

Synod Minutes
1857

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MINUTES

OF

THE SYNOD

OF THE

Presbyterian Church

OF

NOVA SCOTIA.

HELD IN TRURO, JUNE, 1857.

Halifax, N. S. :

PRINTED BY JAMES BARNES, 179 HOLLIS STREET.

1857.

SYNOD ROLL—1857.

Ministers.	Elders.	Congregations.
Rev. John Keir, D.D.		Princetown, P. E. I.
Thomas S. Crowe.	4 George O'Brien.	Maitland and Noel.
Angus McGilvray.	4 Samuel Cameron.	Up. Settlement, E. River.
Robert S. Patterson.		Bedeque, P. E. I.
1 John L. Murdoch.	1 William Ingram.	Windsor and Newport.
1 James Smith.	2 Samuel Creelman.	Upper Stewiacke.
1 David Roy.	4 Kenneth Forbes.	James' Church, N. Glasgow.
1 John McCurdy.		Miramichi.
1 John I. Baxter.	1 Jasper Crow.	Onslow.
2 James Ross.		
4 John Campbell.	4 David C. McKeen.	St. Mary's.
1 William McCulloch.	1 Robert O. Christie.	Truro.
2 Peter G. McGregor.	J. R. Foreman.	Halifax.
1 George Christie.		Yamouth.
2 James Bayne.	1 Matthew Archibald.	Pictou.
Andrew P. Miller.		Merigomish.
2 James Waddell.	Ephraim Langille.	River John.
5 John Cameron.	1 John McDugald.	Nine Mile River.
5 James Allan.		Cove Head, P. E. I.
3 James Watson.	John Adamson.	West River.
1 George Walker.	1 Roderick McGregor.	Primitive Ch., N. Glasgow.
2 Robert Sedgewick.	2 James Archibald.	Musquodoboit.
1 Ebenezer Ross.	4 John Brown.	Upper Londonderry.
1 George Patterson.	1 John McKenzie.	Salem Ch., Green Hill.
5 Isaac Murray.		Cavendish & New London.
1 David Honeyman.		Antigonish.
1 Alex. L. Wyllie.	2 Francis Fulton.	Lower Londonderry.
Robert Blackwood.		New Annand.
James Byers.		Tatamagouche.
1 George M. Clark.		Shelburne.
4 Henry Crawford.		St. Peter's, P. E. I.
9 John McLeod.		Grand River, P. E. I.
1 James McLean.	7 Samuel Kerr.	Shubenacadie.
Allan Fraser.		Cascompeque, P. E. I.
1 James McG. McKay.		Parrsboro'.
1 Samuel Johnston.		Harvey, N. B.
	1 Samuel Johnson.	Middle Stewiacke.
	2 Hugh McLeod.	Central cong'n., W. River.
	1 Adam Dickie.	2nd cong'n. of Maitland.
	1 James Thomson.	Economy.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

Rev. Messrs. (2) D. McCurdy, (7) J. W. Matheson, (8) James Thomson, and (13) Hugh Ross.

NOTE.—The numerals mark the sederunt at which the members so marked were first present.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
Agent Paid, - - - - -	- 14
Alliance, Protestant, - - - - -	- 15
Bills and Overtures, Report of Committee, - - - - -	- 6
Canada, Letters from United Presbyterian Synod, - - - - -	- 13
Colportage, Report on, - - - - -	6, 12
Committees, List of, - - - - -	- 4
Conference, - - - - -	8, 12
Co-operation, Report of Committee, &c., - - - - -	- 8, 9
Correspondence, Report of Committee, - - - - -	- 7
Devotional Exercises, - - - - -	- 5
Disbursements, - - - - -	12, 15
Educational Board, Report of, - - - - -	- 11
Free Church Deputation, - - - - -	- 9
Manses, Overture on, - - - - -	- 14
Matheson's, Rev. J. W., departure, - - - - -	- 10
Memorial of Rev. J. Waddell, - - - - -	- 6, 7
Missions, Foreign, - - - - -	9, 10
" Home, - - - - -	- 10
Moderator chosen, - - - - -	- 6
Presbytery Reports, - - - - -	- 6,
" Minutes, - - - - -	6, 14
Presbyterial Expenses, - - - - -	- 10
" Visitation, - - - - -	- 13
Professorship, additional, - - - - -	- 11
Professors' Salaries increased, - - - - -	- 11
" Pulpits to be supplied, - - - - -	- 13
Probationer's Settlement, - - - - -	- 10
Railway Services, - - - - -	- 15
Rules of Procedure, - - - - -	- 8
Reference from Pictou Presbytery, - - - - -	- 12
Seminary Board, - - - - -	11, 14
Special Effort, - - - - -	- 14
Statistics, - - - - -	6, 12
Synod Roll, - - - - -	- 2
" Meeting next, - - - - -	- 15
Temperance, - - - - -	- 7, 14
Thanks to Free Church Professors, - - - - -	- 10
" Truro Congregation, - - - - -	- 15

BOARDS, STANDING COMMITTEES, &c.

Board of Home Missions.—Rev. Professor Ross, Rev. Messrs. Patterson, McGilvray and Walker, together with Messrs. John McKenzie, Roderick McGregor and Samuel Cameron, Ruling Elders. Rev. George Patterson, Secretary.

Board of Foreign Missions.—Rev. Messrs. Baxter, Keir, Roy, Walker, Bayne, Watson and Waddell, and Messrs. Jasper Crow, Kenneth Forbes, R. McGregor, M. Archibald, John Adamson and E. Langille, Ruling Elders. Secretary—Rev. J. Bayne.

Seminary Board.—The Professors, ex officio. Rev. Messrs. McCulloch, Baxter, E. Ross, Wyllie, Cameron and McKay, and Messrs. Robert Smith, David McCurdy, Isaac Fleming, William McKim, Fleming Blanchard, John Currie, and Adam Dickie. Mr. McCulloch, Convener; Rev. E. Ross, Secretary.

Committee of Bills and Overtures.—Rev. Messrs. Bayne, Roy and McGilvray, and Mr. James McGregor. Mr. Bayne, Convener.

Committee for Friendly Conference with Committees of other Presbyterian Churches.—The Moderator, Rev. Messrs. J. Ross, Sedgewick, Bayne, Cameron, McGregor, Smith, McCulloch and Baxter, and Messrs. S. Creelman, R. McGregor and M. Archibald, Ruling Elders.

General Treasurer for all Synodical Funds.—Abram Patterson, Esq., Pictou.

Receivers of Contributions to the Schemes of the Church.—James McCallum, Esq., P. E. Island, and Mr. Robert Smith, Merchant, Truro.

Committee to Audit Accounts.—Rev. G. Walker, and Messrs. Roderick McGregor and Alexander Fraser, of New Glasgow. Rev. G. Walker, Convener.

Committee on Colportage.—Rev. John I. Baxter, and Messrs. Isaac Logan and Jasper Crow.

MINUTES OF THE SYNOD
OF THE
Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia.
JUNE 1857.

FIRST SEDERUNT.

AT TRURO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
On Tuesday, June 23rd, 1857, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia met, and, after a Sermon by the Rev. George Walker, the Moderator, from Hab. chap. iii. verse 2, "O Lord revive thy work in the midst of the years," was constituted. Sermon.

Were present—the Rev. Messrs. John L. Murdoch, James Smith, David Roy, John McCurdy, John I. Baxter, William McCulloch, George Christie, George Walker, Ebenezer Ross, George Patterson, David Honeyman, Alexander L. Wyllie, George M. Clark, James McLean, James McG. McKay, and Samuel Johnson, Ministers; and Messrs. William Ingram from the congregation of Newport, Jasper Crow from the congregation of Onslow, Robert O. Christie from the congregation of Truro, Matthew Archibald from the congregation of Prince Street, Pictou, John McDugald from the congregation of Nine Mile River, Roderick McGregor from the congregation of Primitive Church, New Glasgow, John McKenzie from the congregation of Salem Church, Samuel Johnston from the congregation of Middle Stewiacke, James Thomson from the congregation of Economy and Five Islands, and Adam Dickie from the Second congregation of Maitland, Ruling Elders. Members present.

The Synod Clerk having been delayed by providential circumstances, and not being present, it was agreed that the making up of the roll, and the election of a new Moderator, should be deferred till next sederunt. Absence of Clerk.

It was agreed that after the opening of the afternoon sederunt, the Moderator shall be followed in prayer by the Rev. Messrs. Johnson and McCurdy, with the singing of praise at intervals. Devotional Exercises appointed.

Concluded with prayer.

SECOND SEDERUNT.

Same Day and Place, 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Synod met and was constituted by the Moderator, who was followed in prayer by the Rev. Messrs. Johnson and McCurdy, with the singing of Psalms and the reading of the Holy Scriptures during the intervals. Devotional Exercises.

After prayer had been again offered by the Moderator, the roll was called, when the following members were found to be present in addition to those present at the former Sederunt,—Rev. Messrs. James Ross, Additional Members.

Peter G. McGregor, James Bayne, James Waddell, and Robert Sedgewick, Ministers; and Messrs. Samuel Creelman from the congregation of Upper Stewiacke, James Archibald from the congregation of Musquodoboit, Francis Fulton from the congregation of Lower Londonderry, Hugh McLeod from the congregation of Central Church, West River, Ruling Elders.

Report of Pictou Presbytery. The Clerk of Pictou Presbytery reported that since the last meeting of Synod they had ordained Mr. John W. Matheson, preacher, as a Missionary to the New Hebrides, and that they had licensed Messrs. John Currie, and George Ruddick, to be preachers of the everlasting gospel.

Moderator chosen. Rev. George Patterson was unanimously chosen Moderator, and took the chair accordingly.

Com. on Statistics. The Rev. Messrs. Smith and Walker, and Mr. Roderick McGregor, Ruling Elder, were appointed a Committee on Statistics. Mr. Smith, convener.

Com. on Presbytery minutes. The Rev. Messrs. Baxter and Honeyman, and Mr. Robert O. Christie, Ruling Elder, were appointed a committee to examine minutes of Presbyteries. Mr. Baxter, convener.

Report of Com. on Bills. The Report of the Committee of Bills and Overtures was next read, setting forth the subjects to come before the Synod, carefully arranged, and naming the times for meeting and for adjournment. The Report was received and the diligence of the Committee approved. On motion, it was agreed that the hours of meeting shall be from 9 till 12 A. M., from 2 till 6 P. M., and from half past 7 in the evening *ad libitum*.

Report of Com. on Colportage. The Report of the Committee on Colportage was read by the Rev. John I. Baxter, giving an outline of the operations of the committee during the past year, during which time 8,457 volumes, valued at £601 8s., have been imported and for the most part circulated; making, since the commencement of the Committee's operations, a diffusion of 44,036 volumes, valued at £3,558 1s. During the year the Colporteurs visited 2000 families, and united in prayer with them in many instances, the full results of which can be known only at the last day, when the Great Head of the Church will take an account of all his servants. The report gave a statement of difficulties which met the Committee in prosecuting their operations, and referred to the Synod for advice. The report was received, and the diligence of the Committee approved. The Rev. Messrs. Murdoch and Christie, and Samuel Creelman, Esq., Ruling Elder, were then appointed a Committee to take the whole matter of the report into consideration, particularly as regards the future management of the business, and to report to a future sederunt.

Referred to Com. The Rev. Daniel McCurdy, being present, was invited to correspond. A Memorial from the Rev. James Waddell, complaining of "the mode of procedure of Pictou Presbytery in organizing into a congregation the parties disjoined from the West River congregation, for which mode of procedure the members of Presbytery maintained they had the sanction of Synod, although such sanction did not appear on the face of the minutes," being upon the docket, it was moved by the Rev. Professor Ross, that the memorial be now read, and that the Synod determine forthwith what action shall be taken thereupon. The motion having passed, the memorial was read, when it was agreed that the Synod adjourn, and that Mr. Waddell shall be heard at the commencement of next sederunt, in stating reasons why the memorial should be taken into consideration.

Concluded with prayer.

THIRD SEDERUNT.

Same Place, half past 7 o'clock, P. M.

The Synod met and was constituted by the Moderator. Present as at last sederunt, with Rev. James Watson. Minutes having been read and corrected, Mr. Waddell was heard in assigning reasons why the subject of his memorial should be considered. Memorial

After discussion, it was moved by the Rev. J. L. Murdoch, seconded by Rev. G. Christie, "That the Synod having heard Mr. Waddell in support of his memorial, and there not appearing any sufficient reasons why the decision of Synod of last year in reference to the West River Congregation should be reconsidered, agree that Mr. Waddell have permission to withdraw the memorial."

The following resolution, as an amendment, was moved by Rev. P. G. McGregor, and seconded by Samuel Creelman, Esq., "That the Presbytery of Pictou in organizing the Central Congregation of West River, acted according to the directions of Synod, but the Synod do not intend, and never did intend, that the course which they directed the Presbytery to pursue should form a precedent to be followed in *ordinary* circumstances; and that Mr. Waddell be allowed to withdraw his memorial," and the roll being called, and votes marked, the amendment passed, and the memorial was withdrawn accordingly. Withdrawn.

Synod then adjourned, closing with prayer.

FOURTH SEDERUNT.

Same Place, June 24th, 9 o'clock, A. M.

The Synod met and was constituted by the Moderator. Present as formerly, together with Rev. J. Campbell, and Rev. H. Crawford, Ministers, and Messrs. Kenneth Forbes from the congregation of James' Church, David C. McKeen from the congregation of St. Mary's, George O'Brien from the congregation of Maitland and Noel, John Brown from the Upper congregation of Londonderry, and Samuel Cameron from the congregation of East Branch East River, Ruling Elders.

The Moderator appointed the Rev. Messrs. Sedgewick and McKay, and Mr. John Brown, Elder, to receive and arrange the reports of Sessions on Temperance. Com. on Temperance.

The Committee of Correspondence with Evangelical Churches presented their report, which stated that during the past year they had received a highly interesting letter from the Rev. Mr. Thomson, Moderator of Northern Presbytery of Jamaica, written by appointment of the Jamaica United Presbyterian Synod, and recommended that some copies of the *Missionary Register* should be sent to members of that Synod. The report stated that there had been a letter received from the Canadian Synod during the year, but that it had been addressed to the Moderator of Synod. Report of Com. of Correspondence.

The report of the committee was received, and their diligence approved. It was agreed that a copy of the *Register* should be sent to each Minister in Jamaica, and a copy of Synod Minutes to the Clerk of Synod. Diligence approved.

It was moved by the Rev. W. McCulloch, "That the Committee be discharged, and the respective Boards be authorised to correspond with other Churches on the various subjects entrusted to them." It was moved in amendment by Rev. Mr. McCurdy, "That a Committee be ap- Committee discharged.

pointed," when the motion passed, and the Committee was discharged accordingly.

Rules of Procedure.

The Synod next proceeded to the subject of preparing a sett of Rules of Procedure, and resuming the work where it was left off at last meeting of Synod, viz., at No. 18 of section II., adopted the remainder of the chapter without any amendment.

In section III. No. 1 was amended by the addition of the words, "but the Synod may by special vote admit its Professors, being ordained Ministers." No. 2 and 3 being passed without amendment, No. 4 was amended thus, "The ordinary meetings of the Synod are held annually on the fourth week of June, or at such time as may be arranged at the preceding meeting."

Closed with prayer.

FIFTH SEDERUNT.

Same Day and Place, 2 o'clock, P. M.

The Synod met and was constituted by the Moderator. Present as formerly, together with Rev. Messrs. James Allan, Isaac Murray, and John Cameron, Ministers.

Telegram.

Minutes being read, the Moderator informed the Synod that he had received during the recess, a telegram from Rev. Murdoch Sutherland, giving notice that a Deputation from the Synod of the Free Church would be prepared to wait upon this Synod during any time this evening. The Convener of the Committee of Co-operation being called upon, gave a verbal report of proceedings during the year; from which it appeared that a deputation, consisting of Rev. Messrs. J. Ross and Bayne, had waited upon the Synod of the Church of Scotland, and had been respectfully received; and that Rev. Messrs. Bayne and McGregor, and Mr. Charles Robson, had, as a deputation, waited upon the Synod of the Free Church during the past week, and having spoken on the subjects of mutual co-operation and Christian Union, had met with a very frank and friendly expression of brotherly feeling from members of that Court, and found them favourably disposed to entertain the subject of a more intimate union between the two bodies. The Report was received, and the diligence of the Committee approved, and the evening sederunt set apart to receive the Brethren from the Free Church Synod.

Report of Com. of Co-operation.

Conference agreed to.

Rev. Mr. Sedgewick, according to notice previously given, moved, "That the evening of Friday be set apart for a free conference among the Brethren of the Synod respecting the state of the Church, and that the Synod resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House for that purpose." Rev. Mr. Christie moved, "that the Synod proceed with the business on the docket," when the question being taken, the motion passed by a large majority.

Rules of Procedure.

Resumed the consideration of the Rules of Procedure, and passed with amendment No. 5 of Section III. chap. I., and without amendment No. 7, 8, 9, and 11, with amendment 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16, without amendment, 19, 20, and 21. When the Synod adjourned, concluding with prayer.

SIXTH SEDERUNT.

Same Day and Place, half past 7, P. M.

The Synod met and was constituted. Present as at last sederunt, except Mr. Jasper Crow, who obtained leave of absence.

The minutes having been read, a Commission was laid on the table, signed by Rev. William Duff, the Clerk of the Free Church Synod, appointing the Moderator of that Synod, together with Rev. Messrs. Hugh McLeod, D. B. Blair, and Murdoch Sutherland, a deputation to wait on this Synod for friendly conference on matters of common interest. Two of these brethren, the Rev. Messrs. Blair and Sutherland, being present, and having been introduced to the Moderator and Synod, expressed themselves with great fulness and frankness on many subjects of common interest and of great importance, and also on the subject of Union.

Deputation
from Free
Church.

A very general response from members of Synod having been given, the Rev. Dr. Forrester, who was present, was invited to give his sentiments on the subject, and expressed himself decidedly, as an individual, in favour of Union, and of adopting measures for bringing about that result without any unnecessary delay.

On motion, the following resolution was passed unanimously, "That the Synod hail with much satisfaction the appearance among us of our Brethren of the Free Church, and having listened with great pleasure to their addresses, desire to express gratitude to the Great Head of the Church for the progress which we are evidently making toward a cordial Union; and the members of this Synod cheerfully pledge themselves, by avoiding unnecessary causes of irritation, and by endeavouring to promote the growth of christian love among ministers and people, to further a cause which is dear to their hearts."

Resolution.

By invitation from the Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Forrester offered thanksgiving and prayer, and the Synod adjourned.

Prayer.

Concluded with prayer.

SEVENTH SEDERUNT.

Same Place, June 25th, 9 o'clock, A. M.

The Synod met and was constituted. Present as at last sederunt, with Mr. Samuel Kerr, Ruling Elder, from the congregation of Shubenacadie and Gays River.

Resumed the business under consideration at the last sederunt.

It was agreed that the committee of Co-operation shall consist of the Moderator, Rev. Messrs. J. Ross, Sedgewick, Bayne, Cameron, McGregor, Smith, McCulloch, and Baxter, and Messrs. S. Creelman, M. Archibald, and R. McGregor, with instructions to hold friendly conference with the committee of the Free Church, with the view of promoting the growth of christian affection between the two bodies, and leading ultimately to union.

Com. of Friend-
ly Confer-
ence.

Took up the business of Missions. The Rev. James Bayne read a highly interesting report of the Board of Foreign Missions. The report was replete with encouraging and important information, and after an expression of opinion, the report was received and ordered to be printed, and the diligence of the Committee approved. Rev. J. W. Matheson be-

Missions
Foreign.

ing present, was invited to correspond. Various subjects were submitted to the Synod for consideration,

Mr. Matheson's
departure.

First, The time of Mr. Matheson's departure. It was agreed that the time of Mr. Matheson's departure be left to the Board, with full power to make the necessary arrangements for his visiting the Churches.

Concluded with prayer.

EIGHTH SEDERUNT.

Same Day and Place, 2 o'clock, P. M.

- The Synod met and was constituted. Present as at last sederunt.
- Candidates.** The Minutes of last sederunt being read, the Synod approved of the procedure of the Board in reference to Messrs. Johnston and Murray, candidates for the Foreign Mission field, and also of their contemplated arrangements, as announced in the report.
- Thanks to Professors of Free College.** On motion it was agreed that the thanks of this Synod be transmitted by the Clerk, to the Professors of the Free Church College in Halifax, for their attentions and kindness to Messrs. Gordon, Johnson, and Murray, in prosecuting their studies as candidates for the Foreign Mission Field.
- Board appointed.** It was moved that the Ministers now on the Board, together with their Presbytery Elders, constitute the Board for the next year. It was moved in amendment that the Presbytery of Prince Edward's Island be the Board, when the question being taken the motion passed.
- Minutes.** The minutes of the Board were then laid on the table, and it was agreed that in future the minutes of the Boards shall be examined by Committees, as is now done in reference to minutes of Presbyteries.
- Report of Home Missions.** The Report of the Board of Home Missions was next read by Rev. G. Patterson, the Secretary, and proved to be a highly interesting document. The report was received and ordered to be printed, and the diligence of the Committee highly approved.
- Settlement of Probationers.** The Synod empowered the Board to sanction the settlement of a Probationer for 6 or 9 months or a year in any locality where a Presbytery may consider this desirable. It was moved that Probationers as a general rule shall not be settled until they have been heard within the bounds of all the Presbyteries. It was moved in amendment that the existing practice be continued. The motion passed. Notice of re-consideration was given by Rev. G. Christie.
- Presbyterial expenses.** Rev. J. Thomson was invited to correspond. The Halifax Presbytery enquired through their Clerk, whether the Synod would pay the expense incurred in visiting Presbyterially distant congregations. It was moved "That it be recommended that a collection be made in each congregation, to form a Presbyterial fund out of which Presbyterial expenses may be paid." It was moved in amendment "that the necessary expenses of Presbyteries in visiting distant congregations, be defrayed by the Board of Home Missions." The motion passed. The following Board was appointed—Rev. Professor Ross, Rev. Messrs. Patterson, Walker, and McGilvray, with the Presbytery Elders of Green Hill, Primitive Church, and East Branch East River.
- Com. of inquiry on the discountenancing of the use of Tobacco.** On motion, founded on a reference from the Halifax Presbytery, it was agreed that a Committee be appointed to inquire how far the Synod's recommendation to spiritual office bearers to discountenance the use of Tobacco, had been carried out; the Committee to consist of Rev. Messrs.

Murdoch, Baxter, Walker, and Murray, and Samuel Creelman, Esq., to report either at this or at the next meeting of Synod.

The report of the Educational Board was read by Rev. Professor Ross, and being received, the diligence of the Committee was approved. It appeared that the sum of £2464 7s., is safely invested, and bearing interest, which is annually collected and applied for the support of the Seminary. Report of Educational B'rd.

The Report of the Seminary Board was then read by Rev. E. Ross. It gave a full and clear view of the whole proceedings of the Board, as regards the choice of site and the erection of buildings, also of the number and proficiency of the students; and was accompanied by the reports of the different Professors, both in the Secular and Theological departments. The report was received and ordered to be printed under the direction of the Board, and the diligence of the Board approved. Professor Smith informed the Synod that he had commenced giving instructions to the students in Syriac as well as in Chaldee. The Synod approved the diligence of the Professor and recommended the continuance of this course of instruction. Report of Seminary Board.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock, leaving this evening for the Missionary Meeting, and one hour to-morrow morning to afford members an opportunity of visiting the Normal and Model Schools.

Closed with prayer.

NINTH SEDERUNT.

Same Place, June 26th, 10 o'clock, A.M.

The Synod met and was constituted, when the Minutes of last sederunt were read. Present as formerly, with Rev. J. McLeod.

Rev. Mr. Campbell, according to notice, moved that the Rev. Mr. Honeyman be appointed a Professor of Oriental Languages in connection with the Professors already employed. After discussion the motion was withdrawn for the present. Motion on Professorship withdrawn.

Concluded with prayer.

TENTH SEDERUNT.

Same Day and Place, 2 o'clock, P. M.

The Synod met and was constituted, when the Minutes of last sederunt were read. Present as formerly, except Rev. Mr. Johnson.

Resumed the consideration of the report of the Seminary Board. After a general conversation on several points contained in the report on which no vote was taken, the recommendation of the Board to increase the salaries of the Rev. Professor Ross and Professor McCulloch by twenty-five pounds each was taken up. The recommendation was adopted, the increased payment to commence from next September. Business of Seminary.
Increase of Professors' Salaries.

On motion agreed that, after the close of the present session, the classes shall next open in the new buildings in Truro in the middle of October, 1858, and the Theological Hall on the 1st of September previous, and that the Professors be asked to visit the congregations, as far as practicable, and excite an interest in the Seminary during the recess. Liberty was granted to the Board to draw from the invested funds what may be found necessary to meet all current expenses. Re-opening of Classes.
Request to Professors.

Concluded with prayer.

MINUTES OF SYNOD.

ELEVENTH SEDERUNT.

Same Day and Place, half past 7 o'clock, P. M.

Conference.

The Synod met and was constituted. Present as at last sederunt, except Messrs. David McKeen, James Thomson, and Mr. Samuel Kerr, Ruling Elders, who had obtained leave of absence. Minutes being read, and leave of absence granted to several Elders, the Synod resolved itself into a committee of the whole house for the purpose of holding a friendly conference.

After some hours spent in conference, the Synod resumed, concluding with prayer.

TWELFTH SEDERUNT.

Same Place, June 27th, 9 o'clock.

The Synod met and was constituted. Present as at last sederunt, except Rev. John Campbell, and Messrs. Ingram, Christie, McDougald, Brown, and Dickie.

Minister's widow.

On motion, agreed that Ten Pounds be granted from the Synod Fund to Mrs. Douglas, widow of the late Rev. Robert Douglas, of St Peters.

Reference from Pictou Presbytery.

Took up the reference from the Presbytery of Pictou anent "the supply of Central congregation by Professor Ross without the concurrence of Presbytery," in which reference the Presbytery asked Synod to give an expression of an opinion on the regularity of this course. On motion it was agreed, That the Synod recognize the general principle that supply to vacant congregations should come through the Presbytery, but see no impropriety in the conduct of Mr. Ross in preaching to Central congregation when no supply was furnished by the Presbytery.

Statistics.

The Rev. James Smith submitted the Report of the Committee on Statistics, accompanied by a very complete table, from which it appeared that all the congregations save one have furnished returns, and many of these very complete. The report was received and ordered to be published with the table, when the latter shall be prepared for publication by Samuel Creelman, Esq., to whom it was referred.

Colportage.

The Rev. J. L. Murdoch submitted the Report of the Committee on Colportage recommending a plan of procedure for prosecuting this business for the future. The report was received and the diligence of the Committee approved, and directions were given that the accounts be laid on the table of Synod at next meeting. Rev. John I. Baxter and Mr. Isaac Logan and the Presbytery Elder for Onslow were appointed a Committee to conduct the business.

Com. appointed

Leave of absence.

Such Ministers and Elders as could not conveniently remain over the Sabbath obtained leave of absence, after which the Synod adjourned till Monday at 2 o'clock, concluding with prayer.

THIRTEENTH SEDERUNT.

Truro, June 29th, 2 o'clock, P. M.

Second Week.

The Synod met according to adjournment, and was constituted by the Moderator, besides whom were present, Rev. Messrs. Murdoch, McCurdy, Baxter, J. Ross, McCulloch, Campbell, McGregor, E. Ross, Patterson, Murray, Honeyman, Wyllie, McLeod, McLean, and Mr. R. O. Christie, Ruling Elder.

Minutes of last sederunt being approved, it was agreed in answer to a question from Clerk of Halifax Presbytery, that Mr. James Murray's attendance for a Session at the Theological Hall of the Free Church, should be sustained as constituting part of his course of study.

Mr J. Murray's course.

Mr. McCulloch gave notice of a motion for next Synod, against the practice of members employing Students in Divinity in preaching without Presbyterian sanction.

Notice of motion.

Mr. McCulloch read report of Committee appointed to revise questions put at Presbyterian Visitations. It was agreed that the revised questions be printed and sent down to Sessions to examine and report upon at next meeting of Synod.

Revision of Questions.

The Synod appointed the Presbyteries of Truro and of Halifax in the order named to provide two Sabbaths' supply each for Professor Smith's pulpit during his attendance upon the Theological Hall; and the Presbyteries of Pictou and Prince Edward Island to furnish supply for Professor Keir's pulpit.

Supply of Professor's Pulpits.

The Synod appointed the Board of Foreign Missions to arrange Mr. Matheson's visit to New Brunswick, so that he may assist Rev. J. McCurdy in dispensing the Sacrament of the Supper on the 3rd Sabbath of August.

Mr Matheson.

A letter was then read from the Rev. William Fraser, Clerk of the United Presbyterian Synod of Canada, dated Hamilton, June 6th, 1856, with extracts from Synod Minutes, informing this Synod that Rev. Messrs. J. McCurdy and G. Patterson, members of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, having addressed the Canadian Synod, and having given a full statement of the condition and progress of our Mission to the New Hebrides, the Synod of Canada had resolved "to institute as soon as practicable a Mission to the South Seas, to be conjoined, should it be agreeable to the Synod of Nova Scotia, with their Mission."

Letter from U. P. Synod, Canada.

The Clerk stated that this letter, having been received near the close of the Synodical session of 1856, had been placed among his papers without his knowledge, and consequently was not read in Synod, but that he had published it for the information of the Church generally in an early number of the *Missionary Register*. The Synod agreed to express their regret that they had not had an opportunity of acknowledging and replying to it officially.

In connection with this letter the Clerk read another from the Clerk of the same Synod dated Toronto, June 3rd, 1857, also containing extracts from Synod Minutes, informing this Synod "That upon mature reconsideration of the whole subject of a Foreign Mission the Synod had agreed to rescind the resolution of last year, so far as concerns the particular field to be occupied," and farther that the Synod had agreed to appoint a Committee "to consider in what mode and in what part of the field they should engage in the work," and that a Committee had been appointed accordingly.

Second Letter.

On motion of Rev. John McCurdy it was then agreed unanimously: First, "To express regret that the expectations which the Synod and people of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia have been cherishing of enjoying the valuable co-operation of the Canadian Church in the evangelization of the New Hebrides are not likely to be realized."

Resolutions.

Secondly, "That while this Synod will rejoice to find the Canadian Church occupying *any Foreign Mission field*, which their prayerful and deliberate judgment may select, it will be specially gratified should the

Canadian Church yet see cause to choose a field of operations where our missionaries, while engaged in the same glorious work, may be able to afford to each other, in a high degree, mutual sympathy and support."

The Clerk was directed to forward a copy of these Minutes to the Clerk of the Synod of Canada.

Letter from Professor Keir.

A letter was read from Professor Keir to the Moderator resigning his office of Professor of Systematic Theology after the close of the approaching session. Agreed that the letter do lie on the table till the next meeting of Synod.

Seminary B'rd.

Rev. Hugh Ross, being present, was invited to correspond.

Re-appointed the Seminary Board, with the addition of Messrs. William McKim of Londonderry, Fleming Blanchard of Truro, John Currie and Adam Dickie of Maitland.

Presbytery minutes.

The Report of the Committee on Presbytery Minutes was read, from which it appeared that the Minutes of the several Presbyteries have been during the year correctly kept and the business regularly conducted.

Adjourned, closing with prayer.

LAST SEDERUNT.

Same Day and Place, half past 7 o'clock, P. M.

The Synod met and was constituted. Present as formerly, with Rev. J. McG. McKay. Minutes of last sederunt were read.

Letter from Jamaica.

The Clerk read the letter received from the United Presbyterian Synod of Jamaica. Agreed to express gratification at the receipt of this fraternal epistle, and at the interesting intelligence which it contains, and direct the Clerk of Synod to acknowledge it in a suitable manner.

Special Effort.

On inquiry it was found that nothing had been done to prosecute the special effort for the Seminary during the year. The Synod was of opinion that there should be no further delay, and it was remitted to the Seminary Board to take such measures as they may consider best adapted to accomplish the end in view.

Overture on Manses.

The following overture from the Pictou Presbytery was then taken up, "Whereas Ministers at their settlement are often subjected to much inconvenience from the want of a suitable residence, and whereas the providing of such from their own resources, in many instances causes much embarrassment by involving them in debts, and thus mars their comfort and hinders their usefulness, therefore *resolved*, That hereafter at the settlement of Ministers, Presbyteries be directed to use their influence with congregations receiving pastors to provide such residences, either by paying in whole or in part the amount necessary for that purpose, to the Minister, in addition to his regular stipend, or in the event of not doing this, by providing a Manse the property of the congregation." After discussion it was agreed unanimously, "to approve of the object, and to send it down to Presbyteries and Sessions to take action on the subject."

Paid Agent.

An overture from the Pictou Presbytery asking for the appointment of a paid agent "to advance the schemes of the Church, and to conduct its periodicals," was next taken up, and after a brief discussion, deferred.

Temperance.

The committee appointed to receive and arrange the replies of Sessions on the subject of Temperance, as remitted to them by Synod at its last meeting, submitted to Synod their report, stating that they had received only ten written answers from Sessions, and two verbal messages on the

subject. Respecting the resolutions proposed at last Synod, *one* Session expresses approval of both, and a desire that they be enacted as the law of the Church; *four* others approve of the first, (which was to exclude Liquor dealers from communion,) but disapproved of the second, (which refers to the vote of the magistrate to grant licenses); while the other *five* consider it inexpedient and unwise to make either of them terms of communion. The report furnished no information to Synod respecting the carrying out by Sessions of the Resolution of 1853. It was then agreed unanimously, that as only a small proportion of Sessions have furnished any returns, and as few even of these give all the information sought, that the subject be again remitted to Sessions, with special directions to report what measures they have taken, and what progress they have made, in carrying out the recommendation of Synod made in 1853, as follows:—"That, as the traffic in intoxicating drinks is one involving the most destructive consequences, the Synod are of opinion that, in these days of light, those who follow it pursue a course inconsistent with the solemn engagements and important ends of a christian profession, and that Sessions be directed to use diligence in bringing the Church to a higher state of purity in this respect."

It was agreed that the supply of preaching for labourers on the Railway line be remitted to the Presbyteries of Truro and Halifax.

The formation of a Protestant Alliance for Nova Scotia, in connection with the Protestant Alliance of London, having, after notice given, been brought before the Synod, the object was cordially approved, and recommended to the consideration and support of Ministers and people in their respective localities.

It was agreed that the salaries of the Theological Professors be paid, also that the Clerk of Synod be paid £10, and the same sum annually in future; that Five Pounds be paid for Rev. William Miller of Mabou; that expenses of Mr. Murdoch, in going to and returning from Harvey, N. B., amounting to Five Pounds, be paid; also, that Mr. Bayne's expenses from Truro to Halifax and back, in attending as a Deputy upon the Free Church Synod, be paid. Agreed that the bill for printing be paid, and that forty shillings be paid to the Janitor.

On motion, it was unanimously agreed that the thanks of the Synod be given to the congregation of Truro for their kind attentions to the Synod, and their hospitality to its members individually.

The Roll being called, members not having leave of absence were found to be present. The Minutes of the present sederunt were read and corrected.

It was then agreed to adjourn to meet in Prince Street Church, Pic-tou, on the 3rd Wednesday of June, at half-past 7 o'clock, P. M., when the Synod closed with praise, prayer and the Apostolic Benediction.

PETER G. MCGREGOR,
Synod Clerk.

Truro, June 29th, 1857.

APPENDIX.

Abstract of Synodical Accounts as reported by the Committee for auditing
Accounts:—

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 1ST JULY, 1857.

<i>Home Mission.</i>		
Receipts		£219 6 0½
Expenditure		234 0 6
Expenditure over Receipts		14 14 5½
<i>Foreign Mission.</i>		
Receipts		£607 7 5½
Expenditure		368 16 4
Receipts over Expenditure		238 11 1½
<i>Synod Fund.</i>		
Receipts		£107 2 11½
Expenditure		110 18 6
Expenditure over Receipts		3 15 6½
<i>Theological Seminary.</i>		
Receipts		£180 16 0
Expenditure		329 10 0
Expenditure over Receipts		148 14 0
<i>Special Effort.</i>		
Receipts		£241 5 0
Expenditure		123 10 6
Receipts over Expenditure		117 14 6
1857.		
July 1st. Balance in the hand of the Treasurer at this date:—		
Home Mission		£12 14 5
Foreign Mission		733 17 5½
Synod Fund		49 9 5
Educational Board		246 19 0½
Special Effort		228 0 7
At Interest		2376 0 0
Total		£3647 0 11

GEORGE WALKER,
 RODERICK MCGREGOR, } *Auditing*
 ALEXANDER FRASER, } *Committee.*

New Glasgow, July 1st, 1857.