

1834-35
EXTRACTS

FROM THE

MINUTES

OF THE

UNITED SYNOD OF UPPER CANADA,

AT

THEIR MEETING IN TORONTO, (LATE YORK,)

MONDAY, 16th JUNE, 1834,

AND CONTINUED BY ADJOURNMENT.

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The EDITH *and* LORNE PIERCE
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Queen's University at Kingston

EXTRACTS FROM THE MINUTES
OF THE
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At their Meeting in Toronto, (late York,) Monday, June 16, 1834,
AND CONTINUED BY ADJOURNMENT.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TORONTO, }
Monday, June 16, 1834. }

The United Synod of Upper Canada met, according to adjournment, and was opened by a sermon delivered by the Rev. Robt. Lyle, A. M.

After public worship the Roll was called and marked.—Members present:—

<i>Ministers.</i>	<i>Elders.</i>
ROBT. McDOWALL,	ISAAC FRASER,
WILLIAM SMART,	_____
WILLIAM BELL,	_____
WILLIAM JENKINS,	ROBT. MARSH,
JAMES HARRIS,	MALCOLM McLELLAN,
WILLIAM KING,	GILBERT BASTEDQ,
ANDREW BELL,	EPHRAIM STEEN,
ROBT. LYLE,	_____
JOHN BRYNING,	ABRAHAM YONGE,
DUNCAN McMILLAN.....	JOHN CHRUGHTON.

In consequence of the absence of the Moderator, the Rev. Robt. McDowall was chosen Moderator.

The Minutes of last Meeting of Synod read and approved.

The Rev. James Rogers, having been ordained to the pastoral charge of the Church in Demorestville, and the Rev. James George installed over the Church in Scarborough, by the York Presbytery, since the last meeting of Synod, their names on motion were added to the Roll.

The Rev. Peter Ferguson, Minister of Esquesing, having withdrawn from this ecclesiastical body, and united himself with the Synod of Canada in connexion with the Church of Scotland, in an irregular, disorderly, and unpresbyterial manner,
Resolved,—That his name be erased from the Synod Roll.

Adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock to-morrow morning.—Concluded with prayer.

*Tuesday morning, 8 o'clock, }
June 17, 1834. }*

Synod met and was constituted with prayer by the Moderator.—Members present as above.—Read the minutes of last sitting.

The Clerk was instructed to write to absent Members, and enjoin them to attend the next meeting of Synod, and assign their reasons of absence.

The Rev. George McClatchey having been installed over the congregation of Clinton, since the last meeting of Synod by the York Presbytery, his name was added to the Synod Roll, and with his Elder, Mr. Daniel Smith, took their seats accordingly. Mr. Adam Goodfellow, Elder from West Gwillimsbury took his seat. The Rev. Andrew Bell resigned his office as Synod Clerk, and the Rev. William Smart was chosen.

The Synod returned thanks to the Rev. Andrew Bell, for the manner in which he discharged the duties of Clerk.

The Reports of the Presbyteries being called for, were presented, read, and approved of.

REPORT OF THE BROCKVILLE PRESBYTERY.

It is with heart-felt gratitude the Presbytery have to state to the Synod that in most of the congregations under their care, the presence of the great Head of the Church has been enjoyed in their enlargement, peace and order.

At our meeting in July, Mr. John Dickey having been examined in the various branches of literature, and having gone through a regular course of trials, he was licensed to preach the Everlasting Gospel; and we are happy to state that he has given general satisfaction to the congregations among whom he has laboured.

In accordance with the appointment of the Synod, Mr. James Cairns, probationer, has also supplied the vacancies within our bounds, and has received a call from the congregation of TARBOLTON, which he has accepted, and the Presbytery intend to take the necessary steps for his ordination.

In September last, a visitation Presbytery was held in PERRIN, and after a minute investigation into the state of the congregation under the pastoral charge of the Rev. William Bell, the result was highly gratifying.

The Presbytery having received the Report of the Committee of the Synod respecting the Union with the Synod of Canada, this important subject was again taken into serious consideration, and after a solemn and prayerful review of all the circumstances connected with its history, the Presbytery was unanimous, that a Union with the Synod of Canada according to the terms proposed, would be unscriptural, derogatory to our character, as a public body, injurious to the vital cause of religion, prolifically disseminating the seeds of discord, productive of many evils, and attended with no good, moral or religious; and that for the following reasons:—

First,—That we consider our Probationers entitled to our support and protection, and from their character and standing are equally entitled to the same privileges as the Probationers of the Synod of Canada; and as they have unprecedentedly excluded them, we cannot therefore accept such a term of Union.

Secondly,—As the Synod of Canada have excluded all those Ministers, who may arrive in the Provinces, however sound in the faith, and collegiately qualified according to the standards of the Presbyterian Church, which would be a gross violation of the principles upon which our body was constituted, and in direct opposition to the resolutions adopted by the committee in Montreal, composed of Ministers and Laymen coming from the Church of Scotland; therefore to accept of such a term of Union would be a perpetual source of agitation to the Province, establishing a just ground of secession, and in every way calculated to propagate those unnecessary distinctions which have no foundation in the word of God, and have ever been the bane of the Church.

Thirdly,—That as a number of the Members of the Synod of Carada have protested against a union with us, even on the terms proposed, and as it has been our unceasing desire in the event of a union that it should be one of unanimity, undivided affection, and permanent utility; seeing therefore no prospect of these being realized, we conscientiously feel it to be a duty, to reject the terms proposed. But notwithstanding the above reasons for not uniting with the Synod of Canada, the Presbytery of Brockville would earnestly recommend to the Synod, to use all their exertions in all justifiable means to effect a union upon scriptural ground, and sound policy, in the confident expectation that all barriers will eventually be removed to the attainment of an object so intimately connected with the prosperity of the Presbyterian Church.

At our meeting at South Gower, in February, the Rev. R. Boyd, from the increase of the congregations under his charge, requested the Presbytery to permit him to relinquish the church and congregation in South Gower as soon as a Minister can be procured, with which the Presbytery complied. The Rev. Robt. Lyle also made the same request, for the like reasons, with respect to the congregation of Williamsburgh, to which the Presbytery acceded.

ROBT. LYLE, *Moderator*,
WILLIAM SMART, *P'y Clerk*.

REPORT OF YORK PRESBYTERY.

The Presbytery of York Report that on the 12th of June they ordained Mr. James Rogers to the work of the Ministry at Demorestville, and installed him in charge of the church and congregation in Demorestville, Hallowell, and Hillier.

On the 3d of July, the Rev. James George was received into connexion with this body after an examination as to his theological views. He was afterwards called by the church in Scarboro', and on the 22d of August last he was installed in the pastoral charge of the said church.

Mr. James Howey having accepted of a call from the church in Tecumseh, West Gwillimsbury and Essa, and having gone through his several pieces of trial for ordination with the approbation of the Presbytery, on the 9th of October last he was ordained to the work of the Ministry at Tecumseh, and installed in the pastoral charge of the aforesaid church.

The Rev. George McClatchey was called by the church in Clinton, and installed in the pastoral charge of it on the 23d May.

Mr. Thomas Johnston, probationer, has been labouring within our bounds since August last. He has accepted of a call from the congregation in Chinguacousey, and subjects for his several pieces of trial for ordination, have been prescribed to him by the Presbytery.

The Rev. Peter Ferguson left this body in January last, and his name has been taken from the Roll by order of the Presbytery.

The act of Synod with regard to visitation Presbyteries has been attended to by this Presbytery so far as in their power. One has been held in Mr. Jenkins' congregation at Richmond Hill; and when the Presbytery met by appointment to hold a visitation in Mr. Harris' congregation in the city of Toronto, (late York,) they were prevented from doing so by the Session.

GEORGE McCLATCHEY, *Moderator*,
ANDW. BELL, *P'y Clerk*.

Messrs. Boyd, Smart, Lyle, and King, were appointed to draft an Address to His Excellency Sir John Colborne, the Lieutenant Governor, &c. &c.

The Report of the Synod's Committee to confer with a Committee of the Synod of Canada upon the subject of Union, was presented and read, and after mature deliberation and discussion; the information contained in said Report confirming us that our Probationers and other Ministers not in immediate connexion with the Church of Scotland were excluded by the terms of the Synod of Canada, it was

Resolved,—That it is inexpedient at present to accede to the terms of Union proposed by the Synod of Canada, but we cannot relinquish the hope that the time is not far distant, when this Union will be effected upon terms satisfactory to both parties.

Adjourned to meet at 7 o'clock.—Concluded by prayer.

Tuesday evening, 7 o'clock.

Synod met—was constituted with prayer.—Members present as above.—Read the minutes of last meeting.

The Members of Synod were recommended to use every exertion in their power to encourage and qualify young men for superintending Common Schools and Literary Institutions.

Messrs. William Bell, Smart and McDowall were appointed a Committee to prepare a Book of Rules and Discipline.

Messrs. A. Bell, and Smart, were appointed to prepare a formula of questions for visitation Presbyteries, and present the same at the next meeting of Synod.

Messrs. Bell and Smart were instructed to prepare a pastoral letter addressed to the churches of this Synod.

Adjourned to meet at 6 o'clock to-morrow morning.—Concluded with prayer.

Wednesday morning, 6 o'clock.

Synod met—was constituted with prayer.—Members present as above.

An application having been presented from the congregation at Pleasant Bay, respecting money collected by Mr. Cory for the erection of a Seminary, the Synod gave instructions that if the said applicants will erect a Church connected with instruction for youth, and place the property in the same circumstances as to security as the property on which the Seminary was to be erected, the Synod authorizes them to apply the money for the purposes above mentioned.

Adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock.—Concluded with prayer.

Wednesday morning, 9 o'clock.

Synod met and was constituted with prayer.—Members present as above. Messrs. W. Bell, Boyd, Lyle, King, and Jenkins were appointed to meet the Rev. Mr. Harris and his session at 2 o'clock, to confer with them, and ascertain their connexion and difficulties with this Synod.

Adjourned to meet at 3 o'clock.

Wednesday, 3 o'clock.

Met and constituted with prayer.—Members present as above.

The Rev. Robt. McDowall, Moderator, was requested to preach before the Synod this evening at 7 o'clock, from Rom. i. 16.

The Committee appointed to confer with the congregation in Toronto, reported that the result of their conference was that no reconciliation could be effected.

The following is the dissent of the Rev. William Jenkins:—

I, William Jenkins, hereby solemnly dissent in my own name, and in the name of all those who may now, or hereafter accede to the same, against the United Synod of Upper Canada, for their reception of a bounty from the Civil Government as Ministers of the Gospel, because I believe it to be in some measure a silent approbation of and a giving countenance to those measures that have been so tremendous a source of many miseries to mankind ever since the Church and State have been united together, making the blessed religion of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, the cause of many wars, persecutions and oppressive measures to mankind in every part of the Christian world where they have been or do now exist.

WILLIAM JENKINS.

Toronto, June 18, 1834.

The Rev. James George, requested a letter of dismissal from the Synod, and the Clerk was instructed to furnish said letter.

The formula of questions for the Ordination of Ministers and Elders were considered and adopted.

Adjourned to meet at 6 o'clock to-morrow morning.—Concluded with prayer.

Thursday morning, 6 o'clock, June 19.

Synod met and was constituted with prayer.—Members present as above. The Address to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, was reported by the Committee and approved, and said Committee was appointed a deputation to present it.

ADDRESS.

To His Excellency SIR JOHN COLBORNE, K. C. B. Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Upper Canada, and Major General commanding His Majesty's Forces therein, &c. &c. &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

We, the United Synod of Upper Canada, convened at Toronto, the 19th day of June, 1834, beg leave most respectfully to address Your Excellency, and

assure you, that we feel highly gratified in that interest you have manifested for the peace, prosperity and happiness of His Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects over whom Your Excellency is appointed in this flourishing and happy Province.

Deeply interested as we are in all Your Excellency's measures, which promote the peace and prosperity of the community, and produce a unanimity both of action and sentiment, we have to lament that Your Excellency's earnest desire and Sir George Murray's recommendation to promote a Union between the Synod of Canada and the United Synod, has not been effected. From a sense of duty which we owe to Your Excellency and ourselves as a public body, from which the community must expect consistency of conduct, purity of motive, and uprightness of principle, have to state the reasons why the intended and highly desirable Union has not been realized.

The Synod of Canada has unequivocally refused to receive our Probationers into their connexion, or admit into their body, Ministers, however well qualified, unless from the Church of Scotland; and to form a Union upon these terms would be, in our opinion, a most gross dereliction of duty on our part, a total subversion of our established principles which were and still are to unite all Presbyterians now in the Province, or who may hereafter arrive, in one efficient body, and thereby strengthen the hands of the Government, promote peace in the community, and illustrate the power and purity of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

That Almighty God may enrich Your Excellency with every temporal and spiritual blessing, is the earnest prayer, of Your Excellency's most faithful and most obedient Servants.

(Signed) In name, presence, and by appointment of the Synod,
ROBERT McDOWALL, *Moderator*,
WILLIAM SMART, *Synod Clerk*.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE FOR EXAMINING THE MINUTES OF THE UNITED PRESBYTERY.

The Committee met and have to Report that said minutes were correct, with the exception of some omissions in the Report of the Committee of Ministers in the Home and Gore Districts, and some ambiguity with respect to the Rev. Robt. McDowall relinquishing his pastoral charge in Earnestown. Those omissions have been supplied.

The following question was submitted by the Rev. Robt. Boyd, viz.—Whether the members in full communion only, or the members of the church and congregations united should be allowed to vote in the election of a Minister.—The question was submitted as an overture for consideration until next meeting of Synod.

Adjourned to meet at 4 o'clock.—Concluded with prayer.

Thursday, 4 o'clock, June 19th, 1834.

The Synod met and was constituted with prayer.—Members present as above.

The Rev. James Harris applied for a letter of dismissal, and the Clerk was instructed to give one accordingly.

The deputation appointed to present the Synod's Address to His Excellency Sir John Colborne, K. C. B. Lieutenant Governor, &c. &c. &c. reported the following

ANSWER :

GENTLEMEN,

I thank you for this Address, and regret to learn that your efforts to form a Union with the Synod of Canada have proved unsuccessful.

I trust that the interests of Religion will be continued to be promoted in your several districts by your zeal and piety.

The Synod having heard the deputation's Report with lively interest, a Memorial was drawn up in the name of the Synod, praying His Excellency for an augmentation of the Government allowance, and that the Rev. George McClatchey, of Clinton, and the Rev. James Rogers, of Demorestville, may participate in the same.

The business being completed, the Synod adjourned, to meet in the Presbyterian Church in Brockville on the second Monday in June, 1935, at 6 o'clock in the evening.

Concluded with Singing, Prayer, and the Apostolic Benediction.

ROBT. McDOWALL, *Moderator*,
WM. SMART, *Synod Clerk*.



LIST OF MINISTERS OF THE UNITED SYNOD OF UPPER CANADA.

PRESBYTERY OF BROCKVILLE:

- Rev. ROBT. McDOWALL, Fredericksburgh.
- WILLIAM SMART, Brockville,
- WILLIAM BELL, Perth,
- ROBT. BOYD, A. M. Prescott,
- GEO. BUCHANAN, Beckwith,
- JOHN GEMMELL, Lanark,
- ROBT. LYLE, A. M. Osnaburgh.

PRESBYTERY OF YORK.

- Rev. WILLIAM JENKINS, Markham,
- WILLIAM KING, Nelson,
- ANDREW BELL, Toronto,
- JOHN BRYNING, Mount Pleasant,
- DUNCAN McMILLAN, Caledon,
- JAMES ROGERS, Demorestville,
- GEO. McCLATCHEY, Clinton,

** Rev. WILLIAM SMART, of Brockville, is Synod Clerk, and all communications should be addressed to him (post paid.)