

# MINUTES

OF THE

Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with  
the Church of Scotland, begun at Kingston, the 14th  
day of September, and concluded the 20th  
day of September, 1836 years.

## SESSION VI.

### DIET I.

Kingston, St. Andrew's Church, 14th September, 1836.

After sermon by the Rev. John Cruickshank, Minister of Bytown, Moderator for the preceding year, from John, chap. eighteenth, verse thirty-eight, "Pilate saith unto him, "What is truth?"—the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, met in St. Andrew's Church and was constituted with prayer.

The Presbyteries having given in attested rolls of their members to the Clerk the Synod Roll was made up, and read as follows:—\*

#### I. PRESBYTERY OF QUEBEC.

<i>Ministers.</i>	<i>Elders.</i>	<i>Congregations.</i>
James Somerville,	} Thomas Blackwood.....	Montreal, St. Gabriel-st.
Henry Esson,		Montreal, St. Andrew's.
Alexander Mathieson .....	James Fleming .....	Quebec, St. John's.
John Clugston .....	C. Campbell .....	Dundee.
Duncan Moody.....		Valcartier.
David Brown.....		Grenville and Chatham.
William Mair.....	John Redpath.....	Montreal, St. Paul's.
Edward Black .....		Beauharnois.
Walter Roach.....		Lachine.
John Taylor .....		Huntingdon.
W. M. Walker.....		Ormsdown.
James Anderson.....	Dr. Morren .....	Quebec, St. Andrew's.
John Cook.....		Beechridge.

#### 2. PRESBYTERY OF BATHURST.

John Cruickshank.....	Thomas McKay.....	Bytown.
Thomas C. Wilson.....	Malcolm McPherson.....	Perth.
William McAlister .....	Robert Affleck .....	Lanark.
John Smith .....		Beckwith.
John Fairbairn.....	William McEwen .....	Ramsay.
George Romanes.....	Alexander Clark .....	Smith's Falls.
William Bell.....	James Bryce.....	Perth.
Peter C. Campbell.....		Brockville.

#### 3. PRESBYTERY OF KINGSTON.

John Machar .....	John Mowat.....	Kingston.
James Ketchan.....	Dr. Marshall.....	Belleville.

\* The Presbytery of Hamilton was disjoined from the Presbytery of Toronto, on the Second day of this Session.

<i>Ministers.</i>	<i>Elders.</i>	<i>Congregations.</i>
Thomas Alexander .....		Cobourg.
John M. Roger .....		Peterboro'.
Archibald Colquhoun .....		Otonabee.

## 4. PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

Peter McNaughton .....		Vaughan.
Peter Ferguson .....		Esquesing.
Henry Gordon .....		Newmarket and King.
Andrew Bell .....	Edward W. Thomson	Toronto Township.
Duncan McMillan .....		Caledon.
James George .....		Scarboro'.
William Rintoul .....	Adam Elliot	Streetsville.
William McKillican .....		West Gwillimbury.
William T. Leach .....		City of Toronto.
Robert Murray .....		Oakville.

## 5. PRESBYTERY OF GLENGARY.

John McKenzie .....	John McGillivray	Williamstown.
Hugh Urquhart .....	Archibald McLean	Cornwall.
Alexander McNaughton	Murdoch McPherson	Lancaster.
John Melsaac .....	Peter McIntyre	Lochiel.
		Martintown.

## 6. PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

Alexander Ross .....		Aldborough.
Robert McGill .....	William Clark	Niagara.
George Cheyne .....		Amherstburgh.
James Smith .....		Guelph.
Mark Y. Stark .....		Dundas and Ancaster.
Alexander Gale .....	Peter H. Hamilton	Hamilton.
Donald McKenzie .....		Zorra.
John Bayne .....		Galt.
Angus McIntosh .....		Thorold.

The Roll having been called the following members answered to their names and took their seats in Synod, viz. :—

Messrs. Alex. Mathieson, David Brown, John Cook, John Machar, James Ketchan, Thomas Alexander, John M. Roger, John Cruickshank, Thomas C. Wilson, John Fairbairn, George Romanes, William Bell, Peter C. Campbell, Robert McGill, George Cheyne, Alex. Gale, Peter Ferguson, Henry Gordon, Andrew Bell, William Rintoul, Angus McIntosh, Hugh Urquhart, Alex. McNaughton and John McIsaac, *Ministers*; and Messrs. Thomas Blackwood, James Fleming, Malcolm McPherson, and John Mowat, *Ruling Elders*.

The Synod proceeded to the election of a Moderator for the ensuing year, when the Rev. William Rintoul, Minister of Streetsville, was unanimously chosen to that office, and at the Synod's desire took the Chair.

The Rev. Robert McGill tendered the resignation of his office as Synod Clerk, which was accepted, and the thanks of the Synod were given to Mr. McGill for the services rendered by him to the Synod in that office.

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It was moved by Mr. Robert McGill, seconded by Mr. Thomas Alexander, that the Rev. Alexander Gale, Minister of Hamilton, be appointed Synod Clerk.

This motion was unanimously agreed to, and Mr. Gale made the declaration *de fidei*, and entered on his office.

The minutes of last session of Synod were read and approved of.

The minutes of Commission were read and approved of.

The following members were appointed a Committee for Bills and Overtures, viz., Messrs. John Cruickshank, William Bell, John Machar, Thomas Alexander, Alex. Mathieson, John Cook, Hugh Urquhart, Alex. McNaughton, Robert McGill, and Peter Ferguson, *Ministers*, and Messrs. James Fleming, Malcolm McPherson, and John Mowat, *Ruling Elders*.

The following members were appointed a Committee to examine the Records of Synod, viz., Messrs. Alexander Mathieson, *Convener*; Thos. Alexander, Peter C. Campbell, David Brown and Henry Gordon, *Ministers*, and Malcolm McPherson, *Ruling Elder*.

The following members were appointed a Committee to examine the Records of the Commission, viz., Messrs. Andrew Bell, *Convener*; James Ketchan, Alex. McNaughton and John Fairbairn, *Ministers*, and Messrs. James Fleming and John Mowat, *Ruling Elders*.

The following members were appointed a Committee to examine the Records of the Presbytery of Quebec, viz., Messrs. Thomas Alexander, *Convener*, and Andrew Bell, *Ministers*, and Mr. Malcolm McPherson, *Ruling Elder*.

The following members were appointed a Committee to examine the Records of the Presbytery of Bathurst, viz., Mr. James Ketchan, *Convener*; Mr. George Cheyne and Mr. Peter Ferguson, *Ministers*.

The following members were appointed a Committee to examine the Records of the Presbytery of Kingston, viz., Messrs. David Brown, *Convener*, John Fairbairn, and Alex. McNaughton, *Ministers*.

The following members were appointed a Committee to examine the Records of the Presbytery of Toronto, viz., Messrs. Alex. Mathieson, and John Machar, *Ministers*, and Mr. James Fleming, *Ruling Elder*.

The following members were appointed a Committee to examine the Records of the Presbytery of Glengary, viz., Messrs. John Cook, *Convener*, Thomas C. Wilson and Mr. Angus McIntosh, *Ministers*.

It was ordered that Presbytery Clerks give in their Records to the Conveners of the respective Committees of Revision.

It was ordered that the reports of the Committees for examination of Records be given in on Friday morning, and that the consideration of said reports be the first business of that day.

The Committee on the Records of the Commission was instructed to report specially as to the disposal of the documents connected with the case of St. Andrew's Church, Perth.

Mr. John Cook was appointed to preach in St. Andrew's Church here, in the forenoon of Sabbath first;—Mr. Peter Ferguson in the afternoon;—and Mr. Peter C. Campbell in the evening.

Mr. William Bell and Mr. Thomas Alexander were appointed to preach to the prisoners in the Penitentiary in the forenoon and afternoon respectively.

The Synod resolved to commence its sittings at Ten o'clock, A. M., and to adjourn at Four o'clock, P. M., and to continue the practice of last year of devoting an hour every morning to the reading of the Scriptures and prayer.

The following members were appointed a Committee to consider the Financial concerns of the Synod, viz., Messrs. George Romanes, *Convener*, Alexander Mathieson, John Machar and Andrew Bell, *Ministers*, and Messrs. John Mowat, James Fleming and Thomas Blackwood, *Ruling Elders*.

It was ordered that the Report of the Finance Committee be given in and considered on Friday next after the Reports on Records.

Leave was granted to the several Presbyteries to meet for any competent business during the session of Synod.

The Synod adjourned until Ten o'clock to-morrow morning, and was closed with prayer.

(Signed) ALEX. GALE, *Synod Clerk*.

## DIET II.

*St. Andrew's Church, Kingston, 15th September, 1836.*

The Synod met this day, pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with prayer.

Mr. John M. Roger, on the call of the Moderator, read the Scriptures and prayed.

Mr. Henry Essen, of Montreal, appeared and took his seat.

The Minutes of last Diet were read.

The Synod called for the Report of the Committee on Calls and Constitution of Churches. Mr. Henry Gordon, in the absence of the Convener, reported that the Committee had made some progress in the business committed to them, requested that a new Convener be appointed, and that the Committee have leave to sit again. The Synod appointed Mr. Henry Gordon, Convener of the Committee on Calls and Constitution of Churches, and ordered that the Report be given in on Saturday morning next.

The Synod called for the Reports of the Committee on the legal recognition of Churches, on the establishment of a Widows' Fund, and on Synodical Correspondence.

Mr. Alex. Mathieson, the Convener, stated that the Committee had not made such progress as to enable them to offer a formal Report on the several important subjects committed to them, but that they had given considerable attention to these subjects, and had made some progress in them. The Synod received this Report.

The Synod called for the Report of their Committee for Bills and Overtures which was given in and read, and the Synod resolved to take up the matters transmitted by said Committee in the order recommended therein.

The Synod in conformity to a recommendation offered by their Committee for Bills and Overtures, appointed the following members a Committee to prepare a draft of a letter to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, viz., Messrs. Hugh Urquhart, *Convener*; John Cook, Robert McGill, and Henry Gordon, *Ministers*, and Mr. Thomas Blackwood, *Ruling Elder*; and ordered their Report to be given in on Monday next.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee for Bills and Overtures, a letter from the stated Clerk of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in the United States, communicating the following resolutions passed by that Synod at their recent session in the city of Albany.

*Resolved*, That an overture be made by this Body to the Synod of the Church of Scotland in Upper Canada, to maintain a correspondence with that Rev. Body, upon the same terms with the correspondence maintained by this Synod with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, and the German Reformed Churches.

*Resolved*, That the stated Clerk of this Synod be, and is hereby directed to furnish the Synod of the Church of Scotland in Upper Canada, with an official copy of the aforesaid overture of correspondence between wid churches, together with a copy of the printed minutes of said Gen-

eral Synod for the years Eighteen hundred and Twenty-two and Eighteen hundred and Thirty-five."

The Synod had read the terms of correspondence between the Reformed Dutch Church and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States, as recorded in the printed minutes of Eighteen Hundred and Twenty-two, and, having considered the same, appointed the following members a Committee to prepare an affectionate and respectful letter, in reply to this overture, and to take into consideration the practicability and expediency of entering into the proposed correspondence, viz., Messrs. John Machar, *Convener*; Alex. McNaughton, William Bell and Peter C. Campbell, *Ministers*, and Mr. John Mowat, *Ruling Elder*.

It was ordered that a draft of said letter be given in on Monday next, and the result of the Committee's enquiries and deliberations, respecting the proposed correspondence be reported at next session of Synod.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee of Bills and Overtures, from the Presbyteries of Bathurst and Toronto, calling the attention of the Synod to the duty of making provision for the education of young men for the ministry within its own bounds; as also a memorial from the Rev. Peter Ferguson, of Esquesing, requesting advice for the guidance of two young men connected with his congregation, who have commenced, and desire to continue their studies for the ministry.

It was moved that these documents be referred to a select committee, with instructions to mature a scheme for the foundation of a Collegiate Institution for theological education, and to deliberate as to the best means of bringing the same into operation in consistency with the present relations of the Synod, as also as to the proper course to be recommended to the individuals referred to in Mr. Ferguson's memorial.

The Synod after long reasoning, adopted this motion unanimously, and appointed the following members a committee for the purposes specified therein, viz., the Moderator, Messrs. Robert McGill, James Ketchan, Thomas C. Wilson, Alexander Mathieson, George Cheyne, Alexander Gale, John Fairbairn, John McIsaac, and John Cook, *Ministers*, and Mr. Thomas Blackwood and Mr. John Mowat, *Ruling Elders*. It was ordered that the Report of this Committee be given in on Monday next, and that the consideration thereof be the first business for that day.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee for Bills and Overtures, an overture from the Presbytery of Toronto, respecting the

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formation of a new Presbytery, which shall comprehend within its bounds, the Niagara, London and Western Districts, together with the whole of the Gore District except the townships of Trafalgar and Esquesing. The Synod having considered the circumstances on which this Overture is founded, and heard the parties interested therein, approved of the same, and ordered and enjoined the Ministers within the bounds specified, together with an Elder from each Congregation, to meet in Presbytery at Hamilton, and within St. Andrew's Church there, on the first Monday of October next, at Eleven, A. M., for the transaction of all competent business. The Synod further ordered, that the Presbytery thus erected be styled the Presbytery of Hamilton, and declared the Town of Hamilton the Presbytery seat.

The Synod had transmitted to them by their Committee for Bills and Overtures, a Petition from the Presbyterian inhabitants of Lochaber, Buckingham and Cumberland, setting forth their religious distinction, and praying the Synod's aid in establishing the ministration of the ordinances of the Gospel amongst them.

The Synod remitted said Petition to the Presbytery of Glengary; and recommended the prayer thereof to their early and favourable consideration.

On the motion of Mr. Urquhart, it was ordered that the several Presbytery Clerks prepare lists of the places which are destitute of the ordinances of religion within the bounds of their respective Presbyteries, and give in the same to the convener of the Committee for drafting a letter to the General Assembly this afternoon.

The Synod adjourned till to-morrow at Ten o'clock, A. M., and was closed with prayer.

### DIET III.

*St. Andrew's Church, Kingston, 16th September, 1836.*

The Synod met, this day pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with prayer.

On the call of the Moderator, Mr. Angus McIntosh read the Scriptures and prayed.

The Minutes of last Diet were read.

On the motion of Mr. Alexander McNaughton, it was ordered that the Moderator and Mr. John M. Roger be added to the Committee on the Overture of the Reformed Dutch Church.

The Synod called for the Reports of Committees appointed to examine Presbytery Records.

The Convener of the Committee appointed to examine the Records of the Presbytery of Quebec, reported that the Committee had not been yet able to complete the revision of said Records, and craved further time for doing so, which was granted.

The Convener of the Committee appointed to examine the Records of the Presbytery of Bathurst, reported that the Committee had revised said Records, and found them correctly kept, and the proceedings of the Presbytery regular. The Synod sustained this Report, and ordered the Clerk to attest the Records of the Presbytery of Bathurst in terms thereof.

The Convener of the Committee appointed to examine the Records of the Presbytery of Kingston, reported that the Committee had revised said Records, and found nothing censurable therein. The Synod sustained this Report, and ordered the Clerk to attest the Records of the Presbytery of Kingston in terms thereof.

The Convener of the Committee appointed to examine the Records of the Presbytery of Toronto, reported that the Committee had not completed the revision of said Records, and craved further time for doing so, which was granted.

The Convener of the Committee appointed to examine the Records of the Presbytery of Glengary, reported that the Committee had received a Minute of the Presbytery of Glengary of the following tenor:—

“At Kingston, September Fifteenth, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-six, the Presbytery of Glengary met by permission of Synod, and being constituted, resolved, that the Committee appointed by the Synod for examining the Records of this Presbytery, be informed, that owing to the death of their late Clerk, Mr. Connel, their Records have been locked up and sealed with his other effects, and that in consequence they are not prepared to submit them to the scrutiny of Synod.

(Signed) ALEX. McNAUGHTON, Clerk, *pro tem.*”

The Synod sustained this Report.

The Convener of the Committee appointed to revise the Synod Records, gave in a Report, which was read, and ordered to be laid on the table.

The Convener of the Committee appointed to examine the Records of the Commission, gave in a report, which was read, and ordered to be laid on the table.

The Synod called for the report of the Committee appointed to arrange the financial concerns of the Synod.

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The Convener of said Committee stated that the Committee had made considerable progress in the business entrusted to them, and asked leave to sit again, which was granted.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee for Bills and Overtures, a Petition from the Rev. Robert McGill, Minister of Niagara, complaining of the institution and endowment of a Rectory in the Township of Niagara, according to the establishment of the Church of England, whereby the temporal interests of his Church, and his own status, as a Minister of the Church of Scotland, are injuriously affected, and praying the Synod to take the circumstances of the case into consideration.

The Petition was read, and Mr. McGill was heard in support thereof.

Whereupon the Synod appointed the following members a Special Committee to investigate the grievances complained of by Mr. McGill, and any other grievances of the same nature affecting the interests of this Church, viz., the Moderator and Clerk of Synod, Messrs. Henry Esson, John Cook, John M. Roger, John Machar, Alex. McNaughton, and Peter C. Campbell, *Ministers*, and John Mowat, Esq., *Ruling Elder*.

The Synod ordered that the Report of this Committee be given in and considered this evening.

The Synod adjourned till Six o'clock this evening, and was closed with prayer.

The Synod resumed accordingly, pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with prayer.

The Synod called for the Report of the Committee appointed to investigate the grievances complained of in the Petition of the Rev. Robert McGill.

The Convener of said Committee reported that the Committee had prepared a series of resolutions, embracing the result of their enquiries and deliberation, respecting the subject referred to them, which having been read and considered, the Synod approved of the same as to the substance thereof, and ordered that they be recommitted to the Committee for revision.

The Synod called for the Report of the Committee appointed to examine the Records of the Presbytery of Quebec, which was given in by the Convener and read, the tenor whereof follows:—

“The Committee appointed to examine the Records of the Presbytery of Quebec, report that these Records appear to have been correctly kept, with the exception of the Minutes not being signed by either Moderator or Clerk.

"The Committee also found that the Presbytery did not observe the Fast-day appointed by the Synod at its last Session.

(Signed)

THOMAS ALEXANDER, *Convener.*"

The Synod having heard this Report, it was moved and resolved that the Presbytery of Quebec be called to the bar of the Synod, to explain why their Records, since last Session of Synod, have been left unsigned by the Moderator or Clerk.

The Presbytery of Quebec appeared at the bar and gave satisfactory reasons for the omission in question, and the Synod enjoined the Clerk of that Presbytery to sign the Records forthwith.

The Synod had read a Minute of said Presbytery respecting the Synodical fast, where in it is recorded, as the opinion of said Presbytery, "That the observance of the fast appointed by the Synod is inexpedient in the state of the Church in the Lower Province." And the Synod enquired upon what grounds the Presbytery of Quebec had recorded and acted on that opinion.

Several members of the Presbytery of Quebec were heard in reply to the Synod's enquiry.

Whereupon it was moved by Mr. Robert McGill, and seconded by Mr. Henry Gordon, that the Synod sustain the explanations offered by the Presbytery of Quebec as satisfactory, order the word "inexpedient" to be expunged, and the word "community" substituted for Church in the Minute objected to, and direct the Clerk to attest the Records *cum his notis*.

In amendment of this motion, it was moved by Mr. John Fairbairn, and seconded by Mr. Andrew Bell, that the Synod order the Clerk to attest the Records of the Presbytery of Quebec, and record their regret that the state of the Church in the Lower Province is such as to render it inexpedient to observe a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer, appointed at the last Session of Synod.

The question was put, "motion" or "amendment," and the roll being called and the votes marked, Nine voted for the motion and Twelve for the amendment, whereupon the amendment was declared to be carried, and the Clerk was instructed accordingly.

Against this decision Mr. Henry Esson entered his dissent, for reasons to be given in, in due time.

The Synod took up the Report of the Committee appointed to revise the Records of Synod. The tenor whereof follows:—

"The Committee appointed to revise the Records of Synod, report,—

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sequence of the long-continued illness and subsequent death of Mr. Archibald Connel, to whom the engrossing of them had been entrusted.

“That the Committee have carefully revised the scroll of the Minutes placed in their hands, which does not contain copies of Documents ordered to be engrossed, and some erasures made, but not acknowledged by the Clerk. These defects the Committee ascribe to the circumstances of the book which they examined being merely a scroll and not the permanent record.

“The Committee beg leave to suggest that, for the information of Presbyteries with respect to the business assigned them by the Synod, and also to enable the Committees appointed to examine the Records of Presbyteries, to ascertain whether Presbyteries have complied with injunctions of Synod, some plan be adopted for communicating more fully and speedily than hitherto to the Clerks of Presbyteries the injunctions of Synod. The most eligible of these plans seems to the Committee to be—That the Synod ordain that the Minutes be more fully printed, with an index annexed, in which the names of the several Presbyteries and Committees be entered with reference to the pages in which the duties enjoined them are recorded; and that copies of the printed Minutes be forwarded to members of Synod by the Clerk with the least possible delay. And in order to secure as great accuracy as possible in the Minutes before being printed, it is suggested that the Synod ought to enjoin members to give the closest attention when the Minutes are read over in Synod, and then obtain such explanations as they may deem necessary.

(Signed)

ALEX. MATHIESON, *Convener.*”

The Synod having heard this Report, approved of the suggestions which it contains, and instructed the Clerk to adopt the same in regard to the printing and forwarding of the Minutes.

The Synod took up the Report of the Committee appointed to examine the Records of Commission; the tenor whereof follows:—

“The Committee appointed to examine the Records of the Commission, report that they have examined the Minutes of Commission and the Correspondence connected with them, and find that the Commission have attended with commendable diligence to the duties assigned them.

“The Minutes, of which only a small part has been engrossed, appear to have been correctly kept.

“With regard to the decision of the Commission in the case of St. Andrew's Church, Perth, the Committee, without venturing to express an opinion of their own upon it, would recommend that the decision and the papers connected therewith be read in Synod, and that thereafter the whole papers connected with the case be sealed up and kept *in retentis*.

“The Committee recommend to the Synod to call for the correspondence, if any, between the Presbytery of Toronto and the Government in reference to Mr. Peter Ferguson's receiving the Government allowance.

“The Committee would further recommend the Correspondence in the case of the application of the Congregation of Galt, for the amount

of salary accruing during the vacancy, to the serious consideration of Synod, in order that some settled principle may be established for the regulation of such cases in future.

“In respect to the application from Lochiel for a share in the Government allowance, and the peculiarly strong claims possessed by that Congregation, the Committee recommend the Synod to give a favorable decision therein, and instruct the Clerk to transmit an extract of such decision to the Government office. The Committee also recommended to the Synod’s favourable consideration, the application from Brockville for a share in the Government allowance, and any other future application in the same behalf.

“The Committee find reason to approve of the late Moderator’s conduct in refusing certain extracts relative to the case of St. Andrew’s Church, Perth, requested by Dr. Wilson, and recommend the Synod to instruct the Clerk to write to Dr. Wilson to this effect, and inform him that his application cannot be complied with.

“In reference to the Correspondence on the plan adopted by Government for the future division of the Government allowance, the Committee refrain from offering any opinion, and would simply call the attention of the Synod to the subject as one of great importance.

(Signed) ANDREW BELL, *Convener.*”

The Synod having heard this Report, approved of the diligence of the Committee, and ordered that the whole papers relative to St. Andrew’s Church, Perth, be forthwith sealed up and kept *in retentis*.

The Synod had read the Correspondence respecting the application of the Congregation of Galt for the Government allowance during the vacancy, and approved of the conduct of the Moderator in advising His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to refuse said application, and declared that although the Government allowance is to be considered as a donation to the particular Church enjoying it, and not to the Minister who may be its present pastor, and therefore not to be withdrawn in case of vacancy, yet that in every case of vacancy the Moderator of the Presbytery is hereby authorized to apply for the semi-annual allowance accruing to the vacant congregation, and in the event of obtaining the concurrence of Government, to pay such sums as may be thus received into the hands of the Treasurer of the Mission Fund of his Presbytery for the support of missions within its bounds, it being understood that Presbyteries shall have due regard to the circumstances of such Congregations, and employ their missionaries among them in addition to the ordinary supplies.

The Synod adjourned till to-morrow at Ten o’clock, A. M., and was closed with prayer.

## DIET IV.

*St. Andrew's Church, Kingston, 17th September, 1836.*

The Synod met this day, pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with prayer.

On the call of the Moderator, Mr. Henry Gordon read the Scriptures and prayed.

Mr. Alexander Mathieson, Mr. David Brown and Mr. Henry Gordon, gave in their adherence to Mr. Henry Esson's dissent from the decision of Synod respecting the Records of the Presbytery of Quebec.

Mr. Henry Esson gave in his reasons for dissent, which were read and ordered to be withdrawn.

Mr. Thomas C. Wilson prayed the Synod to reconsider their deliverance of yesterday, ordering the whole papers connected with the case of St. Andrew's Church, Perth, to be sealed up, in so far as to permit the documents immediately connected with the final decision of that case by the Commission to be read in Synod.

The Synod agreed to reconsider the matter, but ordered that it be first submitted to the Committee for Bills and Overtures.

The Synod resumed the consideration of the recommendations reported by the Committee on the Records of Commission.

Whereupon it was moved that the several applications, referred to in said Report, for participation in Government allowance, be referred to a Special Committee, that the circumstances connected therewith be more fully ascertained.

The Synod agreed to this motion, and appointed the following members a Committee in terms thereof, viz. :—Messrs. John Cruickshank, William Bell, Hugh Urquhart, Henry Gordon, Alexander Mathieson, John Machar, and Peter C. Campbell, *Ministers*, and Mr. John Mowat, *Ruling Elder*.

The Synod had transmitted to them by their Committee of Bills and Overtures, a letter from the Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor of the Province which was read and referred to the Committee on applications for Government allowance.

The Synod called for the Report of the Committee on Calls and Constitution of Churches.

The Convener stated that the Committee had made some progress in the matters entrusted to them, requested that Presbyteries be enjoined

to give in their answers to the printed queries addressed to them by the Committee, and asked leave to sit again.

The Committee had leave to sit again, and it was ordered that Presbyteries give in their answers to queries on Calls and Constitutions of Churches to the Convener forthwith.

The Synod had a recess until Two o'clock, P. M.

At Two o'clock, P. M., the Synod resumed business.

The Synod called for the revised Report of the Committee appointed to inquire into the grievances complained of in the Petition of the Rev. Robert McGill, which was given in and read; the tenor whereof follows:--

"The Committee, appointed by the Synod to consider the grievances complained of in the Petition of the Rev. Robert McGill, and all similar grievances affecting the interests of this Church, report, that they have agreed to recommend the Synod to adopt the following resolutions:--

"*First*,--That ever since the formation of Congregations, and the settlement of Ministers, in connection with the Church of Scotland, in these Provinces, they have claimed, both in virtue of the Treaty of Union between England and Scotland, and the Act thirty-first, George Third, commonly called the Constitutional Charter, 'a communication of all rights, privileges, and advantages, equally with the Church of England, and this claim has been in various ways advocated with the Government, and so far admitted as to render any infringement of it, during its pendency, an actual injustice.

"*Second*,--That such a violation of this claim has been made by the recent act of the Lieutenant Governor, instituting Rectories according to the establishment of the Church of England, entitling Rectors, 'to hold and enjoy all rights, profits and emoluments, as fully and amply, and in the same manner and on the same terms and conditions, and liable to the performance of the same duties, as the incumbents of Rectories in England, inasmuch as the said Act gives the established Rectors an ecclesiastical jurisdiction which this Church can never recognize, and manifestly has the effect of placing the Ministers and members of this Church in the same relation to the Episcopal body as dissenters in England are in to the Church established there, except in so far as limited by Provincial statutes.

"*Third*,--That the said Synod feel the more deeply aggrieved by this measure, as it is not only a violation of their long-preferred, and yet undetermined claim, but because of their firm conviction that an exclusive establishment in these Provinces is impracticable and unjust, and because by Royal message in Eighteen Hundred and Thirty Two, the whole Provisions of the Charter referring to the Clergy Reserves having been committed to the Provincial Legislature for revision, to proceed to establish an exclusive and dominant Church, is in these circumstances a flagrant breach of faith on the part of the Government to the Ministers of this Church.

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"*Fourth*,—That the Synod declare their deep sense of the wrong thus inflicted on them, do now solemnly protest against an act so injuriously affecting their just rights, and hereby avow their determination to seek redress by all legal and constitutional means.

"*Fifth*,—That in terms of the foregoing Resolutions, the Synod Memorialize His Majesty, the Royal Commissioners, the Lieut. Governor, and both houses of the Provincial Legislature; and that copies of such Memorials be transmitted to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

"*Sixth*,—That the Synod recommend a similar course to be taken by the Sessions and Congregations of this Church, and enjoin Presbyteries to use their most strenuous exertions to carry these resolutions into effect with all convenient speed.

(Signed,) JOHN COOK, *Convener*."

The Synod having heard this Report, and maturely considered the same, it was moved and agreed to that the resolutions contained therein be read one by one by the Clerk, and the question as to their adoption be taken upon each of them severally. Whereupon the question was put by the Moderator on the first resolution which was adopted unanimously; on the second which was adopted by a large majority; and on the third, fourth, fifth and sixth which were adopted unanimously.

The Synod appointed the Moderator and Mr. John Cook to draft a petition to the King in accordance with the foregoing resolutions.

The Synod had transmitted to them by their Committee of Bills and Overtures, an Overture from Mr. James Fleming of Montreal, Ruling Elder, respecting a Pamphlet attributed to the Rev. Henry Esson of Montreal, and the authorship of which is acknowledged by him, and in which it is alleged opinions are expressed inconsistent with the standards of the Church of Scotland, and subversive of all religious establishments, calling on the Synod to take such steps as to them may seem expedient for disavowing and condemning the doctrines contained in said Pamphlet, so far as they may appear justly objectionable.

A copy of the Pamphlet referred to in this Overture was also transmitted, being entitled, "Prospectus of the Plan and Principles of a Society which is proposed to be formed, in Montreal for the attainment and security of Universal Religious Liberty and Equality, and for the immediate and entire abolition of all invidious distinctions in favour of one sect to the exclusion or disparagement of another."

It was moved by Mr. John Machar, and seconded by Mr. Robert McGill, That the Synod remit to the Presbytery of Quebec the Overture of Mr. James Fleming and the Pamphlet to which it has reference, with an injunction to that Presbytery to take up the subject and proceed with it according with the Laws of the Church.

In amendment to this it was moved by Mr. Alex. Mathieson, seconded by Mr. Alexander McNaughton, That the Synod refer the Pamphlet complained of in Mr. Fleming's Overture to a Committee to report thereon.

Members were heard in support of the motion and amendment respectively, and the Synod had long reasoning on the proper course to be pursued, whereupon it was moved by Mr. Alexander Gale, and seconded by Mr. Hugh Urquhart, That the Synod dismiss the Overture. It was agreed that the vote should first be taken on the question, "Receive," or "Reject" the Overture, when the roll being called and the votes marked, twenty voted "Receive" and eight, "Reject."

The question was next put on Mr. Machar's motion and Mr. Mathieson's amendment, when nine voted for the motion, and sixteen for the amendment.

The amendment was accordingly declared to be carried, and the Synod in conformity therewith appointed the following members a Committee to examine and report on the Pamphlet complained of in Mr. Fleming's Overture, viz., Mr. John Machar, Mr. John Cruickshank, Mr. Robert McGill, Mr. Peter C. Campbell, Mr. John M. Roger, Mr. Henry Gordon, Mr. John McIsaac, *Ministers*, and Mr. John Mowat, *Ruling Elders*; Mr. Machar to be Convener.

On the motion of Mr. George Romanes, seconded by Mr. John M. Roger, the Synod appointed the following members a Committee to draft an address to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, viz., Mr. George Romanes, *Convener*, Mr. Thomas C. Wilson, Mr. Hugh Urquhart, and Mr. Andrew Bell, *Ministers*, and Mr. Thos. Blackwood and Mr. Malcolm McPherson, *Ruling Elders*.

It was ordered that the Draft of the Address to His Excellency be given in on Monday.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee for Bills and Overtures, an Overture from Mr. Andrew Bell, respecting the Government allowance drawn by him and Mr. Duncan McMillan, and the same having been read was referred to the Committee on Government Allowances.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee for Bills and Overtures, an Overture from Mr. Alex. Mathieson, respecting a series of Resolutions published by certain members of the Presbytery of Toronto, whereof a copy was also transmitted, which document was represented to contain opinions at variance with the standards of the Church,

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inasmuch as it seems to maintain, that it is the duty of Government in this Province to confer equal privileges on all Churches which have an educated and effective ministry, and follow a regular Ecclesiastical order, without taking into account the truth or error of the doctrines taught by particular Churches, or whether their efficiency be for good or for evil, calling on the Synod to take such measures as may to them seem expedient for disavowing and condemning the sentiment alluded to.

The Synod had read the series of Resolutions referred to in the said Overture, and heard the explanations of several of the ministers whose names are affixed to them, wherein they disclaim the doctrine alledged to be contained in the resolutions, and denied that it can be fairly deduced from them.

Whereupon it was agreed that the vote be first taken on the question, "Receive" or "Reject" the Overture, and the roll being called and the votes marked, nineteen voted "Receive," and eight "Reject."

It was then moved by Mr. Mathieson, seconded by Mr. Cook, "That the Synod having taken into consideration the document complained of, and having heard the explanations thereof given by certain individuals whose names are appended to it, are satisfied that the principle objected to in the Overture is not held, and was not meant to be taught by them, but in as much as language has been inadvertently used, which appears and has been understood by many to contain the said principle, viz., that it is the duty of the State to confer equal privileges and advantages on all sects that have an educated ministry, and that follow a regular ecclesiastical order without regard to the truth or error of the doctrine held by them, or whether their efficiency is for good or for evil, the Synod do publicly and solemnly disavow it as contrary to the standards of the Church, and the Synod do farther take this opportunity of declaring their sentiments on this subject, viz., that they hold it at once the duty, honour, and privilege of the State to countenance and support the Church of Christ; that this Synod would heartily rejoice to see all Churches, however differing in external order and government, which hold the pure principles of Religion inculcated in the Gospel, and which give reason to believe that they will effectually teach them, and a pledge of their fidelity to His Majesty's Person and Government, obtain from the State all that support which their necessities require, but at the same time, while all classes are entitled to the exercise of their religion according to their conscience, they hold it essential to the claims of any body of Christians for Government support, that they give to the Government a declaration of their Religious tenets, and that these tenets be deliberately judged by the Government deserving of such support, because according to the mind of God as revealed in his Word."

In amendment of this motion, it was moved by Mr. John M. Roger, and seconded by Mr. John Fairbairn, That the Synod disapprove of the ambiguous language in which certain of the Resolutions in question are expressed, while they approve of the alacrity manifested by the Brethren who subscribe them in taking up the matter to which they refer.

It was also moved by Mr. Henry Gordon, and seconded by Mr. Thomas Alexander, That the Synod, having considered Mr. Mathieson's Overture, respecting the Resolutions published by Messieurs McGill, Stark, Ferguson, Bell, Gale and Rintoul, while they are of opinion that there are passages contained in them exceptionable, do not, under the explanations offered, deem it expedient to pass any censure on the Resolutions themselves, but in respect of the imprudence, precipitancy and violation of that respect due to their Brethren in the Presbytery in publishing the Resolutions of so great a division in the Presbytery on the subject, and of a want of respect due to the Supreme Court, inasmuch as the meeting of Synod was near at hand, do disapprove of the conduct of the authors of the Resolutions in publishing them in the manner they did, and recommend to them greater caution in the future.

Members were heard at great length in support of these motions respectively.

It was agreed that the votes should be first taken on Mr. Mathieson's motion and Mr. Roger's amendment, and the roll being called and the votes marked, eleven voted for the motion and fourteen for the amendment.

The vote was then taken on Mr. Gordon's motion and Mr. Roger's amendment, and the roll being again called and the votes marked, four voted for the motion and sixteen for the amendment;

Whereupon Mr. Roger's amendment was declared to be carried, and the Synod decided in terms thereof.

Mr. Alex. Mathieson entered his dissent from the decision of the Synod in regard to the Overture of the said Mr. Alex. Mathieson, in his own name, and in the name of all who shall adhere to him, because the parties concerned were permitted to vote, and for other reasons to be given in, in due time.

The Synod adjourned till Monday next at twelve o'clock, noon, and was closed with prayer.

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## DIET V.

*St. Andrew's Church, Kingston, 19th September, 1836.*

The Synod met, pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with prayer.

On the call of the Moderator, Mr. John McIsaac read the Scriptures and prayed.

Mr. John Bayne, of Galt, appeared and took his seat.

The Minutes of last Diet were read.

Mr. Alex. Mathieson gave in additional reasons of dissent from the decision of the Synod in regard to the Overture of said Mr. Alexander Mathieson, complaining of Resolutions published by certain members of the Presbytery of Toronto.

Mr. Mathieson's reasons of dissent were read and ordered to be kept *in retentis*.

The Synod called for the Report of the Committee appointed to mature a scheme for Theological Education.

The Convener reported that the Committee had made considerable progress in the business committed to them, and asked leave to sit again, which was granted, with an injunction that their report be given in at next Diet.

The Synod called for the draft of a Petition to the King, ordered to be prepared in terms of the Resolutions respecting the Institution of Rectories, which was given in by Mr. Cook, and the same having been read and considered clause by clause, was approved of and ordered to be engrossed; the tenor whereof follows:—

*“Unto the King's most Excellent Majesty,*

*“The Petition of Your Majesty's faithful and loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland in General Synod assembled,*

*“Humbly sheweth,*

*“Your Petitioners in now addressing to the Throne a complaint against an act of the Local Administration, which deeply affects the interests of the whole Church which they represent, beg leave to renew to Your Majesty the assurance of their loyal attachment to Your Majesty's Person and Government.*

*“The act to which your Petitioners refer, is an act of the late Lieut. Governor, which established Fifty-seven Rectories in this Province according to the establishment of the Church of England, entitling the Incumbents ‘to hold and enjoy all rights, profits, and emoluments as*

fully and amply and in the same manner, and on the same terms and conditions, and liable to the performance of the same duties as the Incumbents of Rectories in England.

"Your Petitioners complain of this act because it places them and all the members of their congregations in the same state of disability in respect to the Church of England in this Province as that in which dissenters in England are placed in regard to the established Church there, because they conceive that said act is a violation of the treaty of Union, which entitles them in a British Colony to a communication of all rights, privileges and advantages equally with the subjects of England, and because the Royal Message to the Provincial Legislature in the Year Eighteen Hundred and Thirty Two recognized the just claims of the established Church of Scotland, while the Bills passed in both Houses of the Upper Province in Eighteen Hundred and Thirty-five, consequent on said Message, virtually or expressly set aside the claims of the Church of England to dominancy or exclusive endowment.

"Your petitioners willingly admit, that the civil disabilities with which the act complained of affects them are partially mitigated by the Provincial Statutes on Tithes and Marriage; yet as your petitioners believe that an undefined power is still left to the ministers of the Church of England by said act, they are the rather called on earnestly to petition against it.

"May it therefore please your Majesty to institute an enquiry into the matter, of which your petitioners complain, and revoke the act by which their proper status and equal rights have been invaded, or if this cannot legally be done by Royal authority, to give effect according to these premises, to such acts of the Imperial and Provincial Legislature, as may be proper to remedy the same.

"And your petitioners will ever pray, &c."

The Synod called for the report of the committee appointed to prepare a draft of a letter to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

The Convener gave in a draft, which having been read clause by clause, was approved and ordered to be engrossed: the tenor whereof follows:—

"Unto the venerable, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

"Honoured Fathers and Brethren,

"We, the Ministers and Elders of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, in Synod assembled, do now in addressing your Venerable House, renew the assurance of our ardent and unabated attachment to the Church of our Fathers, and of our humble prayers to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for her purity, enlargement and peace.

"Permit us to say that we have found grounds for joy and thankfulness in the increasing zeal with which our parent Church has recently, and that amidst many unprovoked assaults, been pursuing the high enterprise of Christian benevolence for a wider diffusion and enlargement of Christian education and Divine ordinances throughout her own borders, as well as in foreign and distant lands, we are especially called

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on to notice to you the cause of gratitude to God, which we have in the origination by the last General Assembly of a scheme for calling forth more vigorously the energies of the Church towards our own aid, and that of the other affiliated Churches in other British colonies.

“And now, Fathers and Brethren, we would tender to you our grateful acknowledgements, on the same account, and encouraged by the measures for our assistance that are now in progress, we would make a full and candid statement of our circumstances and necessities.

“We lament to state that notwithstanding the efforts for providing Preachers for these Provinces, hitherto made by societies, and some of the Judicatories of the Church with you, and by our own Mission Committees, there are still many congregations and settlements which are destitute of the stated ministrations of the Gospel, not fewer, we believe, than fifty in the Upper and thirty in the Lower Provinces. Many of these, we admit, are feeble in numbers and scarcely any of them capable of raising funds for the support of a minister, yet it is just from these circumstances, as you will readily acknowledge, that they appeal to our Christian sympathy and aid.

“Of the congregations which are supplied with ministers, we have to state that most of them are encumbered with debt for the erection of places of worship, and are in arrears of stipend to their ministers, although the sums which they are pledged to raise on that account, do not on an average exceed seventy pounds sterling. Though with us, Fathers and Brethren, the emoluments of the pastoral office are small, and the difficulties which beset the faithful performance of its duties many, we nevertheless grieve that so few preachers have recently joined us, as the spiritual destitution of the community in this the period of its growth and expansion is very great. Indeed the supply of labourers has been diminishing, while the want of them, and insensibility to that want has been increasing, we owe much, as we cannot but state to you, to the Glasgow Colonial Society, yet that Society has hitherto sent only one missionary during the last year, and our own Mission Committee obtained only one other, though applications had been reiterated during two years, and though we, as well as that Society, had engaged to provide a salary equal to that which is enjoyed by a great proportion of the ministers of this Synod.

“We regret to state to you that the Imperial and Colonial Legislatures have, as yet, come to no decision on the long agitated question of the Clergy Reserves; that of the ministers of this Synod in Upper Canada, there are not fewer than nine who receive no aid from Government, and no hope is held out to us of their receiving it from any addition to the present grant, while none of the Brethren in the Lower Province receive any such aid. The Clergy Reserve question will be urged to a speedy settlement in the Legislature of this Province, but we look with little confidence to the issue, as on the one hand there is a growing spirit of opposition to the endowment of churches by the State, feeble even to impotency as is the voluntary principle here for meeting the spiritual wants of the community, and on the other hand many who are in favor of an endowment, think, that one form of religion is as well entitled to it as another. Our wide separation from one another, and the slender resources of our congregations prevent us, as you will readily perceive, from doing much to relieve the spiritual destitution of the settlements around us, yet we trust, we may be permitted to say, that we have not been al-

together inactive. We have endeavoured as far as consistent with the claims of our stated congregations, to give to such settlements occasional administration of the word and ordinances of the Gospel; we have adopted measures for ascertaining the numbers and necessities of the Presbyterian population; we have endeavoured to encourage the sympathies of our own people in behalf of those who have no stated ministry of the life-giving word, and draw forth their liberality towards the support of missionaries; we have, repeatedly, pressed our claims for a permanent aid from the Government, both on the Colonial Office at home, and the Representative of His Majesty in these Provinces, and urged at once by the deficient supply of preachers from the parent Church, and the duty as well as the necessity of raising them up amongst ourselves, we are now engaged in devising a scheme for a theological College, within our own bounds, which scheme we hope soon to lay before you for your approval and co-operation.

“For, Fathers and Brethren, our hope of surmounting some of the difficulties which are in our way, and of pursuing the high Christian enterprises to which we are called, is, under the Great Head of the Church, in your resources, and that affection towards us, the vine of your own planting, which we know you cherish. You may, and we trust will aid us by conciliating towards us more of the fostering care and liberty of the British Government, and sending us a reinforcement of your well gifted probationers, as well as by directing towards us the liberality of the Church for assisting our feeble congregations in the support of their pastors, and contributing towards the endowment of a Collegiate Institution. We do unfeignedly rejoice that your Education Scheme for the Highlands has commended itself to the hearts of your people, and is in successful operation; that the contributions of rich and poor are flowing in upon you for the erection of new churches in your town and country parishes, and that India already confesses the efficiency and liberality of your mission to her, and we heartily pray that these various undertakings may be even more vigorously and successfully prosecuted, to the glory of the Saviour. And were it so, that the claims of Canada could be urged on you only at the hazard of injuring these undertakings, then even we might well hesitate to press these claims. But, Fathers and Brethren, we believe that there yet remains in the hearts and hands of the Scottish people enough and to spare of sympathy and liberality for Canada; and when you consider that many of the people for whom we plead, are from your own parishes, that they are in danger of sinking into spiritual apathy, of being deluded with deadly errors, which, alas! in our moral atmosphere, float lightly and freely, and that the present is eminently a crisis in the progress of our Provincial community, since any impression of good or evil now made on its character will extend and deepen with its growth, you will, we trust, come to our succour, with the united prayers and energies of yourselves and your people. It may also tend to lead you to propose a high standard of exertion on our behalf, when we suggest that an amount of annual contributions equal to what we understand was raised by you last year for India, would, when supplemented by the funds which settlements here are capable of raising, support not fewer than eighty ministers. And we will entertain the hope that some such standard of exertion on our behalf may be adopted by you.

“Honoured Fathers and Brethren, bear with us yet again for suggesting that if you now look with complacency on the thriving and some-

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what luxuriant state of the first offset of the Reformed Church of Scotland, the Church in Ireland represented by the Synod of Ulster, you in your day may do even more for Canada than the holy men of Sixteen hundred and Forty-two did for Ireland. And now, in conclusion, we do earnestly and respectfully commend the youthful community with which we are connected, and that portion of it especially, which looks to us for the ministration of the Gospel, as well as the Church over which we preside, to your prayers, counsels, and liberality, and we humbly pray that the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ may guide your deliberations, prosper your undertakings, and bless the dispensation of his word and ordinances by you to the advancement of the reign of righteousness and peace in the earth, and His own everlasting glory, and so we bid you farewell."

The Synod called for the Report of the Committee on Calls and Constitutions of Churches.

The Convener reported that the Committee had found it impracticable to bring the matters entrusted to them to such a degree of maturity as to enable them to present a satisfactory report, and that this had been caused mainly by the want of returns from Presbyteries to the printed queries issued by the Committee.

The Synod having considered this statement, reappointed the Committee, and enjoined Presbyteries to transmit answers to said queries forthwith.

The Synod called for the Report of the Special Committee to which were referred the various applications for Government allowance, and the letter from the Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor, which was given in by the Convener and read; the tenor whereof follows:—

The Committee to whom were referred the applications respecting Government allowance, and the letter from the Government Office intimating the Governor's intention of paying over the whole sum of Government allowance to the ministers of this Church, directly to the Synod, to be by them distributed among themselves, report,

"That there are in Upper Canada thirty-six ministers of this Church; that twenty-four of these receive fifty-seven pounds ten shillings sterling each, annually, from the monies granted for the support of ministers of the Church of Scotland in Upper Canada; that two receive out of the grant to the United Synod; that one, Mr. William Bell, receives one hundred pounds sterling, on a special grant, and that nine are without any pecuniary assistance from Government.

"That the sum at present granted to this Synod is one thousand three hundred and fifty pounds, which divided among twenty-four ministers, gives only fifty-six pounds five shillings to each, but that each has hitherto received fifty-seven pounds ten shillings, the difference being supplied by Government from some other source, but if the Governor's proposal be carried into effect and an equal division made, the whole sum will have to be divided among thirty-five ministers and will yield only thirty-eight pounds

eleven shillings and five pence and one seventh to each, and be subject to continued reductions by every new minister that is added to the Synod. That it appears that not fewer than twenty of our ministers have official letters in their possession, declaring that the sum granted by Government shall not be reduced below fifty-seven pounds and ten shillings, but that the original terms of the grant left it conditional with the Government to withdraw it, when ever circumstances rendered it necessary.

“That the committee with reference to these statements submit it to the consideration of the Synod, whether the Governor, if he is determined to act in conformity with the proposition he has made to the Synod, should not first give intimation to all the ministers receiving the allowance that the same has been withdrawn from them individually, and that the whole sum is to be placed at the disposal of the Synod, to be distributed as they may see fit; and it is further submitted, whether the Synod, as being a Spiritual Court, ought not to decline the distribution among its members of any bounty the Government may be pleased to confer, which ought to be managed by the Government itself as heretofore, or by lay Commissioners appointed by it for that purpose.

“That the committee is of opinion that no change in the apportionment of the Government allowance ought to be made till after next meeting of Synod, but in the meantime to remove as far as possible any inconvenience that may arise to Government from the present mode of drawing these monies, the committee recommend to the Synod that for the present year, the whole sum be drawn by the deputation hereinafter mentioned, and distributed by these according to the schedule for last year.

“In regard to those brethren who do not receive Government assistance, your committee recommend that a deputation of Synod be appointed to wait upon his Excellency with instructions to represent to him the Synod's views on the subjects referred to in this report, and to urge on his attention the claims of Cobourg and Brockville, and especially that of Lochiel, and to use every possible endeavour to obtain for them the Government allowance.

“The Committee farther recommend the Synod to enjoin strictly on all Presbyteries and Ministers to transmit all communications to the Government through the deputation already referred to, and to instruct said deputation to present no communications from individual ministers but such as have been previously sanctioned by the Presbytery of the bounds.

JOHN CRUICKSHANK, *Convener.*”

The Synod having heard this report, and maturely considered the same, approved of the diligence of the Committee, and of the suggestions which the report contains, and appointed the following members a deputation for the purposes mentioned therein, viz., the Moderator and Clerk, and Mr. William T. Leach, and instructed them to enforce the particular claims on the Government allowance of Lochiel, Cobourg and Brockville, and to use their utmost endeavours to obtain an adequate provision for the Church.

The Synod also instructed the members of the deputation to represent

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to his Excellency, the views of the Synod respecting the division and payment of said allowance, and in the event of his agreeing to pay the whole amount for the present year to the deputation, to give due notice of such arrangement to the several Presbyteries.

The Synod farther ordered, that all communications for the Government from Presbyteries or from individual ministers, be presented through the deputation, and that no communications from individual ministers be presented by the deputation to the Government except such as have been sanctioned by the Presbytery of the bounds.

The Synod called for the Report of the Committee appointed to arrange the Financial Concerns of the Synod, which was given in by the Convener, read and approved of; in terms whereof the Synod ordered that the assessment on each congregation for the current year to the Synod Fund be one pound, and enjoined Presbyteries to collect all arrears to this fund and transmit them to the treasurer within three months, and the assessment for the current year within six months.

It was ordered that statements of the arrears due by the several Presbyteries, be prepared by the Treasurer and given to the Presbytery Clerks.

On a motion the Synod appointed the following members a Committee to prepare a series of regulations for conducting the business of the Synod, to be reported at next session, viz., the Moderator and Clerk of Synod, Mr. Robert McGill, Mr. Henry Gordon, Mr. Andrew Bell, and Mr. Alex. Mathieson.

The Synod had a recess until Six o'clock, P. M.

At Six, P. M., the Synod resumed business and called for the Report of the Committee appointed to draft an Address to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, which was given in by the Convener, and the draft of address having been read clause by clause was approved of and ordered to be engrossed, the tenor whereof follows:—

*To His Excellency Sir Francis Bond Head, Knight, Commander of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order, Knight of the Prussian Military Order of Merit, Lieut. Governor of the Province of Upper Canada, &c., &c., &c.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:—

“We, the Ministers and Elders of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, now in General Synod assembled, embrace the opportunity afforded by our annual meeting to express our sentiment of loyalty and attachment to our gracious Sovereign, and of respect for Your Excellency as the representative of His Majesty in this Province.

"Influenced by these principles of loyalty which have always distinguished the Church of Scotland, and warmly attached to the wise and happy constitution of Great Britain, we rejoice in the blessings of peace, security and true liberty which that constitution bestows on even the most distant colonies and dependencies of the British Empire, and which, under Divine Providence, we trust will continue to be enjoyed in this Province under Your Excellency's administration.

"We beg leave to express our desire and hope that Your Excellency will be pleased to extend to the Church of Scotland in Canada your protection, support and countenance, and encourage us in our endeavours to diffuse throughout the Province the knowledge and practice of religion and morality.

"That the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ may ever preserve and bless Your Excellency, guide your measures, and prosper your administration is our earnest and constant prayer."

The Synod called for the draft of a letter ordered to be prepared in answer to the communication from the Reformed Dutch Church, when a Report was given in by the Convener and read, the tenor whereof follows :

"The Committee appointed to prepare an affectionate and respectful letter in reply to the Overture from the Reformed Dutch Church, and to take into consideration the practicability and expediency of entering into the correspondence proposed in that Overture, recommend it to the Synod to adopt the following resolutions :

"*First*,—That the Synod cannot entertain but with the liveliest interest and most respectful attention, any Overture emanating from a branch of that Church which is so dear to their recollections as a main bulwark of Protestantism and an asylum to their forefathers in times of troubles, and that the Synod cherishing these recollections receive the Overture for correspondence made by the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in the United States with peculiar satisfaction, as promising the restoration of those friendly relations which formerly subsisted between their respective Mother Churches of Scotland and Holland, and which contributed so materially not only to their spiritual encouragement and strength in days of trial, but to the support and advancement of the general interests of pure and undefiled religion.

"*Second*,—That the Synod instruct the Clerk to reply in terms of the foregoing resolutions to the letter of the stated Clerk of the Reformed Dutch Church.

ALEX. McNAUGHTON, *Convener, pro tem.*"

The Synod, having heard this Report, and considered the resolutions, recommended to their adoption therein, unanimously adopted the same, and instructed the Clerk accordingly, and farther enjoined the Committee to proceed with all diligence in the remaining duties assigned them.

The Synod called for the Report of the Committee appointed to consider Mr. Fleming's Overture, and the pamphlet referred to therein, which was given in by the Convener, the tenor whereof follows :—

"The Committee to which was referred the Overture of Mr. Fleming,

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together with the pamphlet on which it professes to be grounded, beg leave to report that they have considered and recommend the following deliverance to be adopted by the Synod:—

“That as the principles of this Synod, as a branch of the established Church of Scotland, respecting the duty of christian rulers to support the true religion, are sufficiently declared in her standards, it is unnecessary to emit any farther declarations on this subject, and in as far as the views set forth in a “Prospectus of the plan and principles of a society which is proposed to be formed in Montreal for the attainment and security of universal and perfect religious liberty and equality, and for the immediate and entire abolition of all invidious distinctions in favour of one sect to the exclusion or disparagement of another,” seem subversive of the principles contained in our standards, the Synod disapprove of the same, but in as far as it opposes the attempt to erect an exclusive and dominant Church in the peculiar circumstances of this country, the Synod has already declared a like opposition in a resolution passed at a former Diet; and farther, the Synod cautions its Ministers not to put forth any views tending to counteract the efforts which this Church is making to obtain that provision for her clergy, which in the circumstances of the case is so greatly to be desired, and to which the Synod has asserted our Church’s just and legal claim.

JOHN MACHAR, *Convener.*”

The Synod having heard the Report, it was moved by Mr. John Cook, and seconded by Mr. Alexander Mathieson, that the clause in the deliverance therein recommended, beginning with the words, “but in as far as,” and ending with the words “former diet,” be expunged, and the following words substituted, “declare that it is contrary to the standards of this Church to teach that Government is not entitled to make distinctions in favour of particular Churches,” and that after the words “efforts which this Church,” the following words be inserted, “or any body of Christians holding the truth as it is in Jesus,” and that the deliverance thus amended be adopted.

The deliverance as thus amended was read, and after long reasoning thereon the Synod unanimously ordered the proposed amendations to be made, and declared in terms of the deliverance thus amended.

The Synod adjourned till to-morrow at Ten o’clock, A. M., and was closed with prayer.

#### DIET VI.

*St. Andrew’s Church, Kingston, 20th September, 1836.*

The Synod met, pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with prayer.

On the call of the Moderator, Mr. William Bell read the Scriptures and prayed.

The Address to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, engrossed, was given in, read and approved of.

The same was signed by the Moderator in name, presence, and by appointment of the Synod, and the Moderator and Clerk, and Mr. Robert McGill, Mr. Andrew Bell, Mr. Peter Ferguson, Mr. William T. Leach, and Mr. John Bayne, were appointed to present the same.

The Petition to the King, engrossed, was given in, read and approved of, and the same was signed by the Moderator in name, presence, and by appointment of the Synod, and ordered to be transmitted by the Deputation already appointed, through His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, with a request that he will recommend the prayer thereof to His Majesty's attention.

It was ordered that the letter to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland be transmitted by the Moderator.

Mr. John McIsaac requested that the papers which he had given in in support of his claim for the Government allowance might be returned, which was allowed.

Mr. James Fleming craved Extracts of the deliverance of Synod in the matter of his Overture, and the Clerk was instructed to furnish the same.

The Synod called for the Report of the Committee appointed to examine the Records of the Presbytery of Toronto, which was given in by the Convener and read, the tenor whereof follows:—

“The Committee, appointed to examine the Records of the Presbytery of Toronto, report, that they have revised the same, and found them, in general, kept with order. Some of the Minutes are not signed by the Moderator; and it would appear that the Presbytery, in consequence of not having a quorum in their meeting appointed to be held at Thorold on the Twenty-fifth November, Eighteen Hundred and Thirty-five, became thereby virtually defunct; but from the orderly manner of their proceedings afterwards, your Committee would recommend that the Synod give their sanction to the same.

“Your Committee would farther remark, that, the case of Mr. James Smith, of Guelph, was finally disposed of by the Presbytery after they had agreed to refer it to the Synod, but as farther evidence was adduced, your Committee would recommend the Synod to examine as to whether the evidence warranted immediate procedure, and, if satisfied on this point, to sanction the same.

(Signed)

ALEXANDER MATHIESON, *Convener.*”

The Synod, having heard this report, had read the Minutes of the Presbytery of Toronto respecting the case of Mr. Smith, of Guelph, approved of the procedure of the Presbytery therein; sanctioned the proceedings

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of that Presbytery, notwithstanding the failure of their meeting at Thorold, and ordered the Clerk to attest their Records accordingly.

The Synod called for the Report of the Committee appointed to consider the Overtures on Theological Education, which was given in by the Con- vener and read, the tenor whereof follows :—

“ The Committee, appointed to consider the Overtures on Theological Education, report, that, after mature deliberation on the subject of these Overtures, they have prepared the following resolutions, which they would recommend to the consideration and adoption of the Synod, viz. :—

“ *First*,—That the supply of Ministers from Scotland, notwithstanding the great necessities and urgent applications of this Church to Presbyteries in Scotland, and to Missionary Societies there, is altogether inadequate to the wants of this Province.

“ *Second*,—That, in consequence, multitudes belonging to the Presbyterian Church are entirely destitute of the means of grace, and many have connected themselves with other churches, whose doctrine and discipline we cannot approve, and unless a remedy be provided the cause of truth and piety may sustain serious injury.

“ *Third*,—That, in several Congregations within our bounds, young men have expressed a desire of devoting themselves to the work of the Ministry, and have sought information from their Ministers, as to what steps they ought to take for this purpose ; and inasmuch as the means of obtaining such a classical and philosophical education as is required by this Church previous to entrance upon theology, will soon, it is believed, be enjoyed in this Province, the Synod declare it to be highly expedient to employ every means in their power to obtain the establishment of a Theological College, at which young men may enjoy the means of preparing themselves for the work of the ministry in this Church.

“ *Fourth*,—That copies of all the papers on this subject received from the different Presbyteries be transmitted to the Committee of the General Assembly on Colonial Churches, and the Commission be instructed to correspond especially with the General Assembly's Committee on this subject, and to afford them the amplest information respecting the requisite modifications of the declaratory enactment to be obtained from the General Assembly, together with all other assistance it can yield towards carrying the measure into complete effect.

“ *Fifth*,—That the several Presbyteries of this Synod be enjoined forthwith to take all measures in their power to procure subscriptions for the endowment of Theological Professorships, under the direction of this Synod ; and that the Commission be instructed to collect and digest the views of Presbyteries on this subject—to correspond with the parent Churches, in order to obtain the advice, concurrence and aid of the General Assembly, and that Presbyteries be enjoined to report, from time to time, their views and progress to the Commission.

“ With respect to the young men referred to in the Memorial of Mr. Ferguson, and any others that may entertain similar desires, the Committee would recommend to the Synod to submit the consideration of all such cases to the Presbyteries within whose bounds the individuals reside, with instructions to take them under their special superintend-

ence, enquire into their present attainments in learning, direct them in the farther prosecution of their studies, and in the event of their progress being found to be such as that they could proceed with advantage to a Scottish University, to report the same to the Commission of Synod, in order that the Commission may take the proper steps for aiding and directing such young men in the attainment of their object by furnishing them with recommendations to the General Assembly, or to the Universities, or in any other way that may to them seem meet.

ROBERT MCGILL, *Convener.*"

The Synod, having heard this report, and considered the resolutions and suggestions contained therein, approved of the same, adopted the several resolutions, and instructed and enjoined the Commission and Presbyteries to proceed in accordance therewith.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee on Bills and Overtures, an overture from Mr. Angus McIntosh, respecting the delegation of one or more Ministers to Scotland, with the view of promoting the interests of the Church here, and especially of obtaining a more full supply of Missionaries.

It was ordered that Mr. McIntosh's overture be referred to the Commission.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee for Bills and Overtures, an overture from the Presbytery of Toronto, submitting the following resolution for the consideration and adoption of the Synod, viz. :—

"That the Synod, considering that the Sanctification of the Sabbath is not more directly enjoined in the laws of God than it is connected in His Government with individual and national piety and happiness, and considering also that this Holy day is in many ways profaned by professing Christians, enjoin Presbyteries to take the subject into early consideration, and adopt such measures as may seem to them best adapted for promoting a better observance of the Sabbath, and to prepare and send up reports of their views and proceedings in this matter to the next meeting of Synod."

The Synod, having considered the resolution contained in this overture, unanimously adopted the same, recommended the subject thereof to the consideration of Presbyteries, and enjoined them to transmit reports to the Synod at its next meeting, in terms thereof.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee for Bills and Overtures, an overture from the Presbytery of Toronto, of the following tenor, viz. :—

"The Presbytery of Toronto respectfully overture the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, that the Ministers of the Synod of Ulster, in these Provinces, who have signed the Confession of Faith, be admitted to Ministerial communion with the Ministers of this Church,

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and that the Commission be instructed to correspond with the Assembly's Committee on Colonial Churches, as to the admission of Probationers and Ministers of the Synod of Ulster, who have duly subscribed the formula, into this Church."

The Synod, having maturely considered this overture, unanimously adopted it; enjoined Presbyteries to give effect to the same; and instructed the Commission in terms thereof.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee for Bills and Overtures, an overture from Mr. John Fairbairn, of the following tenor:

"That the Synod consider their deliverance given at last session respecting the Constitution of St. Andrew's Church, Perth, with the view of declaring more expressly the import of that deliverance, as it effects the validity of said Constitution."

The Synod agreed to this overture, and had read the deliverance in question, and having considered the same, declared that it was not the intention or import of said deliverance, either to sanction or disapprove of said Constitution, except in so far as the provisions thereof, specified in the deliverance, are concerned.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee of Bills and Overtures, an overture from Mr. Henry Esson, that the Synod take immediate steps to organize a system of Missionary exertion among the aboriginal inhabitants scattered over the territories of British North America.

Mr. Esson was heard in support of his overture, and many other members spoke in favour of it: Whereupon the Synod resolved to record their deep sense of the importance of the object of said overture, and of the peculiar and pressing claims it possesses on their early and earnest attention, agreed to refer the said overture to the Presbytery of Quebec, and instructed them to correspond with the General Assembly, and the agents of the Hudson's Bay Company on the subject thereof, collect all requisite information and digest a scheme of operation to be laid before the Synod at their next session.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee for Bills and Overtures, an overture from Mr. William Bell, of the following tenor:

"That in order to prevent inconvenience to both Ministers and people, a Committee be appointed to prepare and recommend a regular system, the best that can be devised, for raising the necessary supplies, especially for the support of Ministers in each of our congregations."

The Synod referred this Overture to the Committee on Calls and Constitutions of Churches.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee for Bills and Overtures, an overture from Mr. Andrew Bell, *Minister*, and Mr. John Mowat, *Ruling Elder*, respecting the equalization of expenses incurred by members attending the meeting of Synod, and the payment of such expenses.

The Synod having heard said Overture, approved of the same, and appointed the following members a Committee to digest a scheme for carrying it into operation, to be laid before the Synod at their next session, viz:—Mr. Andrew Bell, *Convener*, Mr. Peter Ferguson and Mr. Robert Murray.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee for Bills and Overtures, a reference from the Presbytery of Toronto, for advice in the case of Mr. Duncan Macauley, a Minister of this Church, now resident within the bounds of the said Presbytery, charged with various offences alleged to have been committed during his residence within the bounds of the Presbytery of Quebec.

The Synod, having heard the reference, and the minutes of the Presbytery of Toronto connected therewith, and having considered the same, instructed the Presbytery of Quebec to investigate the charges against the said Mr. Duncan Macauley, and, if they shall see cause, to frame and prosecute a libel against him according to the laws of the Church, and authorize them to proceed in such process to any sentence short of deposition, notwithstanding any appeal that may be taken in the case.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee for Bills and Overtures, a letter from the Congregation of Gananoque, calling the attention of the Synod to their religious condition and requesting counsel and aid for obtaining the services of a pastor.

The Synod referred this letter to the Presbytery of Kingston, and recommended the subject thereof to their early and favourable consideration.

The Synod had transmitted them, by their Committee for Bills and Overtures, an overture from Mr. John Mowat, of the following tenor:—

“That Committees be appointed, one in the Upper and one in the Lower Province, to consider the best method of obtaining an Act of Incorporation for the Church, and to prepare a draft of an Act for that purpose, to be laid before the Synod at their next session.”

The Synod agreed to this Overture, and appointed two Committees in accordance therewith, viz.:—Mr. Alexander Mathieson, *Convener*, Mr. Henry Esson and Mr. John Cook, *Ministers*, and Dr. Morren, and Mr. James Fleming, *Ruling Elders*, for the Lower Province; and Mr. Wm.

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The Synod called for the Report of the Committee appointed to distribute the General Mission Fund among the several Presbyteries.

The Committee reported a scheme of distribution, which was adopted, as follows:—

To the Presbytery of Glengary, Nine Pounds Three Shillings and Elevenpence Farthing.

To the Presbytery of Bathurst, Fourteen Pounds Fourteen Shillings and Twopence.

To the Presbytery of Kingston, Nine Pounds Three Shillings and Elevenpence Farthing.

To the Presbytery of Toronto, Thirty-Four Pounds Eighteen Shillings and Sevenpence Three-farthings.

The Synod authorized the Moderators of the Presbyteries to draw on the Treasurer for the amounts allotted to their Presbyteries respectively.

It was ordered that Presbyteries send in their reports on Missions, to the Corresponding Secretary, at least one month before the annual meeting of Synod.

On a motion, the Synod appointed the Moderator to draw up a Pastoral Letter to the Churches connected with this Synod.

The Synod appointed the following members a Commission to watch over the interests of this Church, viz:—The Moderator and Clerk of Synod, Mr. Alexander Mathieson, Mr. John Cook, Mr. John Cruickshank, Mr. Peter C. Campbell, Mr. John Machar, Mr. John M. Roger, Mr. William T. Leach, Mr. James George, Mr. Robert McGill, Mr. John Bayne, Mr. Hugh Urquhart, and Mr. Alexander McNaughton, *Ministers*, and Mr. Thomas Blackwood, Mr. Malcolm McPherson, Mr. John Mowat, Mr. Edward W. Thompson, Mr. Peter H. Hamilton and Mr. Archibald McLean, *Ruling Elders*; five of whom to be a quorum, to meet at Kingston, immediately after the closing of Synod, to arrange the business specially referred to them; at Toronto, on the last Wednesday of January, and on the last Thursday of August next.

The Synod instructed the Commission to take into consideration the present state of the law in this Province, respecting the solemnization of Marriage, and to use their endeavours to obtain an alteration of its provisions in favour of the Ministers of this Church.

The Synod appointed the following Members a Committee to revise the Minutes of this Session, viz :—The Moderator and Clerk of Synod, Mr. Robert Murray, Mr. Mark Y. Stark, and Mr. Andrew Bell.

The Synod appointed its next ordinary meeting to be held at the City of Toronto, and within the Church there, on the last Thursday of August next, at twelve o'clock, noon.

Leave was granted to the several Presbyteries to meet for any competent business, at Kingston, after the close of the Synod.

After an address from the Moderator, the Synod was closed with prayer, praise, and the Apostolic Benediction.

WILLIAM RINTOUL, *Moderator.*