MINUTES

OF THE

EIGHTH SESSION

Synod of the United Presbyterian Church

OF THE

IN CANADA,

(FORMERLY THE MISSIONARY SYNOD IN CANADA,)

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN SYNOD IN SCOTLAND.

IN CONNEXION WITH THE

LONDON, C. W. :

PRINTED BY WILLIAM SUTHERLAND, DUNDAS STREET,

1848.



ROLL OF SYNOD FOR JUNE, 1848.

(LP The figures mark the Sederunts at which the Members were present.),

PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.

MINISTERS. SEDERUNTS. ELDERS SEDERUNTS. William Proudfoot, 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 George Murray, 1 2 3 4 5 6 James Skinner, 1 2 3 4 5 6 Alexander M Kenzie, Lohn M Kenzie,

John M'Lellan, Charles Fletcher,

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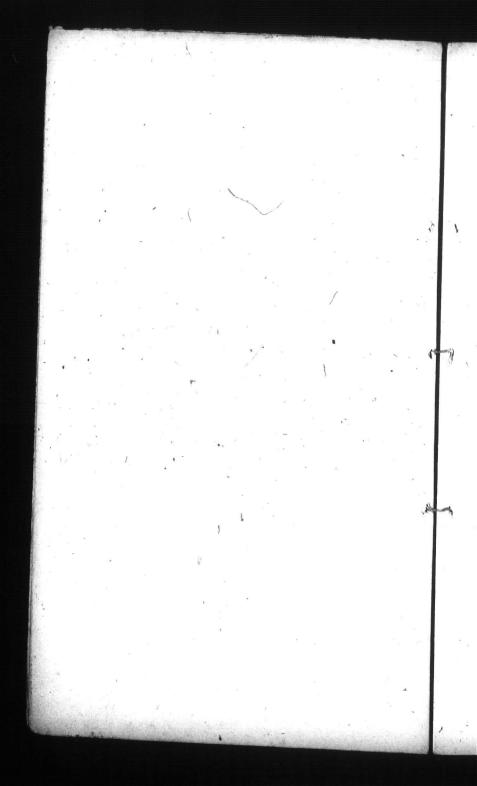
PRESBYTERY OF FLAMBORO

Thomas Christie, 12345678 W.m. Henderson, 23 David Caw, James Stuart, 123 56 Alerander Ritchie, 12345 John Stuart, J. R. Dalrymple, 12345678 Wm. Lowson, 12345678 James Roy, 12345678 Robert Christie, 12345678 John Porteous, 1234 Charles Stuart, 1 2 3 4 5 William Barrie, Robert Torrance, Robert Torrance, 1 2 3 4 5 6 George Fisher, 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 Alex. Drummond, 12345678 Alexander Henderson,

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

R. H. Thornton, 12345678 "Walter Keddie, John Cassie, William Fraser, 234567 George Lawrence, 34567 John Short, 1234567 John Jennings, 12345678 William Bell, James Dick, 1234567 William Best, David Coutts, 12345678 James Young, Walter Scott, 1 James Jenkins, 1 2 3 4 Alexander Waddell, 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 William Dunbar, James Pringle, 12345678 James Hanter, 1234567

PRESBYTERY OF CANADA EAST. William Taylor, Alexander Lowden, John Morrison, William Aitkin,



MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE

SYNOD OF THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA, &c.

hamilton, 6th Inne, 1848. I. SEDERUNT.-61 o'clock, p. m.

The United Presbyterian Synod met, and after Sermon, from Matt. xv. 13, was constituted by the Rev. James Roy, Moderator.

Sederunt. (See table of attendance.)

Read the minutes of last meeting of Synod, which were approved of.

Reported by the Presbytery of London that they The names of C. had inducted the Rev. Charles Fletcher to the pastoral Fletcher, charge of the congregation in Goderich, on the 6th day of October last. His name was added to the Roll of the Synod.

Reported by the Presbytery of Flamboro' that since last meeting of Synod they had accepted Mr. Porteous' demission of the pastoral charge of the congregation in St. Catharines. Also, that they had inducted the Rev. G. Fisher, George Fisher to the pastoral charge of the congregation in Esquesing on the 13th October; and the Rev. J. R. Dalrymple, J. R. Dairymple to the pastoral charge of the congregation in Hamilton, on the 10th November, and the Rev. John Porteous to the pastoral charge of the congregation in Beverly on the 19th January. Also, that they had ordained Mr. Alexander Drummond at Brant- A. Drummond, ford on the 20th October, and Mr. Alexander Hender- A. Henderson, son at St. Catharines on the 23rd November. Their names were added to the Roll of Synod.

Reported by the Presbytery of Toronto that they had ordained Mr. Alexander Waddell at Pickering on Alexander Waddell the 28th December, and Mr. James Pringle at Centre and James Pringle Road, Toronto Township, and Brampton, on January 19th.

Their names were added to the Roll of Synod. added to the Roll. Reported by the Presbytery of London that they Mr. J. Proudfoot had licensed Mr. John Proudfoot to preach the gospel, licensed. on the 24th August.

Committee of Bills and Overtures

Committee of Auditors.

Mr. Jennings chosen Moderator.

Sederunts - when held, &c.

Appointed Messrs. Coutts, Porteous and Torrance, a Committee of Bills and Overtures; Mr. Coutts Convener.

Appointed Messrs. Dick and Short a Committee to audit the Treasurers' Accounts.

Mr. Jennings was chosen Moderator, and took the Chair.

The Moderator appointed Messrs. Proudfoot and Dalrymple to conduct the devotional exercises of the Synod to-morrow morning.

Agreed that the Sederunts of Synod be as follows, viz.: to meet every morning at 9 o'clock, and dismiss at 12; to meet at 2 o'clock, p. m., and dismiss at 5; to meet at half-past 6 o'clock, p. m., and dismiss at 9.

Closed with prayer

II. SEDERUNT.-7th June, 1848, 9 o'clock.

The United Presbyterian Synod met and was constituted by the Rev. Mr. Jennings, Moderator.

Messrs. Proudfoot and Dalrymple, after the Moderator, conducted the devotional exercises as appointed.

Read the Minutes of former Sederunt.

The Clerk of the Presbytery of Toronto reported that said Presbytery had accepted the demission by Mr. Scott of the pastoral charge of the congregation at Richmond Hill, and that his name was dropped from the Roll of Presbytery. His name was therefore taken from the Roll of Synod.

Mr. Henderson, by letter, requested to be excused from attending this meeting of Synod on the ground of indisposition. Excuse sustained.

The Committee of Bills and Overtures reported : 1st. The Report of the Committee on Union.

2d. Overture fromToronto Presbytery regarding Union. 3rd. Petition from the Congregation in Mount Pleasant.

4th. Letter from the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia.

5th. Overture by Mr. Dick respecting Synodical Statistics.

Took up the Report of the Committee on Union.

Report of Committee on Union.

Mr. Thornton, in name of the Committee, read the minutes of all the meetings of the Joint Committees.— Synod called for the remarks of their Committee on the

Mr. Scott demits Richmond Hill,

And his name is taken from the Roll

Mr. Henderson's absence excused.

Report of Committee of Bills and Overtures.

statement of opinions given in by the Committee of the Presbyterian Church which had not yet been before the Synod. Read numbers 1st and 2nd of said remarks. Delayed reading the remainder till next\Sederunt.

Adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock. Closed with prayer.

III. SEDERUNT.-2 o'clock, p. m.

Synod met after adjournment, and was constituted by the Rev. Mr. Jennings, Moderator.

Read the minutes of former Selerunt.

Proceeded with the reading to the end of the remarks on statement of opinions given in by the Committee of the Presbyterian Synod.

The Rev. Messrs. Andrew Kennedy and Walter Messrs. Kennedy

Scott being present, were invited to correspond. . It was moved by Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Mr. Dick, and unanimously agreed to, that the Synod re- Report on Union. ceive the Report of the Committee-express their high approved of. approbation of the ability and diligence with which they had performed the part assigned to them-and render the Committee their cordial thanks.

Moved by Mr. Murray, seconded by Mr. Skinner, Mr. Murray's moand unanimously agreed to, that the Synod, having tion on Union. heard the Report of the Committee on Union, and having now the whole business before them, proceed to consider whether Union is practicable in present circumstances. Having spent some time on this motion, agreed to adjourn the further consideration till the evening Sederunt.

Agreed that the Sederunt of to-morrow evening be spent in conversation on Missionary subjects.

Closed with prayer.

IV. SEDERUNT.-61 o'clock. p. m.

Synod met, and was constituted by the Rev. Mr. Jennings, Moderator.

Read the minutes of former sederunt.

Resumed deliberating upon the motion of Mr. Murray regarding the Report of the Committee on Union, and after full expression of opinions and views, appoint-

Committee . appointed on Mr. Murray's motion.

and Scott invited to correspond.

ed Messrs. Proudfoot, Christie, R. H. Thornton and Murray, a Committee to draft a minute embodying the views of the Synod on this important matter, to be submitted to-morrow morning.

Report of Committee of Bills and Overtures.

The Committee of Bills and Overtures reported a reference from the Presbytery of Flamboro'. Adjourned to meet to-morrow morning.

Closed with prayer.

SEDERUNT .-- Sth June, 1848, 9 o'clock, a. m.

Synod met, and was constituted by the Rev. Mr. Jennings, Moderator.

Read the minutes of former Sederunt.

Report of Committee on Mr. Murray's motion.

authorise publication of papers.

Petition from Mount Pleasant for disjunction.

The Committee appointed at last Sederunt reported the following Minute :

"That the Members of Synod having expressed their views and feelings very fully on the practicability of Union between the two churches—Resolved, That the United Presbyterian Sy-nod has reason to thank God that the views of the two churches harmonize on so many important points, and that with regard to those on which they differ, this Synod cherishes the hope that they may yet be lessened; that, feeling it to be a duty to carry the Christian people forward with them in the very desirable ob-ject of Union, and believing that the time is now come when the views and influence of the people should be made to bear upon it, the United Presbyterian Synod requests the Syr.od of the Pres-byterian Church to concur in publishing all the papers of the Joint Committees in order to an expression of opinion upon the matters therein contained. The Synod does also recommend the cultivation of brotherly intercourse with the members of the Approved. Synod Presbyterian Synod. Agreed also to re-appoint the Committee. to carry out, by further intercourse with any similar Committee of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church, the great object of Christian Union.

The Synod unanimously approved of the above Minute and agreed that, should the Committee of the Presbyterian Church decline to concur in publishing the papers, the Committee of this Synod be authorized to publish their own without delay.

Synod enjoined the Clerk to transmit a copy of the above minute to the Convener of the Committee of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church.

Authorized the Committee on Union to add to their number as they shall see cause.

Took up the Petition from the congregation in Mount Pleasant, praying to be disjoined from the London to

the Flamboro' Presbytery. Mr. Andrew Eadie, Commissioner, was heard in support of the petition. Moved by Mr. Skinner, seconded by Mr. Murray, and unanimously agreed to, That the prayer of the Petitioners be granted. Likeas the Synod did, and hereby do, Granted. disjoin in terms as above. Letter from Nova

Read the Letter from the Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, requesting aid for the Missionary operations of that church in the Islands of the Southern Pacific Ocean. The consideration of it was deferred till the evening Sederunt.

Took up Mr. Dick's Overture regarding Synodical Overture on synod-Statistics. Agreed to refer said Overture to a Committee composed of the following persons : Messrs. Dick, Murray, and Dalrymple. Committee to report during the present meeting of Synod.

Took up the reference from the Presbytery of Flam- Reference from the boro' of the following tenor :

" HAMILTON, 7th June, 1848.

" The West Flamboro' Presbytery met, and was constituted. "Inter alia

"The Committee that was appointed in the case of Mr. Wil-liam Christie reported, That Mr. William Christie, who had studied in Scherectady for four years, applied to the Flamboro' Presbytery to be admitted to the study of Theology under the inspection of the Missionary Synod of the Canadas, was examined upon Latin, Greek, Mathematics, Moral Philosophy and Natural Philosophy, and was found to have studied these sub-jects to considerable advantage. He has now been upwards of letts to consultate atvantage. The has now been apwares on three years studying Theology under the inspection of the Flam-boro' Presbytery, and has at almost every meeting of the Pres-bytery delivered a discourse and been examined upon some topic assigned him by the Presbytery; and in the opinion of Com-mittee he ought to be taken upon trial for license.

"The Presbytery agreed unanimously to adopt the Report, and instruct their Clerk to transmit it to the Synod, with intimation, that with the Synod's sanction, they are prepared to take Mr. Christie upon trial for license.

" Extracted from Minutes of Presbytery.

(Signed) JAMES ROY, P. C."

After deliberation for some time, the further consideration of it was postponed till the next Sederunt. Adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock.

Closed with prayer,

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ical statistics.

Scotiaread.

Presbytery of Flamboro's anent W. Christie.

VI. SEDERUNT .--- 2 o'clock, p. m.

The Synod met, and was constituted by the Rev. Mr. Jennings, Moderator.

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Read the Minutes of former Sederunt.

Appointed the Committee of Bills and Overtures to meet immediately, and in the absence of Mr. Torrance, Mr. Skinner was appointed a member of said Committee.

Resumed the consideration of the reference from the Presbytery of Flamboro' in the case of Mr. William Christie, Student,—when it was moved by Mr. Dick, and seconded by Mr. Thornton, that the Presbytery of Flamboro' be authorized to proceed as they shall see fit in this case for the good of the church. It was moved in amendment by Mr. Murray, and seconded by Mr. Fletcher; That Mr. Wm. Christie be required to attend the Theological Institute one term previous to his being taken on trials for license. The vote being taken, the motion was carried by a majority of two.— Mr. Fletcher craved that his dissent from this decision be marked in the minutes.

The Committee of Bills and Overtures transmitted papers of the following tenor:

1st, A paper purporting to be reasons of an application to the Synod from Mrs. Clarke.

2nd, A paper, being an extract from the Minutes of Synod in July, 1847, in the same case.

After fully hearing Mrs. Clarke, and also the Clerk of Synod; and the Clerk of Flamboro' Presbytery, in explanation, it was agreed, That inasmuch as the Flamboro' Presbytery is now in possession of the remit, and all the papers in Mrs, Clarke's case, that said Presbytery be instructed to proceed in the case in terms of the Minute of last meeting of Synod, and that Mrs. Clarke be instructed to attend the meeting of the Flamboro' Presbytery at Flamboro' West on Tuesday after the fifth Sabbath of July next. Whereupon Mrs. Clarke took instruments and craved extracts.

Adjourned to meet at 6¹/₂ o'clock, p.m. Closed with prayer.

Committee of Bills & Overtures to meet immediately.

Deliveran ce on the Reference from the Presbytery of Flamboro'

Mr. Fletcher dissents

MrsClarke applies to the Synod,

and is referred to the Flamboro' Presbytery. ida.

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Minutes of the United Presbyterian Synod in Canada. 77

VII. SEDERUNT.-61 o'clock, p. m.

The Synod met, and was constituted by the Rev. Mr. Jennings, Moderator.

Read the Minutes of former Sederunt.

Took up the Overture by the Presbytery of Toronto on the subject of the Clergy Reserves, of the following tenor:

"That the endowment of the Church from the public funds of the nation being in our opinion unscriptural, unjust, and impolitic; and inasmuch as notice has been officially given of a surplus having accrued from the sale of the Clergy Reserves, which is offered to such bodies as the act of disposal embraces, who may choose to apply; the Presbytery agreed to overture the Synod to take up this subject, and to give a public declaration of the views entertained upon this subject, as well as upon the injudicious disposal of the Reserves by the late Act."

After a full expression of their approbation of the object of the Overture, the Synod appointed Messrs. Proudfoot, Thornton, and Dalrymple, a Committee to draft a petition to the Governor in Council, embodying the views of the Synod in this matter. To report tomorrow forenoon.

The Committee appointed to audit the accounts of the Treasurer of the Grant of the United Presbyterian Synod in Scotland, reported : That they have examined his accounts, have found them correct and orderly kept, and that there is a balance in his hand of £112 7s. 7 d. Reported also, that they have examined the books of the Synod's Treasurer, have found them correct and orderly kept, and that there is in his hands a balance of £37 11s. 9¹/₂d. to Mission fund, and a balance of £13 0s. 10d. to the Institute and Synod fund.

Received and read a petition from the congregation of Goderich, praying that a sum of money, say £20, be paid to the Rev. Mr. Fletcher to defray in part his expenses in removing his family to Goderich. The Synod, knowing that there are many claims of a similar kind which, if this be granted, would have an equal right, which would embarrass the fund, and which, moreover, is not designed to be appropriated to such objects, declines granting the prayer of the petitioners.

Resolved, That the Stipend of all Ministers and All Stipends to be Preachers on the Preachers' List be supplemented to supplemented. the minimum stipend, i.e., inclusive of what may be

Overture by the Presbytery of Toronto on the Clergy Reserves.

Com'tee appointed to draft Petition thereon.

Report of Auditors of the Treasurer's Accounts.

Petition for aid from Goderich

Conversation on Missionary topics.

Mission committee appointed.

Overture on Theological Academy by Mr. Jennings.

Delayed.

Next Meeting.

Report of committee on Periodical.

Overture by Committee of Publication. received from the congregations. This to have a retrospective effect to the 12th August last.

The Synod, agreeably to a resolution of the third sederunt, entered into a conversation on Missionary topics. Heard Mr. Kennedy give an account of his Missionary labours within the bounds of the London Presbytery from November till the present time. The Synod were very much gratified with his interesting statements.

The Synod, being strongly convinced of the importance of cherishing a Missionary spirit in our church, appointed Rev. Messrs. Christie, Roy, Murray, Dalrymple and Drummond, and Messrs. R. Christie and Walter Chisholm a Committee to devise and suggest means by which the Synod's resolution in page 46 (of the printed minutes) may be rendered more efficient.— Mr. Dalrymple, Convener.

Took up an Overture by Mr. Jennings respecting the Theological Academy, of the following tenor:

"Whereas it is very necessary that our Theological Academy be put in the most efficient state for the prosperity of our church, I humbly overture the Synod to take up the whole matter, and give it the most full attention. (Signed) JOHN JENNINGS."

The Synod, after spending some time in the consideration of this Overture, agreed to delay further proceedings on the subject till next meeting of Synod.

Resolved that next meeting of Synod be held at Toronto on the 10th day of October next, at 6½ o'clock, p. m.

Concluded with prayer.

VIII. SEDERUNT.—9th June, 1848, 9 o'clock, a.m.

The Synod met, and was constituted by the Rev. Mr. Jennings, Moderator.

Read the minutes of former Sederunt.

Mr. Proudfoot, who was appointed at last Meeting of Synod to edit a projected periodical, stated the reasons why the appointment of Synod had not been implemented.

Took up an Overture by the Committee appointed to publish the said periodical, of the following tenor: "Whereas, it was ordered by last Synod that a Magazine should be published, but owing to causes, it could not be carried into dical ture

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into effect. Whereas it is still very necessary to have a periodical directly under the auspices of the church, we humbly overture the Synod to take the matter into full consideration.

R. H. THORNTON, (Signed) JOHN JENNINGS, WM. FRASER, WALTER SCOTT.

The Synod discharged the Committee, leaving the periodical to be undertaken in another form.

Took up a reference from the Presbytery of Toronto Reference from regarding Mr. Ormiston, Student in Divinity, under the Presbytery of To-ronto anent Mr. inspection of said Presbytery, of the following tenon: "In Ormiston. regard to the case of Mr. Ormiston, the Presbytery of Toronto agree to refer it to the Synod for advice, and ask liberty to assign him trials for license, and to proceed with him to an issue of the matter if they see cause, and to employ him in any way they deem advantageous to the interests of the church."

It was moved by Mr. Dalrymple and seconded by Deliverance there-Mr. Thornton, that the Presbytery of Toronto be authorized to proceed in the case as they shall see meet for the good of the church. Which was carried in the affirmative.

Against this motion, Mr. Roy craved that his dissent be marked.

Agreed, That the case now decided be not quoted as a precedent; and that hereafter, attendance of stud- dent. ents at the Theological Institute be a sine qua non to the obtaining of license to preach.

The Committee appointed to draft a petition to the Report of Commit-Governor-in-Council respecting the division of the surplus from the Clergy Reserve fund, presented a draft sion of the surplus of the following tenor :

" To His Excellency the Right Honourable James, Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, Governor General of British North America &c. &c. &c., in Council.

The Petition of the United Presbyterian Synod in Canada, in Synod assembled,

Humbly Sheweth,

That this Synod represents a body of Christians who support their own religious institutions, and who maintain the principle that State interference in matters religious is unscriptural, unjust and impolitic. And whereas, notice has been given in the Official Gazette, that a surplus has accrued from the sale of the Clergy Reserve lands, and that said surplus awaits the application of such as are by law entitled to a share of it. This Synod having always objected to the application of said Clergy Re-zerves to religious purposes, as being injurious to religion and obstructive to the peace and prosperity of this Province; and

on.

Mr. Roy dissents.

This case not to be

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having ever believed and maintained that said Clergy Reserves ought to be appropriated to the purposes of Common School Education, or to ordinary secular purposes, declines to apply for any part of said surplus; and further prays that no appropriation of said surplus be made to any religious body till further action be taken by the Legislature upon the Clergy Reserves Act now in force.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c."

The Synod approved of the above draft, and enjoined the Committee to write out a fair copy, to be signed by the Moderator and Clerk, and to be by them transmitted to His Excellency.

Agreed, that Mr. Scott, preacher, be appointed to Toronto Presbytery for the last two sabbaths of this month, and the first Sabbath in July, and thereafter in Flamboro' and London, according to the appointed routine.

Continued Mr. Kennedy within the bounds of the London Presbytery till the next meeting of Synod.

Delayed all other causes. Closed with prayer.

JOHN JENNINGS, Moderator.

WM. PROUDFOOT, Synod Clerk.

Approved.

Appointments.

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June 8, 1\$48.—We, the undersigned, appointed by the Synod to audit the Treasurers' Books, have examined the same, aud find all the Accounts correct, and that there is a balance in the Treasurer's hand of £37 11s. 94d, (Signed) £54 9 31

Balance brought down, £37 11s. 94d.

JAMES DICK, JOHN SHORT.

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