

ABSTRACT

FROM THE MINUTES OF THE SYNOD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NOVA-SCOTIA.

1844.

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PICTOU CHURCH, JULY 10th, 1844.

THE Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova-Scotia met, after a Sermon by the Rev. John Campbell, the Moderator, from 1 Cor. ix. 12, "Lest we should hinder the Gospel of Christ," and was constituted.

The Presbytery of Pictou reported that the Rev. Peter G. MacGregor has been loosed from his pastoral relation to the Congregation of Guysborough, and transferred to the Presbytery of Truro, and that his name has been dropt from the Roll of Presbytery,—that Mr. Andrew P. Miller, Preacher of the Gospel, has been ordained to the collegiate charge of the Congregation of Marigonish,—and the Rev. James Waddell has been admitted to the pastoral charge of the Congregation of River John, since the last meeting of Synod, and that their names have been added to the Presbytery Roll.

The Presbytery of Truro reported that the Rev. Peter G. MacGregor has been admitted to the pastoral charge of the Congregation at Halifax, since the last meeting of Synod, and that his name has been added to the Roll of Presbytery.

The Moderator reported that, since last meeting of Synod, it has pleased the Great Head of the Church to remove by death the Rev. Thomas MacCulloch, D. D., and Professor of Divinity to this Synod.

The Clerk was ordered to make the requisite alterations in the Roll of Synod, in accordance with these reports.

On motion, it was unanimously resolved that a Committee be appointed to prepare, for insertion upon the minutes, an expression of the high personal esteem in which the late Dr. MacCulloch was held by this Synod, and of the deep sense which they entertain of the important services rendered to the Presbyterian Church of Nova-Scotia, by him and his venerable conductors.

The Rev. Messrs. Trotter, MacKinlay, Keir and Murdoch, and Messrs. Matheson and Patterson, Ruling Elders, were appointed a Committee to carry the foregoing Resolution into effect, Mr. MacKinlay to be Convener.

Received and read the Report of the Committee appointed to correspond with the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island, in making enquiries into the situation and conduct of the Rev. John C. Sinclair. The diligence of the acting Committee was approved, and the report adopted. Whereupon it was ordered that Mr. Sinclair's name be annexed to the Synod Roll.

The Rev. Peter G. MacGregor was unanimously chosen Moderator, and took the chair accordingly.

The usual Committees were then appointed, and a part of the Evening Sederunt was spent in devotional exercises.

JULY 11th.

Read the minutes of last meeting of Synod.

Received the Reports of the several Presbyteries on the Resolution proposed at last meeting of Synod, respecting the Imposition of Hands at the ordination of Ruling Elders. After reasoning, the following Resolution was moved, seconded, and carried, viz:—

"That it is the opinion of this Synod that persons may be set apart to the office of the Eldership by the Imposition of Hands, and that Sessions have power to perform this service."

The Synod also recommended to the Sessions to introduce uniformity in practice on this subject as speedily as practicable.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. Trotter, the Synod unanimously agreed strongly to recommend the several Congregations in its connection, according to their ability, to assist the Congregation in Halifax in erecting their place of Worship.

The Rev. Messrs. Kier, McGilvray, and MacCulloch, were appointed a Committee to carry the preceding Resolution into effect—Mr. MacCulloch to be Convener.

Agreed that hereafter all reports, references, resolutions, motions, and notices of motion, be submitted in writing.

Received and read the Reports of the several Presbyteries, respecting the Overtures on Foreign Missions, recommended to them for consideration by this Synod, at its last meeting.

Read also a deeply interesting Memorial on the same subject from the Presbytery of P. E. Island.

After reasoning, the Overture was adopted, and a Committee, or Board of Foreign Missions, consisting of the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island, with the Rev. Messrs. Bayne, Waddell, MacCurdy and Baxter, and Mr. Isaac Logan and Dr. Waddell, was appointed,—three to form a quorum, and Mr. Kier to be Convener.

The Rev. Mr. Trotter read part of a dissertation on "The Apostacy of the Middle Ages, viewed as a great and beneficial arrangement of Providence."

JULY 12th.

Proceeded to the appointment of a Professor of Divinity, The Rev. Mr. Douglas, being requested by the Moderator, appropriately addressed the Throne of Grace, imploring Divine direction in the important business in which the Synod was about to engage.

After some discussion, it was agreed that in the mean time only one Professor of Divinity shall be appointed, with a salary of £30 per annum, with the understanding that if at a future period any addition shall be made to the number, the Synod will then adjust their salaries to the resources of the body, and the number of Professors employed.

The Rev. Messrs. Kier, MacKinlay and Trotter were proposed as candidates for the office. Messrs. MacKinlay and Trotter ultimately declined being put in nomination, and Mr. Kier was unanimously chosen. His election was intimated to him by the Moderator.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. Trotter, it was agreed to appoint a Committee to express the sympathy of this Synod with the Free Protestant Church of Scotland. The Rev. Messrs. Trotter, MacKinlay and the Clerk, were appointed a Committee in accordance with the preceding motion.—Mr. Trotter to be Convener.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. MacCulloch, it was agreed that the existing Committee of Missions be appointed a Board of Domestic Missions, for the purpose of carrying into effect the objects contemplated in the formation of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and that the said Society be regularly and synodically recognised.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. Christie, the Board of Foreign Missions were instructed to meet and prepare a draft of a code of rules for the regulation of their proceedings, to be submitted to the Synod during the present Session.

The Rev. Mr. Smith read a Lecture before the Synod "On the Prophecies of the Old Testament Dispensation, as far as they relate to the Church under the New."

Received and read an extract from the minutes of the Synod of Nova-Scotia, adhering to the Westminster Standards, containing an account of their proceedings respecting a union between that body and the Presbyterian Church of Nova-Scotia.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. Trotter, it was unanimously agreed to appoint a Committee to prosecute a union between this Synod and the Synod of Nova-Scotia, adhering to the Westminster standards,—the Committee to be guided in their proceedings by the instructions given by this Synod to the former Committee on union, and enjoined to adhere to the spirit and intent of the former Basis. The Rev. the Moderator, the Rev. Messrs. Trotter, MacKinlay, Roy, Baxter, Smith, and the Clerk, were appointed a Committee, instructed and enjoined in terms of the foregoing motion,—three to form a quorum, and Mr. Trotter to be Convener.

Ordered the Clerk to forward a copy of the preceding minutes to the Clerk of the Synod of Nova-Scotia, adhering to the Westminster Standards.

JULY 15th.

Received the Report of the state of the Theological Fund. Received also the Report of the Committee appointed to devise and adopt measures for the more safe and secure holding and management of said funds. The draft of a Bill of Incorporation for this purpose was also read. The sufficiency of the Committee was approved, and they were continued a Committee for the purpose of carrying into effect the objects of their original appointment.

Ordered that 50 copies of the Bill of Incorporation, a draft of which has been just read, be printed for circulation among the members of this Court—and the several Presbyteries take the same into consideration, and report thereon to the Committee on or before the first day of December next.

Agreed that in the mean time the Divinity Hall shall meet in Prince Town Royalty, P. E. I., on the first Friday in October, and shall continue in session for one month. The Presbytery of Prince Edward Island were enjoined to supply the pulpit of the Professor during the first session of the Hall.

Ordered the Clerks of the several Presbyteries to certify to the Professor of Divinity the standing of the Students who may come up to the Hall from the respective Presbyteries.

The Committee appointed to prepare a draft of instructions for the guidance of the proceedings of the Board of Foreign Missions, presented said draft, which was approved, and adopted as a general outline of the course which the Board is to pursue in its operations.

The Rev. Mr. Keir read a Lecture before the Synod "On the nature, constitution, government and administration of the Church of Christ, as described in Scripture."

The Committee appointed to prepare for insertion upon the Records of Synod an expression of the high esteem in which the late Rev. Thomas MacCulloch, D. D., and his venerable associates and fellow labourers in the Gospel of Christ were held, presented the following statement, which was approved and ordered to be engrossed upon the minutes of Synod. It is as follows:

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO DRAW UP A TESTIMONY OF RESPECT TO THE MEMORY OF THE LATE REV. THOMAS MACCULLOCH, D. D., S. T. P.

While this Synod would bow with reverential submission to the decisions of the Great Head of the Church, they

would at the same time express their unfeigned sorrow on account of the sudden and unexpected removal by death, since their last meeting, of the late Rev. Thomas MacCulloch, D. D. The many and useful labours in which for a long series of years he was engaged, together with his untiring energy and perseverance often amid no small difficulty and discouragement, they would highly appreciate. More particularly they would advert to his able and meritorious defence of Protestantism, at an early period of his residence in this Province; to his subsequent and arduous exertions in establishing a Literary and Philosophical Institution in the Town of Pictou; to the assiduity and care with which for many years he toiled in behalf of its interests and presided in its management; and to the success of his exertions not merely in imparting to many young men such an education as formed a solid preparation to their occupying important stations in life, in a manner creditable to themselves and useful to the public; but also in exciting a decided taste for liberal studies, especially in the Eastern section of the Province. They would further express their regret that circumstances ultimately rendered his removal from Pictou expedient, however usefully and honorably he was employed during the later years of his life as President of Dalhousie College in Halifax.

But the Synod would attach peculiar value to his services as their Professor of Divinity. The fruits of his labours in this department are to be found not merely in the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, but even in Canada and the United States, in the ministrations of faithful men who received from him their lessons in Theology. While the Synod admired his varied and extensive learning, they had perfect confidence in his soundness in the faith. These, together with his experience, zeal, and acknowledged aptitude for imparting knowledge, rendered him an accomplished and successful public instructor.

The Synod would also bear testimony to his usefulness both as a member of this Court and as a minister of Christ, during the period that he retained his charge; while they would record their high esteem of his numerous virtues as a man and as a Christian. They would also deeply sympathize with his family in the bereavement which they sustained.

Having hitherto omitted particular notice of the important services rendered to the interests of Religion in general throughout the Province, and especially to the prosperity of the Presbyterian Church of Nova-Scotia, by those who were, his fellow labourers in laying her foundations, the Synod regard the present as a favourable opportunity to supply that omission, by recording the high sense which they entertain of the piety, zeal, well directed and ably sustained exertions in their Master's service, of the Rev. Jas. MacGregor, D. D., whose praise is in the Churches, and whose memory will be long and affectionately cherished throughout this and the neighboring Provinces,—of the Rev. James Monroe and the Rev. Hugh Graham, who, though occupying sections of the Church remote from Dr. MacGregor and from each other, were animated with the same spirit, and walked in the same steps,—of the Rev. Matthew Dripps, the Rev. James Thomson, the Rev. Duncan Ross, the Rev. John Mitchell, and the Rev. John Waddell,—all of whom the Synod confidently trust have entered into the joy of their Lord; and of the Rev. John Brown, who still labours with great acceptance in the Church on earth, in the 78th year of his age, and the 50th year of his ministry. The Synod also embrace this opportunity of recording an expression of their gratitude to the Great Head of the Church, for having sent forth such labourers into his vineyard—for sustaining many of them so long under numerous and very great difficulties—and for honouring them with such signal success, so that from small and widely scattered beginnings, the sphere of their labours gradually assumed a more cheering aspect, until they had the pleasure of seeing the wilderness and the solitary place becoming glad, and the desert rejoicing and blossoming as the rose.

By the removal of their Fathers and brethren from time to time by death, the Synod would be reminded of their duty;—and would be stirred up humbly and earnestly to seek the grace and guidance of the Holy Spirit, that they

may be found "not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises."

JULY 16th.

The Rev. Mr. Baxter, according to notice given, moved the following Resolution, viz:—
"That it is the opinion of this Synod, that, in congregations in which it seems to be expedient, Ministers may sanction and preside at the election and ordination of persons to the deaconship, without any infringement of their ordination vows."

After reasoning it was agreed to remit the whole question respecting the revival of the office of Deacon in the Church to the consideration of the several Presbyteries, with injunction to report thereupon to the Synod at its next meeting.

Transmitted through the Committee of Bills and Ordinances a reference from the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island, being a reference from the Session of Cascumpeque, requesting advice respecting an application for baptism by a woman married to a man who has another wife still alive, and now living with another man, for whom she abandoned her lawful husband. The said husband, after endeavouring for eight or nine years to reclaim his faithless wife, but without avail, was subsequently married to the applicant by a Justice of the Peace. The Synod declined to issue any de-
terminance in the case until time was afforded them duly to consider the merits of the peculiar and important case.

The Committee appointed to prepare a formula of questions to be put to applicants at their admission to the Communion of the Church, submitted a formula which they had drawn up. The diligence of the Committee was approved. Agreed that 100 copies of the formula be printed, for circulation among the members of this Court, to enjoin Presbyteries to forward their remarks upon the document to the Committee, in time to enable the said Committee to prepare a revised draft for submission to the Synod at its next meeting.

Agreed that hereafter the meetings of Synod shall be held in Pictou, Truro, and Prince Edward Island, as may from time to time be appointed.

The next meeting of Synod was appointed to be held in Truro, on the second Wednesday in July 1845, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The Committee appointed to audit the Treasurer's Account reported that they have attended to this duty, and find that they have been accurately kept, and that there is in fund the sum of \$37 0 9½.

JULY 17th.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. MacCulloch, it was agreed that the Basis of Union formerly drawn up and approved by this Synod together with such parts of the instructions as the Committee may deem necessary, be printed in connection with the Synod Minutes.

The Clerk was ordered to print 900 copies of the minutes for distribution among the various Sessions in connection with this Synod, and to forward their respective numbers to the Clerks of the several Presbyteries.

The Committee appointed to correspond with the United Associate Synod of Scotland, gave a verbal report of their proceedings. Their diligence was approved, and the same brethren were continued a Committee for the purpose of their original appointment. The Rev. A. P. Millar was added to the Committee.

The Rev. Messrs. Trotter, Campbell, and MacGregor, were continued a Committee of general correspondence, Mr. Trotter to be Convener.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. MacCulloch, the Rev. Messrs. MacKinlay and Roy were appointed a Committee (Mr. MacKinlay to be Convener) for the purpose of preparing a Schedule of Statistical Questions to be answered by the several Sessions under the inspection of this Court,—the said Schedule to be prepared on or before the 1st day in October next. The said Committee were also instructed to print 300 copies of the Schedule, and distribute them among the members of Synod. The several Sessions were also enjoined to forward answers to the Statistical Questions, duly completed as early as practicable after the commencement of the New Year.

The Presbytery of Pictou gave in a report of their dealing with the Congregation of Tatanagouche, respecting arrears due from that congregation to the Rev. Hugh Dunbar. The case was again remitted to the Presbytery with instructions to use diligence to bring the matter to a speedy and equitable adjustment.

The Presbytery of Truro reported that they have Presbyterially visited all the Congregations within their bounds, except one. The diligence of the Presbytery was highly approved.

It was ordered that the answers given to the questions at Presbyterial visitations by the respective parties be inserted seriatim on the Minutes of Presbytery.

The Commission and Committee of Superintendance was continued, and the Presbytery Elders of the respective Sessions, over which the Brethren composing the Commission preside, were added to the Committee.

The Committee appointed to mature a plan for the encouragement of young men in the prosecution of their studies for the Ministerial Office was also continued.

The Rev. Messrs. MacKinlay, Roy and Ross, were appointed to deliver lectures before the Synod at its next meeting,—Mr. MacKinlay to lecture on Thursday evening, Mr. Ross on Friday evening, and Mr. Roy on Monday, at 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Rev. David Roy was appointed to assist the Rev. W. Millar at the disputation of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and to perform a missionary tour of 4 weeks in Cape Breton and Guysboro'. Mr. MacKinlay was appointed to supply Mr. Roy's pulpit on the first Sabbath of his absence,—Mr. A. P. Millar the second, and Mr. Cameron the third.

It was agreed to recommend to the several Presbyteries to send their members not less than one day each on missionary excursions to destitute localities within their bounds, and on the out-skirts of their respective boundaries.

The Rev. Mr. Murdoch, according to notice given, submitted the following resolution, viz:

"That the Synod take into consideration the propriety of ordaining young men at the same time that they are licensed and sent forth to preach the Gospel."

The resolution was sent down to the several Presbyteries for their consideration, with instructions to report thereupon to the Synod at its next meeting.

The Clerk was ordered to write to these ministers from whose Congregations no collection to the Synod funds has been received, urging them to bring the matter before their congregations, and to forward the amount collected with as little delay as possible.—The Clerk was also ordered to give particular notice of the several Synodical injunctions to the Clerks of the respective Presbyteries.

Concluded with praise, prayer, and the Apostolic Benediction.

Extracted from the Minutes of Synod, by
JAMES ROSS, Synod Clerk.

Pictou, July 17, 1844.

APPENDIX.

No. I.

BASIS OF UNION REFERRED TO IN THE PRECEDING MINUTES.

I. The great object of the proposed Union shall be the

advancement of pure and undefiled Religion, by promoting a greater degree of purity and conformity to the Word of God, both in doctrine and discipline, than at present exists in either body.

II. Any Union which takes place must be upon terms of perfect equality.

III. While the body when united may hold friendly correspondence with other Churches, and regard all who are similarly constituted with themselves as sister Churches, all Foreign jurisdiction and interference with its proceedings must be disclaimed for the following reasons:—

1st. It is inconsistent with the first principles of Presbyterianism to be directly or indirectly subject to the interference of any body in which we are not duly represented.

2ndly. Such interference is unnecessary, and calculated to do evil rather than good.

IV. That the Confession of Faith with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, be retained by the United Body as the Confession of their Faith;—it being always understood, however, that the subjects upon which this Synod differs from the Confession of Faith as exhibited in our public standards, be made matter of mutual forbearance.

V. As regards the name or designation of the United Body, and the mode of carrying the Union into effect, the Synod agree to the suggestions of the Rev. Mr. Scott; in his letter of August 27, 1841, addressed to the Rev. Mr. Trotter.

No. II.

SYNOCDICAL INSTRUCTIONS TO THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS, IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NOVA-SCOTIA.

1. That the Board be authorized to receive the co-operation of the several Ministers of the Church, in making an appeal to all the congregations in the Body, relative to the object of their appointment, in having the Memorial read in their several pulpits—and in countenancing and aiding an agency, if it be deemed proper that one should be employed.

2. That the Board do apply to such sources of information as they may deem requisite, for the purpose of ascertaining the most eligible field for their Missionary operations, expenses of outfit, passage money, annual salary, &c. &c.

3. That when Funds adequate to maintain a Missionary abroad shall be guaranteed by the several congregations of this Church, and the Board shall feel themselves prepared to negotiate with candidates for such Missionary employment, proposals shall be made to obtain offers from qualified persons, willing to volunteer their services for this purpose.

4. That in treating with Candidates, careful attention be paid to their personal religion, doctrinal views, and missionary spirit.

ACCOUNT.

RECEIVED.		PAID.	
1843.		1844.	
Octr. 2,	Balance on hand,	July 16,	Mrs. McLeun,
		17,	Synod Clerk,
1844.		"	Do. for Stationary,
July 8,	Contribution from Pictou,	"	Printing 1000 copies of the Address, in 1843,
"	" East River,	"	Printing Synod Minutes, in 1843,
" 10,	" Casumpeque,	"	Rev. Geo. Christie's expenses to P. E. I.,
" 10,	" Princetown,	"	Expenses of Meetings of Synod,
" 10,	" Halifax,	"	The Professor of Theology's first year's Salary in advance,
" 11,	" St. Peter's,	"	Balance on hand,
" 11,	" Londonderry,		
" 12,	" U. Settlement E. River,		
" 12,	" Cavendish,		
" 12,	" Maitland,		
" 15,	" Gays River, & Shubenacadie,		
" 16,	" West River,		
" 16,	" St. Mary's,		
" 17,	" Windsor & Newport,		
" 17,	" Stewiacke, for 1843 & 1844,		
Aug. 27,	" Onslow & Brookfield,		
Oct. 3,	" Bedeque,		
" 15,	" Merigomish,		
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	4 5 0		5 0 0
	3 10 9		1 0 0
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	3 0 0		15 0 0
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	1 10 2½		
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Synod Minutes
1844