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MINUTES

OF

THE SYNOD

ON THE

Presbyterian Church

OF

NOVA SCOTIA.

HELD IN NEW GLASGOW, JUNE—JULY, 1856.

Halifax, N. S.:

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1. The first part of the book is devoted to a general survey of the history of the Church in the United States. It traces the development of the Church from the first settlement in 1607 to the present time. It discusses the various denominations and their growth, and the influence of the Church on the civilization of the country.

2. The second part of the book is devoted to a detailed study of the various denominations. It discusses the history, doctrine, and practice of each of the following: the Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Presbyterian Church, the Baptist Church, the Congregational Church, the Lutheran Church, the Roman Catholic Church, and the Unitarian Church.

3. The third part of the book is devoted to a study of the various movements and reforms which have influenced the Church in the United States. It discusses the Revival Movement, the Holiness Movement, the Social Gospel Movement, and the Christian Science Movement.

4. The fourth part of the book is devoted to a study of the various problems which confront the Church in the United States. It discusses the problem of the Negro, the problem of the Indian, the problem of the foreign-born, and the problem of the modernist.

5. The fifth part of the book is devoted to a study of the various agencies and organizations which are engaged in the work of the Church in the United States. It discusses the various boards, commissions, and societies, and the work of each of them.

6. The sixth part of the book is devoted to a study of the various methods and techniques which are employed in the work of the Church in the United States. It discusses the various methods of evangelization, education, and social service, and the techniques of each of them.

7. The seventh part of the book is devoted to a study of the various results and fruits of the work of the Church in the United States. It discusses the various results in the field of evangelization, education, and social service, and the fruits of each of them.

8. The eighth part of the book is devoted to a study of the various future prospects and hopes of the Church in the United States. It discusses the various prospects and hopes in the field of evangelization, education, and social service, and the hopes of each of them.

9. The ninth part of the book is devoted to a study of the various lessons and principles which can be learned from the history and work of the Church in the United States. It discusses the various lessons and principles in the field of evangelization, education, and social service, and the principles of each of them.

10. The tenth part of the book is devoted to a study of the various conclusions and recommendations which can be drawn from the history and work of the Church in the United States. It discusses the various conclusions and recommendations in the field of evangelization, education, and social service, and the recommendations of each of them.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS
CHICAGO, ILL. U.S.A.

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BOARDS, STANDING COMMITTEES, &c.

Board of Home Missions.—Rev Professor Ross, Rev Messrs Patterson, Watson and Walker, together with the Presbytery Elders of Green Hill, West River, and Primitive Church. Rev George Patterson, Secretary.

Board of Foreign Missions.—Rev Messrs. Baxter, Keir, Roy, Walker, Bayne, Watson and Waddell, and Messrs. Ebenezer McLeod and Daniel Cameron, of West River; A. Fraser, of New Glasgow, and John Yorston, of Pictou. Secretary—Rev J. Bayne.

Seminary Board.—The Professors, ex officio. Rev Messrs McCulloch, Baxter, E. Ross, Willie, Cameron and McKay, and Messrs Robert Smith, David McCurdy and Isaac Fleming.

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

Committee of Correspondence with Evangelical Churches.—Rev Messrs E. Ross, Baxter and Wyllie. Mr Ross, Convener.

Committee for Friendly Conference with Committees of other Presbyterian Churches.—Rev Messrs. J. Ross, Sedgewick, Bayne, Cameron and McGregor, and Mr C. Robson. Rev Professor Ross, Convener.

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 P. Dickie, and Edward Blanchard, Junr.

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MINUTES OF THE SYNOD
OF THE
Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia.
JUNE 1855.

FIRST SEDERUNT.

AT NEW GLASGOW AND WITHIN PRIMITIVE CHURCH,
June 24th, 1856, 11 o'clock, A.M.

THE Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, after a Sermon by the Rev. John Cameron, Moderator, from Exod. chap. xiv. v. 15, "Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward," met and was constituted. Sermon.

Were present—the Rev. Messrs. Angus McGilvray, James Smith, David Roy, John I. Baxter, John Campbell, William McCulloch, Peter G. McGregor, James Bayne, Andrew P. Miller, John Cameron, George Walker, David Honeyman, George M. Clark and James McLean, Ministers; and Messrs. James Crow from the congregation of Onslow, Samuel Archibald from the congregation of Truro, John Murray from the congregation of Pictou, Thomas Thomson from the congregation of Merigonish, James Lauder from the congregation of River John, James Scott from the congregation of Nine Mile River, James McGregor from the congregation of Primitive Church, New Glasgow, and Ebenezer McLeod from the congregation of Salem Church, Green Hill, Ruling Elders. Members present.

The Presbytery of Pictou reported that since last meeting of Synod the Rev. James McLean, of Mabou, had accepted a call to another charge, consequently that they had dissolved his connection with Mabou congregation and had removed his name from their Roll. Also that they had licensed Messrs. John W. Matheson and Alexander Cameron to be preachers of the everlasting Gospel. Reports of Presbyteries.

The Presbytery of Halifax reported that Rev. James McLean had accepted a call to the pastoral charge of the congregation of Gay's River, Shubenacadie and Lower Stewiacke, and that, having been inducted, his name had been added to the Roll of Presbytery.

Rev. George Walker was unanimously chosen Moderator, and, having briefly addressed the Synod, took the chair accordingly. Moderator chosen.

Rev. Messrs. Campbell and E. Ross, and Mr. Eliakim Tupper, Ruling Elder, were appointed a Committee to examine Presbytery minutes. Mr. Campbell, convener. Committee on Pby. minutes.

Rev. Messrs. Smith and McLean, and Mr. E. McLeod, Ruling Elder, were appointed a Committee on Statistics. Mr. Smith, convener. Committee on Statistics.

Received and read the Report of the Committee of Bills and Overtures setting forth an arranged list of subjects for the consideration of Synod, and recommending that the hours of business shall be after this day from Report of committee on bills & overtures.

MINUTES OF SYNOD.

10 A.M. to 1 P.M.; from 3 P.M. to 6; and again from 7 *ad libitum*.—
The Report was received and the diligence of the Committee approved.

Devotional
exercises.

Agreed that a portion of the afternoon sederunt of to-day be spent in devotional exercises, the Moderator to be followed in prayer by Rev. Messrs. Miller and Smith. Agreed that the appeal against a decision of the Presbytery of Pictou by parties connected with West River congregation be taken up on Friday morning.

The Synod then adjourned till half-past 3 o'clock, closing with prayer.

SECOND SEDERUNT.

Same Day and Place, half-past 8 o'clock, P.M.

Devotional
exercises.

Members pre-
sent.

Report of or-
dination.

Report on col-
portage.

Contributions.

The Synod met and was constituted. The Moderator was succeeded in prayer by the Rev. Messrs. Miller and Smith, with the reading of the Holy Scriptures and the singing of Psalms, during the intervals. Were present as formerly, together with the Rev. Messrs. James Ross, James Waddell, James Watson, James Byers and Alexander L. Wyllie, Ministers; and Messrs. Eliakim Tupper from the congregation of Upper Stewiacke, Robert Stewart from the congregation of West River, William Archibald from the congregation of Musquodoboit, Alexander Brenton from the congregation of Middle Stewiacke, and John Baird from the congregation of Lower Londonderry, Ruling Elders.

Mr. McCulloch reported that Truro Presbytery had ordained Mr. Samuel Johnson, preacher, to the pastoral charge of the congregation of Harvey, New Brunswick, and that his name had been added to the Roll of Presbytery. Ordered that his name be added to the Synod Roll.

Minutes having been approved the Synod proceeded to business, taking up the subjects in the order recommended by Committee of Bills and Overtures. Rev. John I. Baxter read the Report of the Committee on Colportage. The Report shewed that during the past year the Board had circulated 12,060 volumes, and during the past four years 85,579 volumes, for which £2,956 have been paid, and that the work was still being carried on with no diminution of efficiency. The Report was received and the management of the Board highly approved. It was unanimously agreed "that the Synod express their sense of the generous manner in which the Presbyterian Board of Publication have supplied our Committee with books, and recommend the congregations under their charge to make, during the present year, some pecuniary acknowledgment for the benefit received." The Committee was re-appointed with their former powers.

Closed with prayer.

THIRD SEDERUNT.

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

Members pre-
sent.

Committee of
correspond-
ence.

The Synod met and was constituted. Present as formerly, with the addition of Rev. Messrs. John L. Murdoch, Ebenezer Ross, and J. McG. McKay, Ministers; and Mr. Isaac Fleming from the congregation of Upper Londonderry, Ruling Elder.

The Committee of Correspondence having been called upon for their Report, the convener stated that no communications had been received and that no meeting of the Committee had been held. The Committee

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MINUTES OF SYNOD.

was re-appointed with directions to prosecute the work with greater diligence.

The Synod then resumed the consideration of Rules and Procedure, continued from last year, when the minutes of last meeting on the subject and the Report of the Committee for 1855 were read. The 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th, paragraphs of section I. and chap. I. were then passed without amendment. The 8th was omitted.

The Synod then adjourned, concluding with prayer.

FOURTH SEDERUNT.

Same Place, June 25th, 10 o'clock, A.M.

The Synod met and was constituted, when the minutes of last sederunt were read. Present as formerly, with Rev. Messrs. John Kier, D.D., Robert Sedgewick, Isaac Murray, Henry Crawford, John McLeod and Allan Fraser.

It was agreed that the Report of Committee on Co-operation with other Presbyterian Bodies be received and discussed to-morrow afternoon.

Rev. Hugh Ross, being present, was invited to correspond. The Synod then resumed the consideration of Rules of Procedure, and passed the 9th of section I., the 10th with amendment, the 11th, 12th, 13th with amendment, the 14th, 15th with amendment, 16th, 17th, and 18th. Proceeded to section II., and adopted 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th amended, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th amended, 14th omitted, and the following was substituted, "The Elder appointed by Session to attend Presbytery or Synod shall be entitled to have his name enrolled as a member of either of these Courts on presenting to the Clerk a certified extract of his appointment." Adopted Nos. 15, 16, and in place of 17 the following, "The Presbyteries shall visit all congregations within their bounds once every two years, or as often as possible, to inquire into their spiritual and secular state, and shall see that the different schemes of the Church are supported, and that otherwise the congregation is discharging its obligations; and shall report to Synod at the end of every two years." Agreed to take Report of Seminary Board this afternoon.

Closed with prayer.

FIFTH SEDERUNT.

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

The Synod met and was constituted. Present as formerly, together with Rev. George Christie, and Mr. Duncan Cameron from the congregation of Upper Settlement, East River, and Mr. Charles Robson from the congregation of Halifax, Ruling Elders. Minutes having been read and approved, the Rev. James Thomson, being present, was invited to correspond.

Rev. W. McCulloch then read Report of the proceedings of the Board of Superintendance of the Theological Seminary during the past year, after which and prior to any discussion Rev. Professor Ross was called upon to read the Report of the Committee of Co-operation with the Committees of other Presbyterian Bodies. The Report gave an account of the interviews held between the three Committees, representing the Free Church, the Church of Scotland, and the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, during

MINUTES OF SYNOD.

which they had discussed and arrived at harmonious conclusions on the subjects of Collegiate Education, the Sabbath, Papal influence, and joint efforts for the supply of labourers on the Railway with the means of religious improvement. The Committee farther stated that the three Committees had made unsuccessfully an application to the Governors of Dalhousie College to carry out the course of education contemplated by their charter. The convener also laid on the table some propositions, which had been just received, offering terms upon which different religious bodies might unite in raising Dalhousie College to the status of a Provincial University. The Report was received and the diligence of the Committee approved.

The Synod having entered on the consideration of these Reports, the remainder of the afternoon was occupied by members in delivering their sentiments on the whole subject of theological and general education, after which the Synod adjourned till to-morrow morning, that the evening might be occupied by the reading of a Lecture by Rev. E. Ross on "Voluntaryism."

Concluded with prayer.

SIXTH 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 Mr. Kenneth Forbes from the congregation of James' Church, Ruling Elder.

Missions.
Report of Foreign Board.
The Synod then took up the subject of Missions. Rev. J. Bzyne, Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions, read the Report of the Board for the past year. The Report gave full and most interesting details respecting missionary operations and progress, loss of goods, and arrangements for communication by a missionary vessel between Annetum and neighbouring Islands. The Report was received and the diligence of the Committee highly approved.

Report of Board of Home Missions.
The Report of the Board of Home Missions having been called for, and the Secretary not having arrived, the subject was passed over for the present.

Theological & general education.
The Synod resumed the consideration of theological and general education as brought forward in the Reports of yesterday afternoon. The members of Synod prosecuted the discussion of the subject up to the hour of adjournment.

Concluded with prayer.

SEVENTH SEDERUNT.

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

The Synod met and was constituted. Present as at last sederunt. — Read the minutes of last sederunt.

University education.
Deputation from Free Church.
Resumed the subject of university and theological education. After a brief discussion a deputation from the Synod of the Free Church, consisting of Rev. John Stewart, Rev. D. B. Blair, and Rev. Murdoch Sutherland, appointed to confer with this Synod on the subject under consideration, was introduced by the Rev. Professor Ross and presented to the

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MINUTES OF SYNOD.

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Moderator. These brethren addressed the Synod on the subject of Collegiate Education, glancing also at Sabbath Observance, Discipline, Temperance, Interchange of Pulpits, and Union, all expressing their desire and the wishes of the body which they represented to act in union with the members and office-bearers of this Church on these subjects. To these sentiments brethren of this Synod responded, after which the following resolution was unanimously agreed to, "The Synod having heard the sentiments expressed by the members of the deputation, agree to record their gratification at the presence of our brethren among us, and at the fulness and freedom with which they have spoken not only upon Collegiate Education, but upon other interesting topics of common interest; and pledge ourselves to give an earnest consideration to the views of their Synod on Education; and to use, both as individuals and spiritual office-bearers, those important means of cultivating brotherly affection, and of promoting Union, to which our esteemed brethren have alluded." The Moderator having expressed the sentiments of the resolution to the deputation, called upon Rev. Robert Sedgewick to offer special thanksgivings to the God of Love for the delights of christian intercourse now enjoyed, and for the progress which, by the gracious leadings of the Spirit and Providence of God, we are making toward Union.

Motion.

The Synod then adjourned, concluding with prayer.

EIGHTH SEDERUNT.

Same Place, 27th June, 10 o'clock, A.M.

The Synod met and was constituted. Present as formerly, except Rev. John Campbell, who was absent from indisposition, together with Rev. George Patterson.

Minutes having been read, the Synod proceeded to the order of the day, which was to take up the Appeal from parties in West River congregation against the decisions of the Presbytery of Pictou, by which said parties felt themselves to be aggrieved.

Appeal from West River.

The Moderator being a member of Pictou Presbytery, and also of a Committee of Presbytery appointed to conduct the case, retired from the chair, which was taken by the Rev. John Cameron, the last Moderator. It being found that parties were present, the papers connected with the case were read, first the sentence appealed against, secondly, the reasons of appeal and answers, and then the whole record of the proceedings before the Presbytery. Mr. James McGregor inquired whether it were not possible to have an adjustment of the matters in dispute, without a formal and public examination of a subject painful in itself, and on which already much personal feeling of an unpleasant character exists.

Whereupon it was moved by Rev. P. G. McGregor, and seconded by Rev. Dr. Keir, "That the Synod appoint a Committee to confer with all the parties concerned, and to consider whether a settlement of the question be practicable without the necessity of a public investigation and to report to Synod."

Motion.

It was moved in amendment by Mr. Isaac Fleming, seconded by Mr. Charles Robson, "That the Synod proceed at once to the investigation of the case." When, a question being taken, there appeared 16 for the appointment of the Committee, 14 for proceeding to hear the case of the appellants, and 16 declined voting, so the motion passed. It was agreed

Amendment.

MINUTES OF SYNOD.

that the Committee shall consist of Rev. John Cameron, retiring Moderator, as chairman, Rev. J. L. Murdoch and Mr. C. Robson, from Halifax Presbytery, Rev. A. L. Wyllie and Mr. Isaac Fleming, of Truro Presbytery, Dr. Keir, of Prince Edward Island Presbytery, and Mr. James McGregor, of Pictou Presbytery. The Committee retired.

The Moderator resumed the chair, and, the hour of adjournment having arrived, the Synod closed with prayer.

NINTH SEDERUNT.

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

The Synod met, and, in absence of the Moderator, was constituted by the Rev. J. Byers, the last Moderator present. Present as formerly, except the members of Committee appointed at the last sederunt, and Rev. Messrs. Roy, Watson, Bayne, Waddell, Walker, Miller, and Professor Ross, who were in attendance on the Committee which had retired. Minutes of last sederunt were read and approved. Agreed that the Presbyteries of Halifax and Truro be directed to meet and make their appointments for the supply of Mr. Smith's pulpit, and to report before the rising of Synod, the necessary expenses to be borne from the Synod fund, and that the same course be followed by the Presbyteries of Pictou and Prince Edward Island.

Appeal from
Mr James.

The Synod next took up an Appeal from Alexander James, Esq., Elder, against a decision of the Session of Poplar Grove Church, by which decision the Session refused to receive into membership a certified member of a Congregationalist Church, while they at the same time extended to the individual the privilege of religious communion. Read extracts from the Session, and also the reasons assigned by appellant against the decision of Session.

This subject remained under consideration up to the hour of adjournment. Closed with prayer, after leave of absence had been given to Mr. William Archibald.

TENTH SEDERUNT.

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

The Synod met and was constituted by the Rev. J. Byers, Moderator *pro tem.* Present as formerly, except Mr. William Archibald, absent by permission. Read and approved the minutes of last sederunt. Agreed that the discussion on the Appeal from decision of Poplar Grove Session be postponed until there shall be a larger attendance.

Appeal postponed.

Lecturer appointed.

Settlement of a probationer.

Agreed that Rev. A. L. Wyllie be appointed to lecture at next Synod. Agreed that the Professors' salaries be paid from the usual funds, also the Clerk's allowance of £5, also Printing Bill and 5s. for Postage and Stationery, also 20s. to the Janitor and 20s. for light.

Mr. McCulloch inquired whether the Synod would sanction the appointment of a probationer for six or twelve months to foster a preaching station, in the hope of its becoming a self sustaining congregation, provided

that a preacher should be inclined to accept such an offer. The Synod sanctioned the proposal.

Members of Pictou Presbytery being now present, Mr. Waddell was heard in support of an Overture prepared by himself, asking the Synod to give directions that certificates of disjunction should be, where practicable, addressed to some particular Church organization. After the subject had been discussed Mr. Waddell withdrew the Overture.

Overture on disjunction certificates.

The Committee of Synod appointed to attempt a settlement between parties in the Appeal case from West River having entered, the chairman laid before the Synod the following Report :—

The Committee appointed by Synod to confer with the parties at issue beg leave to report that they have succeeded in bringing the parties at variance to a mutual and amicable reconciliation.

Report on West River case.

The dissentients proposed that the matter be adjusted on the following terms :—

1. That the Presbytery of Pictou acknowledge that they used the witnesses who appeared before them discourteously.

The Committee, after hearing the parties, were of opinion that there was ground for the complaint, after which the dissentients expressed themselves satisfied with the explanation given.

2. That satisfactory arrangements be entered into relative to their proportion of Church property, which, being done, they would be willing to be separated from the congregation.

The following agreement was entered into and signed by the representatives of both parties :—

[COPY]

We, the undersigned representatives of the congregation adhering to Mr. Watson, and of the dissentients, respectively agree to the following terms of compromise, viz., that the adherents of Mr. Watson shall purchase from the dissentients their right and title to their share of West River Meeting House and Church property, the value of which shall be fixed by three persons mutually agreed upon; that good security shall be given for the payment of the money within eighteen months from this date; and that, until the payment of the money, the dissentients shall occupy the house every alternate Sabbath, their occupancy ceasing whenever the money is paid.

New Glasgow, 27th June, 1856.

The Committee beg leave to bring under the notice of Synod that these arrangements were entered into with the express understanding that a disjunction be granted, and the Committee recommend to Synod to grant such disjunction.

J. CAMERON, Convener.

The Report of the Committee was received and approved, and their diligence highly commended. Whereupon it was moved by Rev. Mr. Sedgewick, seconded by Rev. G. Christie, "That the Report of the Committee be adopted as the final deliverance of the Synod in the matter."—It was moved in amendment by Rev. J. McG. McKay, seconded by Rev. W. McCulloch, "That this Synod support the Report of the Committee so far as they have dealt with the matter contained in the Appeal."—When, the vote being taken, there appeared for the motion 9, for the amendment 6. The members of the Pictou Presbytery and the members

Report received. Motion.

Amendment.

of Committee not having voted. Mr. McCulloch dissented, and gave notice that he would give in his reasons in writing.

Concluded with prayer.

ELEVENTH SEDERUNT.

Same Place, June 28th, 10 o'clock, A.M.

- Present. The Synod met and was constituted by the Moderator. Present as formerly, together with Rev. J. Campbell and Mr. Matthew McCurdy, in room of Mr. Samuel Archibald, Ruling Elder, from Truro, except Rev. James Smith, who was absent on business of Synod, and Messrs. James Scott and Alexander Brenton. Read and approved the minutes of last sederunt.
- Rev. James Waddell obtained leave to retire at pleasure. Rev. A. L. Wyllie gave notice of motion to rescind the appointment of a Lecturer for next year. On motion it was agreed that the Synod, at the close of the present sederunt, shall adjourn till Monday at 2 o'clock, P.M.
- Resumed West River business. Resumed consideration of the recommendation of the Committee of Synod in reference to the disjoining of disaffected parties from West River congregation. After long discussion the following motion and successive amendments were laid on the table:—
- Mr Christie's motion. Moved by Rev. George Christie, "That in accordance with the recommendation of the Report the Synod now disjoin the appellants, and those who may adhere to them, from the West River congregation."
- Mr Murdoch's. Moved in amendment by Rev. J. L. Murdoch, "That the Synod appoint one of their number to preach in West River on Monday next, and, after notice given on the preceding Sabbath, call a meeting, take the names of persons wishing a disjunction, and declare them disjoined by the authority of Synod."
- Mr Sedgewick's. Rev. Robert Sedgewick moved, "That the Synod enjoin the Presbytery of Pictou to disjoin the appellants and their adherents from the West River congregation at their next ordinary meeting."
- Mr McKay's. Rev. J. McG. McKay moved, "That the Synod hereby adopt the recommendation of the Committee, disjoin the dissentients, appoint one of its members to form them into a congregation in connection with another Presbytery, if they insist upon it."
- All these motions being seconded, the question was taken on the last amendment, for or against, when their appeared—
- Names journalized. *For.*—Rev. Messrs. J. Ross, McCulloch, Cameron, Murray, Byers, McLeod, Fraser and McKay, and Messrs. McCurdy, Robson, Fleming and McLeod—12 in number
- Against.*—Rev. Messrs. Murdoch, Roy, Baxter, McGregor, Christie, Bayne, Miller, Waddell, Watson, Sedgewick, Patterson, Honeyman, Wyllie and McLean, and Messrs. Cameron, Forbes, Murray, Thomson, Lauder and Baird—20 in number.
- Declined Voting.*—Rev. Messrs. Keir, McGilvray, Campbell, Clark, and Crawford, and Mr. Robert Stewart—6 in number. So the amendment was lost.
- The vote was then taken on the second amendment, which was proposed by Mr. Sedgewick, for or against, when there appeared—
- For.*—Rev. Messrs. Roy, Baxter, Bayne, Miller, Waddell, Watson,

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Sedgewick and McLean, and Messrs. Forbes, Murray, Thomson and Lauder—12 in number.

Against.—Rev. Messrs. Murdoch, J. Ross, McCulloch, McGregor, Christie, Cameron, Patterson, Murray, Honeyman, Wyllie, Crawford, McLeod and McKay, and Messrs. Cameron, McCurdy, Robson, McGregor, Fleming, McLeod and Baird—20 in number.

Declined Voting.—Rev. Messrs. Keir, McGilvray, Campbell, Byers, Clark and Fraser, and Mr. R. Stewart—7 in number. So that the amendment was negatived.

The question was then taken between Mr. Christie's motion and the amendment moved by Mr. Murdoch, when there appeared—

For the Motion.—Rev. Messrs. Keir, Roy, Baxter, Campbell, Christie, Bayne, Miller, Waddell, Patterson, Honeyman, Wyllie, Byers and Crawford, and Messrs. Cameron, Forbes, McCurdy, Murray, Thomson, Lauder and Baird—20 in number.

For the Amendment.—Rev. Messrs. Murdoch, J. Ross, McCulloch, McGregor, Cameron, McLeod, McLean and Fraser, and Messrs. Robson and Fleming—10 in number.

Declined Voting.—Rev. Messrs. Keir, McGilvray, Watson, Sedgewick, Murray, Clarke and McKay, and Messrs. Stewart, McGregor and McLeod—10 in number.

So the motion was carried. Rev. E. Ross was not in the house when the vote was taken.

It was then moved by the Rev. George Patterson, "That, if after farther intercourse between the Pictou Presbytery and the dissentients, the latter should desire a connexion with another Presbytery, the Presbytery to which they may apply be directed to take the regular steps for their being organized into a congregation."

Moved in amendment by Rev. W. McCulloch, "That the Synod direct the Presbytery to meet and organize the appellants and their adherents into a congregation, and, if after a reasonable time for intercourse and consideration, a reconciliation be found impracticable, that they shall in such case be transferred, and they are hereby transferred, to the Presbytery of Truro, should they see fit to apply to said Presbytery."

Decision on
new congrega-
tion.

When there was, after discussion and the calling of the Roll, a large majority in favour of the amendment. Leave of absence was granted to Mr. James Crow and Mr. James Lauder.

Closed with prayer.

TWELFTH SEDERUNT.

Same Place, June 30th, 2 o'clock, P.M.

The Synod met and was constituted. Present—Rev. Messrs. Keir, Murdoch, McGilvray, Smith, Roy, Baxter, J. Ross, Campbell, McCulloch, McGregor, Bayne, Waddall, Cameron, Watson, Walker, Sedgewick, E. Ross, Patterson, Murray, Honeyman, Wyllie, Byers, Crawford, McLeod, McLean, Fraser and McKay, and Messrs. Forbes, Tupper, Thomson, McGregor, Stewart, Murray, Fleming, Baird, McLeod Robson, and Matthew McCurdy, Ruling Elder from Truro.

Members pre-
sent.

Mr. Cameron gave notice of motion on the subject of Temperance for the commencement of next sederunt. Rev. J. Waddell gave notice of reconsideration of the vote by which the disjoined parties at West River

Temperance.

- were authorized, should they desire it, of connecting themselves with Truro Presbytery.
- Lecturer rescinded. Mr. Wyllie, after notice given, moved "That the appointment of a Lecturer for next Synod be rescinded." The motion passed. Mr. Waddell moved, "That the evening usually set apart for the Lecture be devoted to conference and prayer with the people among whom the Synod meet." Mr. Baxter moved in amendment, "That the time be occupied by the Synod in Committee of the whole House on the state of the Church."—Mr. Cameron moved, "That the Synod take up the next business on the docket," when the Synod resolved to proceed with business. Mr. Baxter gave notice of reconsideration of this vote.
- Report of Home Mission Board. The Synod called for the Report of the Board of Home Missions, which was read by Rev. George Patterson, Secretary, from which it appeared that seven missionaries had been employed under the direction of the various Presbyteries, and a large amount of missionary labour performed. The Report was received and the diligence of the Committee approved.
- Recommendations of Board. Yarmouth. Took up the consideration of the recommendations of the Board. The first point was a reference to Synod on the propriety of continuing the grant to Yarmouth congregation. Mr. Murdoch read the decision of Presbytery after making inquiry on the subject, recommending the continuance of the grant, as that congregation has suffered very severely from the death and removal of members and subscribers. After consideration it was unanimously agreed that the supplement be continued. The Board submitted a reference from the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island, asking aid in money and help from brethren of other Presbyteries to provide supply for adherents of our Church in Charlottetown and neighbouring stations. On motion it was agreed unanimously to express approval of the measure contemplated, and to promise sympathy and assistance in the movement. The Pictou Presbytery were directed to cooperate with the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island in providing supply and in procuring pecuniary help, so soon as the latter Presbytery have their plans matured. The case of Annapolis congregation was then stated, when it was unanimously agreed that the Synod will grant for a series of years the sum of fifty pounds, provided that congregation will raise one hundred pounds for the support of the pastor. A paper from Annapolis. Rev. D. McCurdy was read, in which he complained of thirty shillings being refused by the Board which the Halifax Presbytery considered due to him. It was agreed that, while the decision of the Board was in accordance with the rule of Synod, that the sum asked by the Presbytery be granted.
- Claim of Rev D. McCurdy. The Board was re-appointed with their former powers. Agreed that the minutes be laid on the table and not read for the present year.
- Board re-appointed. The Synod next took up the suggestions of the Board of Foreign Missions. The first was a recommendation to give a pecuniary acknowledgment of our gratitude to the London Missionary Society for the many services which they have rendered to our missionaries. It was unanimously agreed that fifty pounds sterling be remitted as an expression of our gratitude to that Society.
- Suggestions of Board of For. Missions. Grant to London Society. The Board next inquired whether the Synod would authorize the Board to negotiate for the services of two additional missionaries, and to accept them when the Synod granted the power sought.
- Two more missionaries. Periodicals. The whole question of Periodicals was remitted to the Boards of Home and Foreign Missions, when the latter Board was re-appointed and encouraged to prosecute its work.

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Leave of absence from the next sederunt was granted to the Committee on Statistics.

Closed with prayer.

THIRTEENTH SEDERUNT.

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

The Synod met and was constituted. Present as at last sederunt, with Rev. G. M. Clark, except the members of the Committee on Statistics. Read the minutes of last sederunt.

After notice given, it was moved by the Rev. John Cameron that the Synod pass the following resolutions:—

“That, whereas Intemperance is a vice, alike condemned by God’s Word, and destructive of man’s interests, and whereas it is the duty of the Church of Christ to use every means to purify the Church, and whereas this cannot be done without the suppression of Intemperance, Resolutions on Temperance.

Resolved 1st. That hereafter no person shall be continued in the fellowship of this Church, who is engaged either in the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors, except for chemical and medicinal purposes.

Resolved 2nd. That no person shall be continued in the fellowship of this Church, who, in his magisterial capacity or otherwise, shall vote for licensing to sell Alcoholic liquors, the Synod believing such conduct to be directly at variance with the ends of a christian profession and destructive of sound morality.”

The motion being seconded, it was unanimously resolved—

“That the Synod having, at their meeting in 1853, declared their views on this subject 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,’ agree to require Sessions to report at next meeting the progress that they have made in carrying out this decision, and to give their opinion on the propriety of embodying the principle of Mr. Cameron’s resolutions in a positive enactment.” Disposed of.

Agreed that the Synod enjoin all the ministers in charge of congregations to preach a sermon in favour of total abstinence on the last Sabbath of the year, or as nearly at that time as possible. Sermon.

Rev. Mr. Waddell, on the part of Pictou Presbytery, asked the Synod to grant to the Presbytery an interview with the Synodical Committee on the Appeal from parties in West River congregation respecting their report to Synod, with a view to the removal of misunderstandings and the restoration of harmony. The Synod agreed, and the Committee were directed to meet with the Presbytery, all the parties having leave to attend. West River case.

Leave was granted to the Prince Edward Island Presbytery to depart from Synod after the morning sederunt to-morrow. The Synod agreed to adjourn to give the Committee and Presbytery of Pictou an opportunity of meeting to-night, till to-morrow morning at 9 o’clock.

Closed with prayer.

FOURTEENTH SEDERUNT.

Same Place, July 1st, 9 o'clock, A.M.

The Synod met and was constituted. Present as formerly.

Report on West River case amended. The Committee appointed to meet with the Presbytery of Pictou reported that they had done so, and, after consideration, had agreed to amend their Report by stating, that in that part of their Report in which they found that there were some grounds for the charge that the witnesses had been treated with discourtesy, they did not mean to say that the discourtesy was intentional.

The Synod agreed to allow the Committee to make said amendment, and accepted it.

Resolutions amended minutes of Pictou Presbytery. It was then moved by Rev. W. McCulloch, seconded by Rev. Isaac Murray, "That, whereas the Committee of Synod on the Appeal from dissentients in the West River congregation did not investigate the charge of unsound doctrine as not remitted to them by the Synod and in which the appellants concurred; and whereas those who moved the adoption of the Report of the Committee did not consider that adoption as barring the way of Synod in the investigation of the above charge; and whereas the character of Synod demands that charges so made should neither be passed by in silence nor treated as matters of light importance; and resolved that the minutes of Presbytery containing the charges of unsoundness, the evidence thereon, together with the Presbytery's finding, be taken into consideration, with the view of coming to such decision as the necessities of the case may demand."

Free discussion. The resolution passed; when it was unanimously agreed, on motion of Rev. Professor Smith, seconded by Rev. P. G. McGregor, "That the Pictou Presbytery shall have the same privilege of discussion and of vote as the other members of Synod, while the investigation now agreed to is going on."

Minutes read on 1st charge. The minutes of the Presbytery were then read on the first charge brought against Mr. Watson, and the record of the evidence in the case. Members expressed their opinion, when it was moved by Rev. W. McCulloch and seconded by Rev. G. Patterson, "That the Synod find, from the evidence given, that the charge brought against Mr. Watson of having used expressions, whose tendency was to produce erroneous impressions, was proved; that the Presbytery should have shewn, on their minutes, that they had enjoined greater caution for the future, and, from the statements now made by Mr. Watson, agree to exonerate him." Motion passed.

Other charges. In reference to the other counts, it was, on motion of Rev. J. L. Murdoch, unanimously agreed, "That this Synod, having heard parties fully in the matter, do not find that either Mr. Watson or the Pictou Presbytery hold sentiments at variance with our Standards, and regret that the Pictou Presbytery had not been so explicit in their minutes as to draw the line between statements made by Mr. Watson and the opinions held by him, and that, while it was proved that he made use of language calculated to convey erroneous sentiments, it was not proved that he entertained them."

Next meeting. The Synod proceeded to settle the place of next meeting before the departure of the brethren of Prince Edward Island Presbytery. Charlottetown, Pictou, and Truro, were in succession moved as the place for the next meeting of Synod, when Truro was selected. Closed with prayer.

FIFTEENTH SEDERUNT.

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

The Synod met and was constituted. Present as at last sederunt, except Rev. Messrs. Roy and Fraser. Read and approved the minutes of last sederunt.

Resumed the consideration of the Report of the Board of Superintendence of Seminary. It was moved and agreed that the Synod proceed to determine the site of the Seminary. It was then moved by Rev. J. Waddell that the site of the Seminary be Truro. Moved by Rev. A. McGilvray that the site of the Institution be in New Glasgow. Rev. A. L. Wyllie moved that a Committee be appointed to consider the subject and report at next meeting of Synod, their report to be given in at an early sederunt, which, being seconded, was put and lost. The question was then taken between Truro and New Glasgow, when there appeared seventeen for each, and the Moderator decided for Truro. It was moved by Mr. Waddell and seconded by Mr. Baxter that a Committee be appointed to select a site, to make preparations for building, and to proceed as far as prudence will warrant. It was moved in amendment, "That, in the present divided state of the Synod, it is deemed inexpedient to proceed at present to the erection of buildings." When, the question being taken between the motion and amendment, there appeared for the motion 16, for the amendment 11; so the motion passed. The selection of the site was remitted to the Seminary Board. The following Board was then appointed, the Professors ex officio, Rev. Messrs. McCulloch, Baxter, E. Ross, Wyllie, Cameron and McKay, and Messrs. Robert Smith, David McCurdy and Isaac Fleming.

On motion it was agreed that the same Committee be directed to consider the propriety of the increase of the salary of Professor Ross, and report at the next meeting of Synod.

The Report on the Special Effort being called for, the Rev. George Patterson reported that he had made some progress in the business, but that for reasons stated he and Professor Ross had resolved to delay farther proceedings in the meantime.

The Report was received and Mr. Patterson's conduct approved, and it was agreed to prosecute the measure vigorously.

The Rev. Mr. Cameron was appointed to prosecute the measure in the Halifax Presbytery, Mr. McCulloch for the Truro Presbytery, Mr. Murray for the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island, and the Presbytery of Pictou were left to make their own arrangements for carrying it out within their own bounds.

* The Synod re-appointed the Committee of Co-operation with the other Presbyterian Bodies, with full power to treat with the Governors of Dalhousie College so as to represent to them our views fully, and at the same time to receive theirs, and to report to Synod.

Closed with prayer.

SIXTEENTH SEDERUNT.

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

The Synod met and was constituted. Present as at last sederunt, except Rev. Messrs. Keir, Murdoch, Christie, Murray, Clark and Crawford,

- and Messrs. Cameron, Forbes, McCurdy, Robson, Murray, Thomson, Stewart, Fleming, McLeod and Baird. Rev. A. P. Miller was also present.
- Instructions to committee of co-operation.** The Committee of Co-operation were directed to co-operate with the movements of the Free Church on Collegiate Education, so far as our views and intentions harmonize. Ordered that their expenses during the past year be paid from the Synod Fund.
- Statistics.** The Committee were appointed a deputation to wait upon the Synod of the Church of Scotland during the present week, and should the Free Church Synod meet before the next meeting of this Synod, they were farther directed to meet that body, should this be practicable.
- To be published.** Received the Report of the Committee on Statistics, shewing a full statement of the financial and general condition of the thirty-six congregations which have reported, arranged in tabular form.
- Report of Educational B'rd.** The Report was received, and the diligence of the Committee highly approved. It was agreed that the Report be published along with the Table. That, as soon as possible after the printing of the returns, a copy be laid on the table of each Presbytery; and Presbyteries are directed to deal with congregations who have not contributed to the different schemes of the Church.
- Mr Bayne's intercourse with U. P. Church.** Rev. James Ross read the Report of the Educational Board, which was received and the diligence of the Board approved. Agreed to drop the words "auditing the accounts" from the second Bye-law.
- Report of committee on Questions.** Rev. J. Bayne read an account of his intercourse with the Churches in Scotland, which shewed the means adopted by him for bringing the subject of our Foreign Missions particularly before the Theological Students and Mission Board of the Church. The Report was received, Mr. Bayne's diligence approved, and the Synod were gratified to receive a copy of the Synod minutes of the United Presbyterian Church, 1855, from Rev. D. Crawford, which Mr Bayne laid on the table.
- Testimonial to Mr Trotter.** The convener of the Committee appointed to revise the Questions to be put at Presbyterial Visitations laid on the table their Report and the revised questions. It was agreed that both documents be printed in the *Register*, and the Questions sent down to Sessions to consider and report to next Synod. The diligence of the Committee was approved.
- The Committee appointed to prepare a testimonial to the character of Rev. T. Trotter, not being able to meet during the past year, and having done nothing, the Synod agreed that Rev. Professor Ross and Rev. George Walker shall be appointed to attend to this duty immediately, and the Clerk was directed to enter the testimonial on the minutes and to send a copy of it to Mrs. Trotter, the widow of Rev. T. Trotter. The testimonial is as follows:—

The Rev. Thomas Trotter, for whose memory this Synod has resolved to enter upon its records an expression of its affection and esteem, was one of a class of ministers, fast passing away from our midst, who left the comforts and endearments of his native land and cast in his lot amongst his expatriated countrymen in this colony when Nova Scotia was little else than an unbroken forest.

After completing the usual curriculum in the University of Edinburgh he studied theology under Dr Lawson, and subsequently settled in the Burgher congregation in Johnshaven where he exercised his ministry during ten years with great efficiency and success; and where his memory is still embalmed in the affections of many. He was, for several years, the Clerk of the Aberdeen Presbytery, and discharged the duties of that office with exemplary diligence and fidelity, and manifested a thorough acquaintance with the rules and order of the Church. His co-presbyters still retain an affectionate recollection of his warm-hearted friendship, his varied attainments, his extensive scholarship, and

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his originality of genius. He immigrated into this country in 1818; and was inducted into the pastoral charge of the congregation in Antigonishe in the same year. Under his ministry the congregation increased in number, intelligence, and influence; and to his exertions and counsel many neighboring congregations are greatly indebted for their present position. For his labors he received very little pecuniary compensation. His services were, to a great extent, gratuitous. His preaching was characterized by simplicity of arrangement and clearness of illustration. He was a diligent student during his whole life; and his store of learning was correspondingly rich and extensive. In the proceedings in Church Courts he always manifested deep interest, and took an active part. On such occasions his extensive information was laid under contribution for the illustration of the subject under discussion, and his addresses were listened to with respectful attention. His frequent contributions to the provincial press, and his occasional communications to British periodicals, attest the diligence and success with which he prosecuted his studies. He was the intimate friend of Mr Ballantine, author of "An Examination of the Human Mind," and he maintained an extensive friendly and literary correspondence with eminent men in his native land, and in particular with some of his fellow-students.

About two years before his death he was struck with paralysis which partially laid him aside from active duty. He bore his trials with christian fortitude, and whilst reflecting on his past life he found—as every good man finds—much to regret; yet, believing that he had fulfilled the work which his divine Master had given him to do, he waited patiently the hour of release, and frequently expressed his willingness to obey the summons whenever it should be sent. On the 20th day of April 1855 he meekly resigned his spirit into the hands of his Heavenly Father, and fell asleep in Jesus.

The Committee appointed to examine the minutes of Presbytery reported that they had attended to the duty, and find the minutes accurately kept in general, and business regularly conducted. The Report of the Committee was received, and the diligence of the Committee approved.

Report of committee on Presbytery minutes.

The farther consideration of the Appeal from a member of the Session of Poplar Grove Church, and the decision thereon, were postponed till next Synod. Agreed that the farther prosecution of the Rules of Procedure be also postponed.

Subjects deferred.

Agreed that the Synod adjourn to meet at Truro on the fourth Tuesday of June, 1857, at 11 o'clock, A.M. The Roll was called and it was found that no member was absent without leave.

Next meeting.

The minutes of the present sederunt were read, when the Synod adjourned, after prayer, praise, and the Apostolic Benediction.

PETER G. MCGREGOR,

New Glasgow, July 1st, 1856.

Synod Clerk.

SYNOD ROLL—1856.

Ministers.	Elders.	Congregations.
4 Rev. John Keir, D.D. Thomas S. Crowe.		Princetown, P. E. I.
1 Angus McGilvray. Robert S. Patterson.	5 Duncan Cameron.	Maitland and Noel.
3 John L. Murdoch.		Up. Settlement E. River
1 James Smith.	2 Eliakim Tupper.	Bedeque, P. E. I.
1 David Roy. John McCurdy.	6 Kenneth Forbes.	Windsor and Newport.
1 John I. Baxter.		Upper Stewiacke.
2 James Ross.	1 James Crow.	James' Church, N. Glasgow
1 John Campbell.		Miramichi.
1 William McCulloch.	Henry Archibald.	Onslow.
1 Peter G. McGregor.	{ 1 Samuel Archibald. }	St. Mary's.
5 George Christie.	{ 12 Matthew McCurdy. }	Truro.
1 James Bayne.	5 Charles Robson.	Halifax.
1 Andrew P. Miller.		Yarmouth.
2 James Waddell.	1 John Murray.	Pictou.
1 John Cameron. James Allan.	1 Thomas Thomson.	Merigomish.
2 James Watson.	1 James Lauder.	River John.
1 George Walker.	1 James Scott.	Nine Mile River.
4 Robert Sedgewick.		Cove Head, P. E. I.
3 Ebenezer Ross.	2 Robert Stewart.	West River.
8 George Patterson.	1 James McGregor.	Primitive Ch., N. Glasgow.
4 Isaac Murray.	2 William Archibald.	Musquodoboit.
1 David Honeyman.	3 Isaac Fleming.	Upper Londonderry.
2 Alex. L. Wyllie. Robert Blackwood.	1 Ebenezer McLeod.	Salem Ch., Green Hill.
2 James Byers.	John McDonald.	Cavendish & New London.
1 George M. Clark.	2 John Baird.	Antigonish.
4 Henry Crawford.		Lower Londonderry.
4 John McLeod.		New Annand.
1 James McLean.		Tatamagouche.
4 Allan Fraser.		Shelburne.
3 James McG. McKay. Samuel Johnston.		St. Peter's, P. E. I.
	2 Alexander Brenton.	Grand River, P. E. I.
		Shubenacadie.
		Cascumpeque, P. E. I.
		Parrsboro'.
		Harvey, N. B.
		Middle Stewiacke.

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