee do not determine whether it would be better to read the Hebrew with or without the vowel points, but should the former be preferred, your students should be instructed to regard them only as a guide to the pronunciation, and not even in that respect, to be too closely followed, as it would certainly mislead them in a number of instances in regard to the meaning.

II. The critical department is of no less importance. It includes the general principles of Biblical translation—the proper mode of applying them—the genius and peculiar structure of the Hebrew—its figurative expression—the difference subsisting between its prose and poetry—its principles of versification, and the different kinds of verse occurring in it, and the composition to which they are respectively appropriated—the different styles of different writers—the changes which the language appears to have undergone from the times of Moses to those of Malachi, together with the causes in which they have originated—the peculiarities of the Greek of the New Testament, and whence they have been derived.

III. The geographical department.—Palestine occupied a central position among the nations of antiquity, and was in general well adapted to the purposes for which it was given to the Israelites. It communicated readily with Europe on the west by the Mediterranean, and with the east by the Red Sea, and lay between Egypt on the south, and Assyria on the north; the two greatest empires of ancient times. It was capable of supporting a dense population—was easily defended against superior forces from the num-

ber of strong positions contained in it—abounded in valuable minerals and other elements of natural wealth. And as all these particulars, together with many others, respecting the different nations of the earth with whom the Jews had some correspondence, are repeatedly referred to in the Scriptures, students of Divinity should be made acquainted with them.

IV. Next in order is the historical branch, which comprehends the civil, political, and religious history, more especially of the Jews, but also of the nations with whom they had intercourse. In the Scriptures only we have a true account of the origin, primary condition, early history and geographical distribution of the human race; of the rise and progress of society and civilization, of agriculture and the arts, of manufactures and commerce; and in treating of these matters their mutual relations and influence on one another should be pointed out. They should be all regarded as parts of a whole, and bearing less or more directly on their common origin and common end.

V. There is also the scientific branch of the subject, which includes mineralogy, geology, hydrography, meteorology, astronomy, physical geography, and the different parts of natural history.

VI. There is the miscellaneous department, under which we may place the authenticity, dates, and writers of the sacred Books; their difference in respect to style and manner; the classes to which they respectively belong, and the manner in which they have been divided; the principle translations that have been made of them, and the comparative merits of these translations;—oriental customs, &c.

With respect to the mode of teaching, your committee would recommend the reading or delivery of Lectures on the different branches, frequent examinations on the subject of these Lectures, and written exercises from time to time on such subjects as your professor may assign.

BYE LAWS FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NOVASCOTIA.

Submitted to the Synod and converted into Interim Acts, June 29, 1847.

I. The officers of the Board shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall be appointed annually, *by the Board*

II. The Board shall meet annually, at least one week before the meeting of Synod, for the purpose of preparing the Report, auditing the Accounts, and transacting any other business of the Board.

III. The Board shall also meet annually, on the first Wednesday of the meeting of Synod, and at the place where the Meeting of Synod for the year is held, at 6 o'clock P. M., for the purpose of maturing the Report, and electing officers for the ensuing year.

IV. Ordinary meetings of the Board may be held by adjournment from time to time, at the discretion of the Board. At the request of any two members of the Board, the President shall order the Secretary to call a special meeting; and in the event of any emergency which may require immediate attention, any three members of the Board, who meet by order of the President, shall be competent to attend to it.

V. All meetings of the Board, except in cases of emergency provided for in 4th Bye Law, shall be notified three weeks in one Pictou and one Halifax paper.

VI. Wills or other written documents of Donors or Legatees, or extracts therefrom relating to Donations, Legacies or Bequests to the Board, shall be recorded in the Secretary's book, and the spirit and intention of the same fully carried out.

VII. In all appropriations of the Board, while the expressed wishes of donors or legatees shall be scrupulously observed, all monies not specifically given or devised for any particular purpose, shall be expended only in accordance with the declared wish of the Synod. But if, during the intervals of meetings of that Court, unforeseen exigencies should arise, requiring immediate attention, the Board are authorised to expend a sum not exceeding twenty-five pounds annually, according to their best judgment and discretion; and all such expenditures must be carefully reported to the Synod at its next meeting.

VIII. All interest arising on Monies loaned by the Board, shall be paid annually, and in the event of any person holding such monies, neglecting to pay the interest for two successive years, the principal and interest shall be collected from him or his sureties by the Treasurer.

Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia in Account with the Treasurer—1847.

RECEIVED.		
June 29—	From St. Mary's Congregation	£3 10 0
" "	East River do.	3 0 0
" "	Bedeque do.	2 0 0
" "	Economy do.	2 0 0
" "	Princetown do.	3 0 0
" "	River John do.	1 10 0
" "	Merigomishe do.	1 11 0
" "	Windsor and Newport do.	3 11 0
" "	Shelburne do.	2 10 0
" "	Pictou Town do.	5 2 6
" "	Nine Mile River do.	3 0 0
" "	Gays River & Shubenacadie do.	2 10 0
" "	Miramichi do.	2 11 6
" "	Stewiacke do.	5 0 0
" "	Poplar Grove, Halifax, do.	5 0 0
" "	Truro do. (for 1846 and 1847)	6 0 0
" "	Londonderry do.	2 0 0
" "	Upper Settlement E.R. do.	5 0 10½
July 5—	West River do.	4 12 6
" 24 "	Antigonish do.	2 1 9½
" 26 "	James Primrose, Esq., balance of account for 1846	29 2 10½
		<u>£94 14 0½</u>

PAID.		
June 29—	To the Rev. J. L. Murdoch	£4 16 3
" "	Rev. J. McCurdy	4 19 3
" "	Rev. J. Kier	30 0 0
" "	Rev. J. Ross	20 0 0
" "	Mr. E. McDonald, for printing	6 10 0
" "	Mr. Jas. McNaught, Bellman	1 0 0
July 32—	Rev. J. Sprott	3 0 0
Aug. 3—	Synod Clerk	5 0 0
" "	For Book for accounts	0 2 6
		<u>£75 8 0</u>
	Balance in the hands of Treasurer, Aug. 23, 1847	19 6 0½
		<u>£94 14 0½</u>

J. W. DAWSON, TREASURER.

Received since account closed.
From Maitland and Noel, £3 0 0