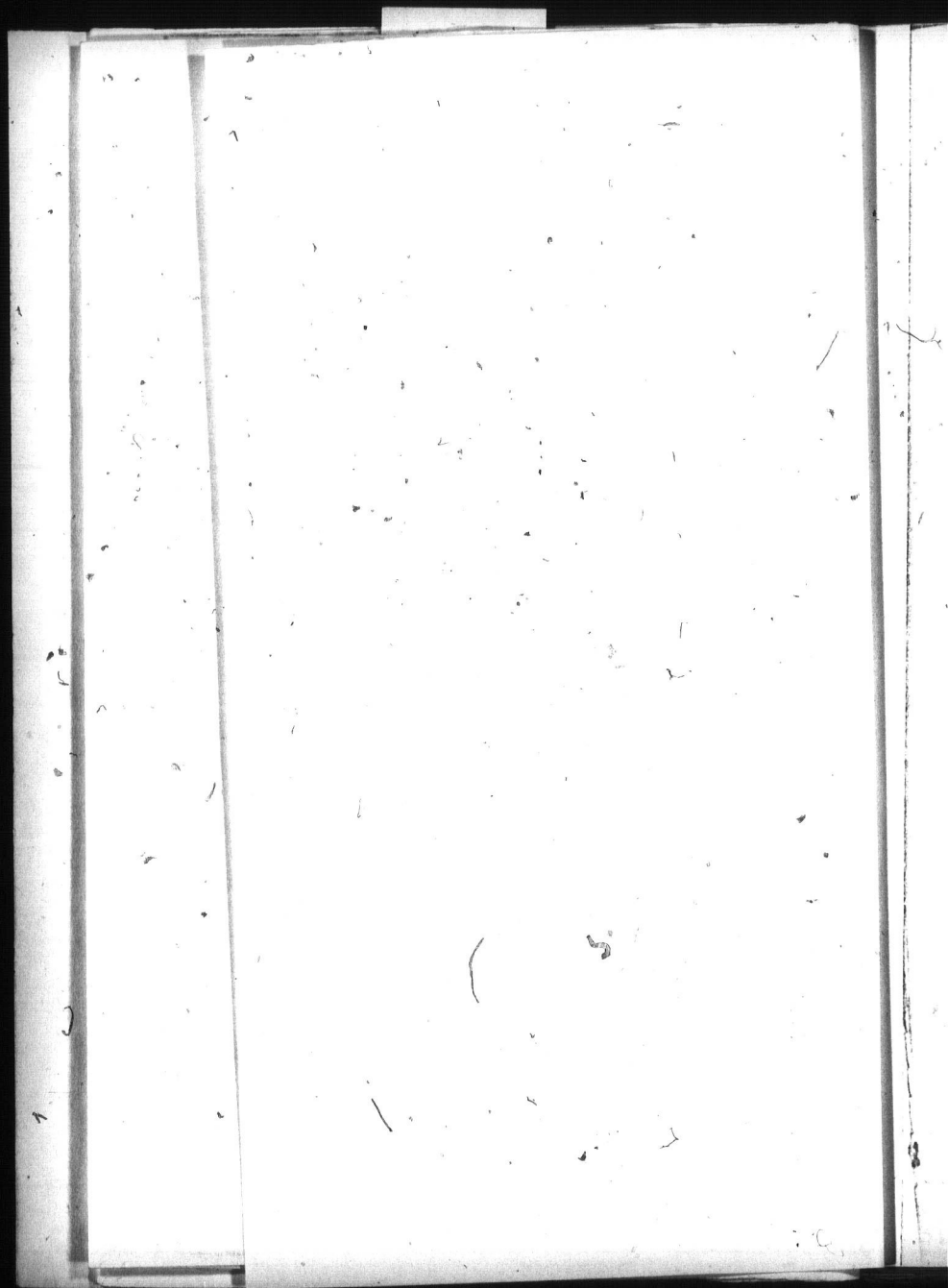


**MINUTES**  
**OF THE MEETING**  
**OF THE**  
**UNITED PRESBYTERY,**  
**OF**  
**UPPER CANADA:**

**HELD AT BROCKVILLE,**  
**ON THE**  
**FIRST SECOND AND THIRD DAYS OF JUNE,**  
**1830.**

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**BROCKVILLE, U. C.**  
**PRINTED BY WILLIAM BUELL, Jr. & Co.**  
**1830.**



## MEETING OF PRESBYTERY

ON Tuesday evening, the 1st of June, 1839, the United Presbytery of Upper Canada assembled in the Presbyterian Church, Brockville, and after a Discourse delivered by the Rev. Robert Lyle, A. M. the Presbytery being constituted by prayer, by the Rev. William Smart, Moderator, they proceeded to business, and continued their deliberations on the two succeeding days, during which matters of great interest and importance came under consideration.

Among other subjects, a paper, purporting to be a Report of a Committee of the Legislative Council of Upper Canada upon a Petition from this Presbytery upon the subject of Education, was laid before them. After an animated and interesting discussion on the subject of Education, it was

Resolved,—That a Committee be appointed to take the same into consideration, and report without delay.

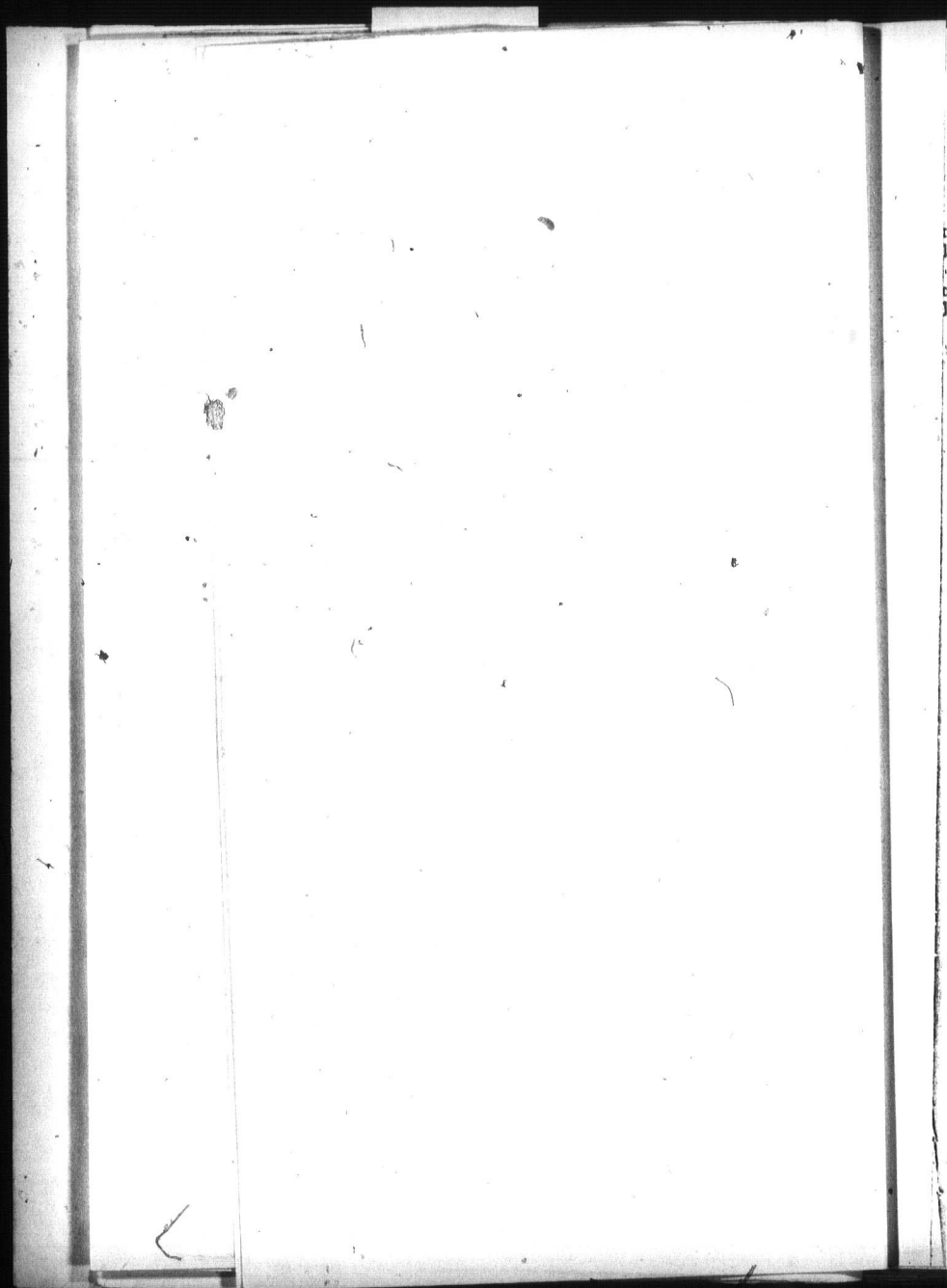
The Rev W. Smart, having presented the Prospectus of a Religious Newspaper, to be called "THE CANADIAN WATCHMAN," the Presbytery took the subject into their serious consideration, and, having long desired to see such a publication in the Province, in connexion with the Presbyterian Church, it was unanimously

Resolved,—1. That this Presbytery view the circulation of religious and moral sentiments, through the medium of periodical publications, as a subject of great importance to the prosperity of the Churches under their care, and the increase of religion in the Province.

2. That the Presbytery agree to support "The Canadian Watchman," and to recommend to all their friends, to give it every encouragement in their power, on the condition, that it advocates the received Principles of the Presbytery, as expressed in the Westminster Confession of Faith—in the hope that it will prove useful, in promoting the interests of religion in general and that of the Presbyterian Church in particular.

The Presbytery then took up the subject of Missions. They deeply regret, that, notwithstanding the numerous pressing applications for preaching, they have so few labourers at their disposal. They are unable fully to supply the wants of the people, but to afford every assistance in their power, it was

Resolved,—That two or more of the ministers of this Presbytery, be employed as Missionaries for a limited period, during this summer; and that the Members of this Presbytery, be enjoined to make provision, by taking up collections or otherwise, for defraying the expenses of the past and present missions.



Resolved,—That the Rev. R. McDowell present the relation in which he was appointed at the last meeting of the Presbytery, in the Johnstown, Eastern and Bathurst Districts.

Resolved,—That the Rev. Andrew Bell be enjoined to proceed on his mission through the Gore, London, Niagara, and Western Districts.

Resolved, That the Rev. W. Smart and W. Bell be directed to make a Missionary Tour, and visit the Churches between Brockville and York, during the month of August.

The Rev. William Bell having reported his proceedings, in the formation of Branch Missionary Societies in the Bathurst District, and on the Rideau, the Presbytery highly approved of the same and

Resolved,—That he be directed to prosecute those labours, and particularly in the fall of the year to visit the townships of Golbourn, March, Huntly, Fitzroy, Pakenham and Ramsay.

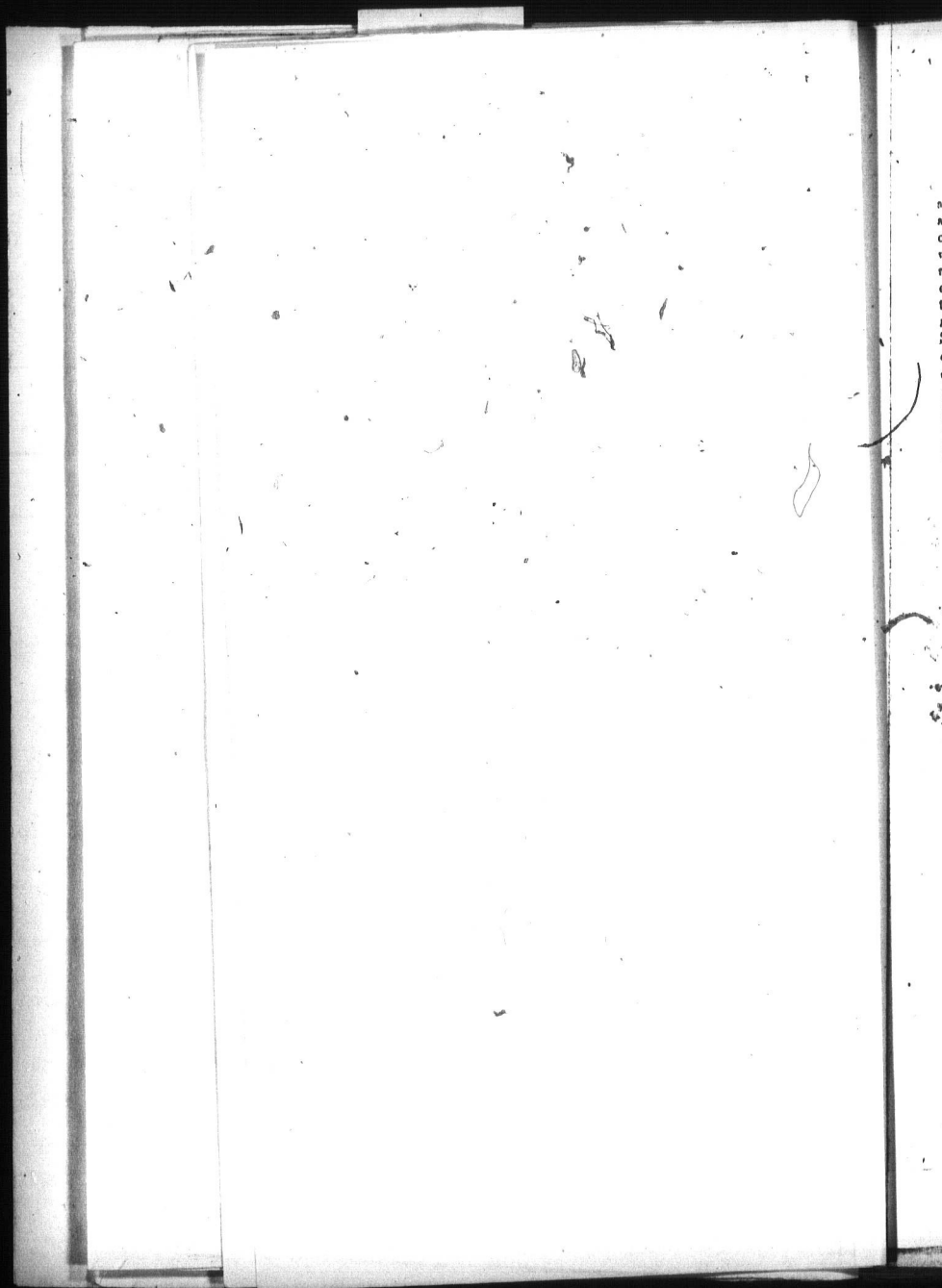
Resolved,—The Presbytery earnestly and affectionately recommend to the Congregations under their care, in those places which they are unable to supply with regular preaching, that they assemble on the Lord's Day for devotional exercises.

Communications having been laid before the Presbytery, from the *Canada Education & Home Missionary Society*, in Montreal, it was

Resolved,—That the Committee of the Presbytery, on the Literary and Theological Seminary, (the Rev. Messrs. Smart, Bell and Boyd,) be directed to enter into a further and more particular correspondence, with the Committee appointed for that purpose by the afore mentioned Society.

The Committee of the Presbytery, appointed to consider a paper purporting to be a report of a Committee of the Legislative Council on the Petition of the Presbytery on Education, made their report to the Presbytery, which was ordered to be received, and is as follows :—

Your Committee having considered the report of the Legislative Council, they are of the opinion, that it does not fairly meet the grounds of complaint contained in the Petition, and appears designed as an attack upon the integrity of the Presbytery.—That the Presbytery was correct, appears from the number of shifts that the Council try in order to evade the main ground of complaint.—They tell us that there is nothing exclusive in the Statute which makes provision for the District Schools. But this only shows, that the Presbytery had the greater reason to complain; for, although there is nothing exclusive in the Statute, it has been acted upon in an exclusive manner. Besides, their referring to the Act is nothing but an evasion; for the Presbytery did not complain of the Statute, but of the manner in which it was carried into effect.—The Presbytery complained principally, of the lessening of public confidence in the District Schools, in consequence of the almost exclusive appointment of Trustees from one communion. This the Committee of the Council has not proved, nor attempted to prove to be otherwise; which they would no doubt have done if they could, by publishing a list of the Trustees of the District Schools,



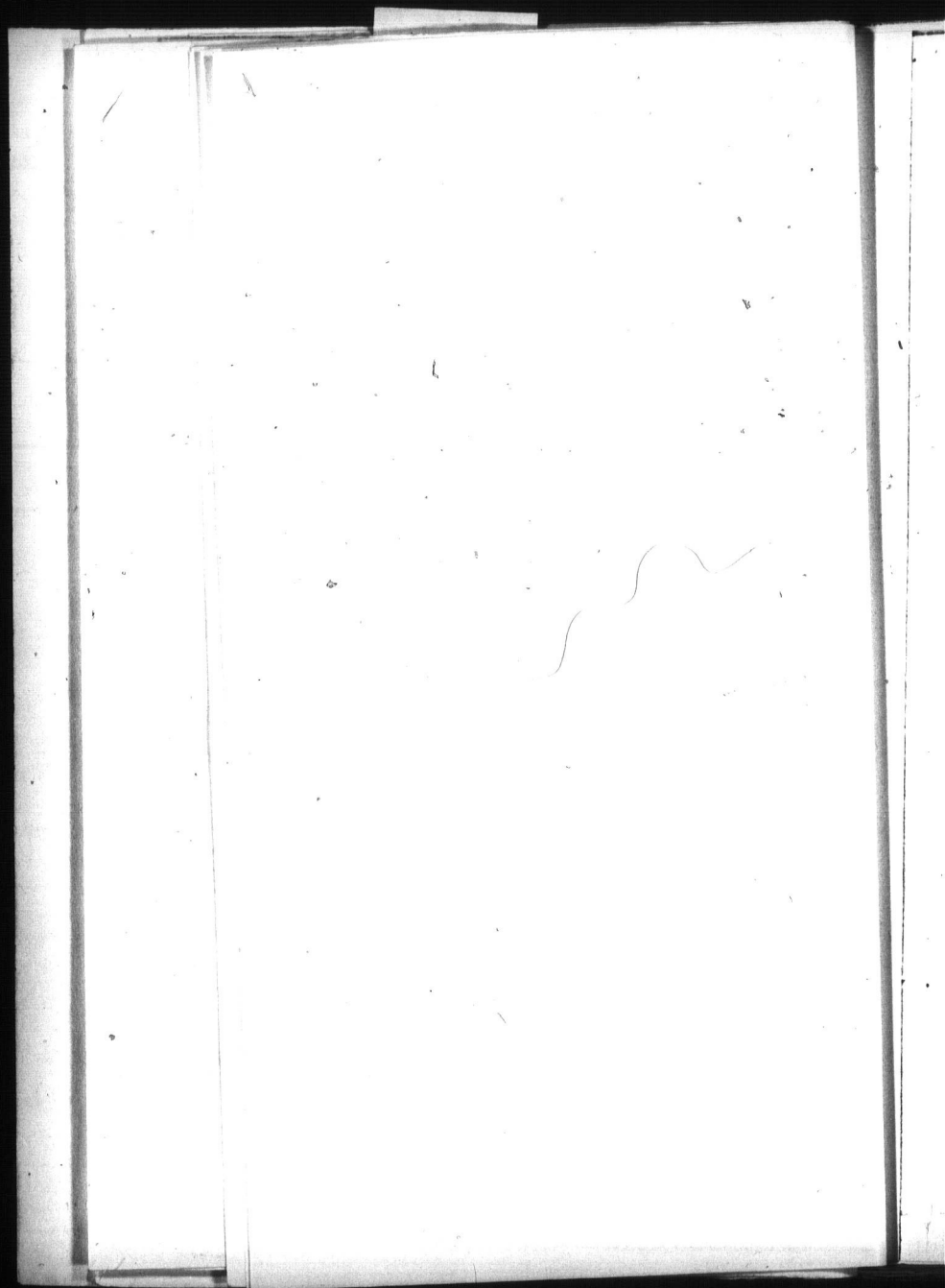
and Members of the Board of Education, in the several Districts, and showing to what religious denomination they belonged. These are only particulars into which they enter respecting Trustees, and with regard to only one District, and that upwards of twenty years ago; instead of exhibiting what is really the case now. This is an error; however that they did not misunderstand the purport of the petition.—Although they did understand it; instead of giving a list of the Trustees, and making it appear that the spirit of the Statute has not been violated, the Committee of the Council, in order to mislead the public, and totally evade the main ground of complaint, give a list of Teachers of the District Schools, and notice that they have not all belonged to the Church of England. But if this proves any thing, it proves too much; for they have thus unintentionally, given us an additional proof of the evil tendency of the exclusive system that has been pursued. For of those Teachers that were not originally Episcopians before they came under the influence of this exclusive system, it is a remarkable fact, and one deserving of particular notice, that many have, (to use their own words,) “since that taken orders in the Church of England.”—The Committee of the Presbytery are fully assured, from their own acquaintance with the existing state of things, that the statements contained in the petition are correct, and that the Trustees of the District Schools are almost exclusively appointed from one religious denomination; and that they are not aware, that a single Clergyman of any denomination, other than the Church of England, has ever been appointed as a Trustee of the District Schools; or that any Clergyman of the Church of England, resident in the town or village where the District School is established, has been passed by. But, in order that the public may be thoroughly convinced of this, by a minute and accurate proof, your Committee recommend to the Presbytery:—

1. That a respectful application be made to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, for an authenticated copy of the report of the Legislative Council on the subject of the petition of the Presbytery on education; and also an official list, of the Trustees of the District Schools, and, of the members of the Board of Education throughout the Province.

2. That the Clerk be instructed to write to the absent Members belonging to this Presbytery, and other respectable individuals, and request them to furnish the Moderator with a list of the Trustees of the District Schools and the Members of the Board of Education, in their respective Districts, and the respective denominations to which they belong—the said reports, to be made to the Moderator, if possible on or before the first of July.—All which is respectfully submitted.

ROBERT McDOWALL,  
Chairman of the Committee.

The Presbytery having taken into their serious consideration, the destitute state of many parts of this province, with regard to the enjoyment of the ordinance of religion, and their present inadequacy





to supply the many congregations, that have put themselves under their care—it was,

*Resolved*,—That the Rev'd Messrs. McDowall, Smart, and A. Bell, be a Committee to prepare an address, to the religious public of Great Britain, directing their attention to Upper Canada, as a very important field for Missionary labours, and requesting their aid and co-operation in the views and objects of this Presbytery and especially in sending some able and devoted Missionaries.

The following Address was prepared by the committee, presented to and adopted by the Presbytery.

*To the Christian Public of Great Britain and Ireland.*

CHRISTIAN FRIENDS,—

Allow the United Presbytery of Upper Canada to address you on the subject of the moral and religious state of this Province.—We have often most deeply lamented the wide spread desolations that here present themselves to view in the Church of God, and we have felt our own insufficiency, from want of funds and of Ministers, to occupy the vast fields of Missionary labour in this country. We have hitherto been unable from our own resources, to supply the increasing and destitute settlements in the Province, with the administration of the ordinances of religion; and we are induced by want of ability ourselves to make this appeal to our fellow Christians and friends of religion, in the land of our fathers.—While we most heartily rejoice in the exertions of Bible and Missionary Societies for the conversion of the Heathens, and give glory to God for the signal success attending their efforts, we have mingled tears with our joy, when amidst the numerous objects embraced by Christian philanthropy, the British Colony of Upper Canada has been so much overlooked. We are the only Presbytery in the Province, and have at present fifteen Ministers belonging to our Province, each of whom preaches to from two to six or eight congregations, not only on the Sabbath but through the week. We have originally belonged to different denominations of Presbyterians in the mother Country and though we are not in actual communion with the Church of Scotland, we have always maintained the same doctrines, discipline, Church government, and manner of worship. Our labours of love are extended from the Ottawa on the eastern to Lake St. Clair and Huron on the western extremity of the Province, over a distance of upwards of five hundred miles. We can truly say the harvest is great, but the labourers are few. We feel that in this world of retribution it will be made to appear that it was our duty not only to pray, but to use every Christian exertion to obtain good and faithful labourers for this extensive field. And christian fathers and brethren, to whom are we to look, but to you, who are bone of our bone, and flesh of our flesh? We beseech you to call to remembrance your own kindred & neighbours, who in crossing the ocean, travelling some hundred miles, & supporting their families till they have cleared away the vast forest, and prepared the land for cultivation, have exhausted their earthly treasure, and

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land of wealth unknown. He hath not dealt so bountifully with any nation, and is it not our duty to communicate this most valuable treasure, which we have received from our fathers, to their distant generations? Yes, brethren, we feel the indispensable obligation which binds us to do what we can ourselves, and to solicit assistance from our mother Churches, in maintaining amongst our countrymen in this Province, and in handing down to posterity, pure and unsullied that faith which was once delivered to the saints, and the truth of which our brave and pious Presbyterian ancestors sealed with their blood.

If these wide spread wastes were once well cultivated—adorned with temples of God's grace—and had pious, zealous and faithful pastors to feed the Church going flocks, there would be a foundation for supplying with the bread of life, the many thousands of our countrymen yet to be wasted over the wide Atlantic and settled in the dreary wilderness.—This thought of building up the desolations of Zion, and of lengthening her cords and strengthening her stakes, even amongst generations yet unborn, stimulates us to exertion in our own personal labours, and to solicit assistance from others.

A Literary and Theological Seminary, to train up for the Ministry young men of piety and talents, acquainted with the habits and wants of the country, and inured to hardships, is indispensable for the successful propagation of the Gospel in this country.—Large funds in money, books &c. will be required for this purpose. And, brethren, where shall we look for this assistance? Is it not to be expected that children should look to their parents for help in time of need? On you therefore our eyes are fixed.

Finally, if you have any preachers of the Gospel—active, pious young men,—who are ready to leave friends and country for the sake of Christ, and willing to spend and be spent in his cause, we earnestly beseech them to “come over and help us.”—They must not, and cannot expect a large remuneration for their labours *here*; although, in some congregations yet vacant, they would be supplied with the necessities of life—but bright will be their crown in the eternal world.

WILLIAM SMART, *Moderator.*  
ROBERT LYLE, *Presbytery Clerk.*

The next meeting of the Presbytery will be held at York, on Monday, the 30th of August next. The public service to commence in the Presbyterian Church, at half past six o'clock in the evening.

It is expected that the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be dispensed in the Church of the Rev. J. Harris, York; and likewise in that of the Rev. A. Bell, Streetsville, Toronto, on the previous Sabbath, the 29th of August.

WILLIAM SMART, *Moderator.*  
ROBERT LYLE, *Presbytery Clerk.*

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consequently arise in these circumstances, but I think of those who once rejoiced in that cup of salvation, and drank from the wells of salvation, in their native land, and are now sitting by the rivers of Canada and weeping when they see their Zions, be left with their children to perish in a barren wilderness? Could you in imagination, transport yourselves into the vast forests of Canada, and see the struggling efforts of your dear countrymen to obtain a subsistence for themselves and families, destitute of a house of God, and of a Shepherd to point them to the blood of atonement for the remission of sin; and the danger of the rising generation being dispersed with every wind of desolation, your hearts would melt with commiseration for the gloom which darkens their prospects, and cause you to say, what can we do to ameliorate the condition, and brighten the future prospects of these our brethren? Thousands of our settlers can well say as David once did in similar circumstances. "My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God? When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me; for I had gone with the multitude; I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept the holy day."

According to our limited means, we are doing all that we can in the way of missions among these wide spread desolations; and have in contemplation to erect a Seminary for educating pious, active and devoted young men to supply our destitute settlements. As we are unable to raise funds sufficient to carry these our wishes into effect, we call on you brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who submitted himself to the depth of poverty, to enrich countless multitudes of wretched beings sunk in helpless misery and woe, seriously to consider our wants—to have pity on our condition—and to endeavour to assist us in forwarding the work of God in this extensive region.

O brethren, think, we beseech you, seriously think, upon the thousands in this land, imperceptibly, yet certainly carried along on the tide of time into the world of retribution, without a shepherd to feed them with the bread of life; and who, if they perish for lack of knowledge, will have no longer any opportunity of hearing offers of mercy in the regions of dark despair and hopelessness.—Could you not then assist us with a few evangelical, pious young men, who in imitation of the great Apostle of the Gentiles, would be willing to make great sacrifices for the glory of God in the salvation of men;—and if it was possible, some pecuniary aid also, to assist us in forwarding the work of God?

The great head of the Church pitted our pagan and afterwards popish ancestors, and sent them heralds of salvation. Those valiant soldiers of Jesus Christ ventured their lives to liberate our forefathers and us from worse than Egyptian bondage—and blessed be God, he has thus given us the enjoyment of the Gospel, and that in its utmost purity since the reformation, a godly heritage, a broad