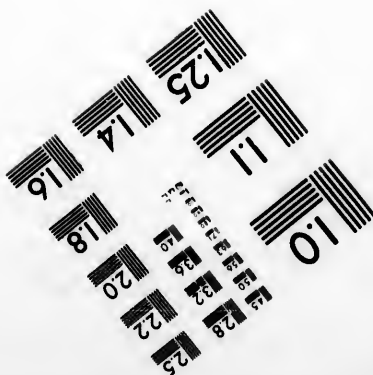
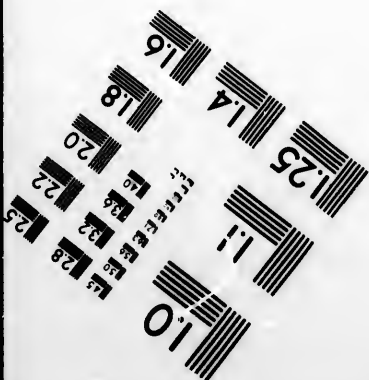
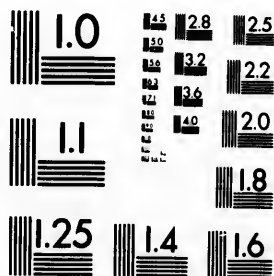


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ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF

The Canada Presbyterian Church.

(ADJOURNED MEETING.)

HELD AT TORONTO, NOV. 3-5, 1874.

TORONTO:

PRINTED BY THE GLOBE PRINTING CO., 26 AND 28 KING ST. EAST.

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ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
CANADA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
(ADJOURNED MEETING.)

FIRST SEDERUNT.

At the City of Toronto, and within Knox Church there, Tuesday, the third day of November, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four years, at half an hour after seven of the clock in the evening, the Fifth General Assembly of the Canada Presbyterian Church met in accordance with a resolution of adjournment adopted at the ordinary meeting of Assembly, at the City of Ottawa, on the tenth day of June last. The Moderator, Mr. Thomas MacPherson, of Stratford, opened the meeting by giving out for praise the 67th Psalm, which being sung, he read the 17th chapter of the Gospel according to John. Mr. Scott, of London, by request, then led in prayer. The Moderator followed in prayer. Praise was offered in a portion of the 132nd Psalm.

The Moderator briefly addressed the house as to the objects of this adjourned meeting, and then declared the Assembly constituted for business.

ROLL.

The roll of the Assembly containing the names of Ministers and Roll called Elders returned as Commissioners by their respective Presbyteries, and whose commissions, duly attested, were presented at the meeting of Assembly in June last, was called, and the attendance of members marked as follows:—

 *The names of those present are marked with an asterisk.*

PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL.

MINISTERS.

*Kenneth McDonald...
*W. A. Johnston.
J. Campbell, M.A. (Prof.).
William Grant.
R. M. Thornton, B.A.

ELDERS.

James Court.
John Brodie.
Christopher McRae.
Philip Peebles.
George Rogers.

MEMBERS.

John McFarlane.
 John McAlister, B.A.
 *William Taylor, D.D.
 *R. F. Burns, D.D.
 James McConechy.
 John Scrimger, M.A.
 Alex. Young.
 *D. H. McVicar, LL.D. (Principal).

ELDERS

John McLeod.
 Alex. C. Clarke.
 James R. McKenzie.
 James Brodie.
 John Stirling.
 Warden King.
 Peter McLeod.
 Adam Stevenson.

PRESBYTERY OF OTTAWA.

*James Whyte.
 John McEwen.
 *William Moore.
 William Burns.
 H. J. McDiarmid.
 Robert Whellans.

George Hay.
 John Hardie.
 S. S. M. Hunter.
 John McMillan.
 *David Wylie.
 David Lang.

PRESBYTERY OF KINGSTON.

John Turnbull.
 *John Burton.
 *Thomas S. Chambers.
 *John B. Watt.
 *Andrew Wilson.

Rufus Holden, M.D.
 John R. Dickson, M.D.
 Charles Shibley.
 *Alexander McAlister.
 Andrew Fraser.

PRESBYTERY OF BROCKVILLE.

*Andrew Melville.
 *John Morrison.
 *James Hastie.
 Andrew Glendinning.

*Walter Kerr.
 John Ferguson.
 *Thomas Coulthard.
 John Bellenden.

PRESBYTERY OF COBOURG.

*William Bennett.
 *James Douglas.
 *William Mitchell.
 Nathanael Clark.
 *John Ewing.
 John W. Smith.

*Walter Riddell.
 *William Hunter.
 Gavin Craig.
 *James Hall, M.P.
 Joseph Nelson.
 *Dr. Montgomery.

PRESBYTERY OF ONTARIO.

*R. A. Thornton, D.D.
 *John Smith.
 *John L. Murray.
 *William D. Ballantyne.
 *J. A. G. Calder.

William Reid.
 *George A. Pyper.
 *Alex. Mustard.
 *Alex. Beath.
 *Adam Gordon, M.P.

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

*Alexander Topp, D.D.
 *William Reid, M.A.
 *William Gregg, M.A., (Prof.)
 *William Caven, (Prin. Knox College.)
 *William McLaren, (Prof.)
 *John M. King, M.A.
 *Donald McIntosh.

Hon. J. McMurich.
 *T. W. Taylor, M.A.
 *James Brown.
 *John Somerville, M.A.
 *John Barclay.
 James McLennan, M.P.
 *John McBean.

MINISTERS.

- *Alexander Currick.
- *James Adams.
- *James Breckenridge.

ELDERS.

- *Moses Staunton.
- *Samuel Marshall.
- *John Bruce.

PRESBYTERY OF SIMCOE.

- *William Fraser.
- Robert Rodgers.
- *John Gray, B.A.
- *Mungo Fraser.
- Thomas McKee.

- *Thomas Dallas.
- *Charles Morris.
- Robert Gordon McCraw.
- Simon Fraser.
- *William McWhinney.

PRESBYTERY OF OWEN SOUND.

- Robert Dewar.
- *James Cameron.
- Alexander McLennan.

- L. Ormiston.
- P. Christie.
- John Durie.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

- *S. C. Fraser, M.A.
- *George Chrystal.
- *Samuel Fenton.
- *D. H. Fletcher.
- *J. A. F. McBain.
- *John McCall.
- *D. D. McLeod.

- *Hugh Young.
- *William Henderson.
- *John Scott.
- Robert Lawrie.
- William Brown.
- *William Muir.
- Dr. Comfort.

PRESBYTERY OF GUELPH.

- *James Little.
- J. M. Goodwillie.
- Donald McDonald.
- *D. D. McLennan.
- *Thomas Wardrope.
- *Richard Bentley.
- *James Middlemiss.
- *Robert Torrance.

- *Thomas McCrae.
- *Moses Douglas.
- *A. D. Ferrier.
- *M. C. Lutz.
- *Alexander Cranston.
- *Archibald Campbell.
- Dr. Edward McGuire.
- *Robert Wood.

PRESBYTERY OF PARIS.

- *Walter Inglis.
- *Peter Wright.
- J. M. Aull.
- *John McTavish.
- *R. N. Grant.
- *W. T. McMullen.

- *John Sutherland.
- Andrew Whitelaw.
- R. Kerr.
- *Hugh Davidson.
- Alexander Watson.
- *John Chisholm.

PRESBYTERY OF DURHAM.

- *William Blain.
- Robert C. Moffat.
- *Charles Cameron.
- *John Morrison.

- Thomas Lauder.
- James Nesbitt.
- *James Scott.
- Duncan McMillan.

PRESBYTERY OF BRUCE.

- *Andrew Tolmie.
- *Duncan Davidson.
- John Anderson.
- *Peter Currie.

- John Dewar.
- Alexander McKinnon.
- *James Rowand.
- William P. Patterson.

PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.

MINISTERS.

- *James B. Duncan.
- John A. McDonald.
- John Baird, M.A.
- *John Milloy.
- John McAlpin.
- *John Scott.
- *John Thompson.
- *Neil McKinnon.
- *John J. A. Proudfoot, D.D.
- *George Cuthbertson.

ELDERS.

- James H. Laird.
- *Robert Fleming.
- *William Grieve.
- Alexander McColl.
- Peter McCallum.
- Duncan S. Robertson.
- James Thompson.
- Alexander Smith.
- *Thomas Gordon.
- Donald Chisholm.

PRESBYTERY OF CHATHAM.

- Angus McColl.
- *William King.
- William Forrest.
- *R. H. Warden.

- William Staniforth.
- Kenneth Urquhart.
- Alexander Bartlett.
- William Webster.

PRESBYTERY OF STRATFORD.

- *Thomas McPherson.
- *James Boyd.
- *Robert Hamilton.
- *Daniel Gordon.
- John K. Hislop.

- Donald Gordon.
- *Alexander Dunbar.
- *John Webster.
- William Dunn.
- William Whealey.

PRESBYTERY OF HURON.

- *John Ross.
- Robert Ure.
- Charles Fletcher.
- *George Brown.
- *John Ferguson.
- Alexander Y. Hartley.
- Alexander Grant.

- Archibald Matheson.
- James Spence.
- John Gardner.
- Walter Scott.
- *James Agnew.
- George Walker.
- *David D. Wilson.

PRESBYTERY OF MANITOBA—*With Synodical Powers.*

- Alexander Frazer.
- George Bryce, M.A., (Prof.)
- Alexander Matheson.

- John Fraser.
- Duncan McVicar.
- Peter R. Young.

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEETING READ.

Resolution
appointing
meeting
read.

A resolution of the Assembly, appointing this adjourned meeting, in relation to the Remit on Union, was read, in terms following:—Resolved,—That the following remit be sent down to Presbyteries, in terms of the Barrier Act, and also to Sessions and Congregations, with instructions to report thereon to an adjourned meeting of the General Assembly, to be held in Knox Church, Toronto, on the first Tuesday of November next, at half past seven o'clock in the evening.

The remit to which the resolution foregoing had reference was held as read.

REMITs—RETURNs TO.

The returns to the Remit on Un'on, and also the returns to the Remits—Remit in relation to the change in the Constitution of the next General Assembly, proposed at the meeting at Ottawa, were laid on the table by Mr. Reid, Corresponding Clerk of the Assembly.

On motion of Dr. Proudfoot, seconded by Dr. Thornton, it was agreed,—That the Returns to the Remit on Union be referred to a committee to be now named by the Moderator, with instructions to report thereon at the commencement of the afternoon Sederunt to-morrow.

The Moderator then named the committee, composed of the same members as that on Returns to Remits at the meeting at Ottawa in June last, as follows:—Prof. McLaren, Convener; Prof. Gregg, Messrs. W. Moore and D. H. Fletcher, Ministers; and T. W. Taylor, J. Durie, and George A. Pyper, Elders.

BILLS, &c., COMMITTEE ON, TO MEET.

It was moved by Dr. Burns, seconded by Principal McVicar, and agreed to, That the Committee on Bills and Overtures be instructed to meet, and report on the order of business.

LEGISLATION—ADDITIONS TO COMMITTEE.

On motion of Dr. Topp, Professor McLaren, Mr. John McTavish and Mr. A. D. Ferrier were added to the committee appointed by the General Assembly at Ottawa, to obtain necessary legal advice, and to take steps for making application to the several Provincial Legislatures for such legislation as may be necessary for the conveyance of property to the United Church.

The Assembly then adjourned, to meet at eleven o'clock to-morrow—the first hour to be spent in devotional exercises. The diet was closed with the Benediction.

SECOND SEDERUNT.

KNOX CHURCH, TORONTO,
Wednesday, Nov. 4, 1874, 11, a.m.

The General Assembly met according to adjournment last night, and, as then agreed upon, the first hour was spent in devotional exercises. Prayer was offered in succession by Dr. Taylor, Mr. Carrick, and Mr. John Ross, with the singing of psalms and the reading of the Scriptures in the intervals. The Moderator then offered prayer, constituting the Assembly, and closing the devotional exercises with praise.

The minutes of the first Sederunt were read and sustained.

Minutes
read.

BILLS AND OVERTURES, COMMITTEE ON—1ST REPORT.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures presented their first Report, which was read by Mr. R. H. Warden, the clerk of the committee.

Bills, &c.,
Com. 1st
Report.

The report recommended, FIRST:—That the diets of Assembly be as in June last, namely, meet in the morning at ten o'clock, and

Diets for
business.

adjourn at one; meet again at three, and adjourn at six; resume at half-past seven, and close at ten.

Status re-
tired Minis-
ters.
Foreign
Missions.
Temperance.
Fab. Schools
Deliverance.
Report re-
ceived, &c.

SECONDLY:—That matters of business be proceeded with as follows: (a.) Returns to Remits on the *Status* of retired Ministers, with a recommendation that these lie on the table till next Assembly. (b.) Returns to Remit ancient Foreign Missions, with a recommendation that the whole subject be left for future consideration. (c.) Report of Committee on Temperance. (d.) Communication from the Ontario and Quebec Temperance and Prohibitory League. (e.) Report of Committee on Sabbath School Report.

The Report was received, and the recommendations as to diets, and the order of business therein given, were sanctioned.

STATUS OF RETIRED MINISTERS.

Retired Min-
isters, Status
of

The Assembly took up the Returns to the Remit on the *Status* of retired Ministers, and, on motion, the recommendation of the Committee on Bills and Overtures in relation thereto was adopted, namely, that these returns lie on the table till next Assembly.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Foreign
Missions.
Returns to
Bills and
Overtures
delayed.

The Returns to the Remit on Foreign Missions were then taken up, and, on motion, the recommendation of the Committee on Bills and Overtures thereanent was adopted,—that the whole subject be left for future consideration.

TEMPERANCE.

Temperance
Report and
Communication
duent.

The Assembly proceeded to consider the Report of the Committee on Temperance, delayed at the meeting of the Assembly at Ottawa, in connection with a communication from the Ontario and Quebec Temperance and Prohibitory League.

The report of the Committee was read.

Motion.
Report re-
ceived.
Thanks, &c.

It was moved by Dr. Burns, seconded by Principal McVicar, as follows:—The General Assembly receive the Report, adopt its recommendations, return thanks to the committee and especially to the convener, and hereby renew the testimony which, for a succession of years, they have borne against the enormous evils of intemperance. Every year gives increasing force to their conviction that it is the chief cause of poverty and crime throughout our land; that it is the principal occasion of discipline in our Church, and that there exists no more formidable obstacle to the spread of the Gospel amongst us.

Causes of
poverty, &c.

Moral Sna-
tion.

The General Assembly hail every well designed and well directed effort to arrest the progress of intemperance; counsel the employment of moral suasion, and the exhibition of a consistent example, with this view, on the part of all office bearers and members of our Church, and earnestly deplore the sanction given by the licensing system; in its present form, to a traffic fraught with effects so disastrous.

Licensing
System.

Prohibitory
Law.

The General Assembly would express approval of the passage of a Prohibitory Liquor Law, and authorize the Moderator and clerks to prepare and forward memorials to the Legislature to this effect.

Petitions for
lesser mea-
sure.

The General Assembly would also authorize memorializing the Dominion and Local Legislatures for any lesser measure which may seem likely to abridge the evils of intemperance, re-appoint

the committee, and instruct them to attend to this matter, and, if Committee deemed advisable, to wait by deputation on the public authorities.

The General Assembly further recommend to Synods, Presbyteries, and Sessions to have special regard to the sources of intemperance within their bounds, and to use every legitimate means for their removal.

It was moved in amendment by Principal Caven, seconded by Dr. Thornton, That it be remitted to a committee, of which Dr. Burns shall be convener, to take into consideration the subject of temperance as brought before the Assembly by the Report on that subject; to report to the Assembly, at its meeting tomorrow forenoon, a deliverance on the whole question, which may be adopted by the Assembly.

A vote being taken, the motion of Dr. Burns was carried by a very large majority, and the Assembly decided in accordance therewith.

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE.

The Committee on Temperance, re-appointed in terms of the above resolution, is as follows:—Mr. John Smith, of Bowmanville, convener; Dr. Thornton, Dr. Taylor, Messrs. J. Pringle, J. McTavish, W. Meikle, Walter Inglis, J. M. Cameron, J. A. F. McBain, J. Rennie, J. McMechan, Ministers; Dr. Holden, James Hossack, A. C. Singleton, W. N. Hossie, David Durie, Elders.

On motion of Mr. R. H. Warden, it was ordered that an extract from the record of the above proceedings on temperance be forwarded to the Secretary of the Ontario and Quebec Temperance and Prohibitory League.

The hour of adjournment having arrived, the diet was closed, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

THIRD SEDERUNT.

KNOX CHURCH, TORONTO,

Wednesday, November 4, 1874, 3, p.m.

The Assembly met and was constituted with devotional exercises, Professor McLaren, at the request of the Moderator, offering prayer.

The Minutes of the last Sederunt were read and sustained.

Minutes read.

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE—NEW CONVENER.

At the request of Dr. Thornton, the Assembly relieved him of the convenership of the Committee on Temperance, and appointed Mr. John Smith, of Bowmanville, convener of the committee in his stead.

Temperance Committee.
New Convener.

UNION.

The Assembly called for the Report of the Committee on the Returns to the Remit on Union, sent down to Presbyteries, Sessions and Congregations in June last. The Report was presented and read by Professor McLaren, the convener of the committee, and set forth in terms,—That returns had been received from 19 Presbyteries, 226 Sessions, and 238 Congregations; that

Union.
Returns to Remit.

all the Presbyteries approved of the Remit; that in the case of one Presbytery, that of London, the motion to approve *simpliciter* was carried by the casting vote of the Moderator, over an amendment taking exception to the resolution on modes of worship; and that in the Presbytery of Guelph the motion to approve *simpliciter* was carried by a vote of 16 to 6; that 217 Sessions approved and 9 disapproved; one Session only distinctly disapproving of the Remit generally, the others dissenting from the resolution on modes of worship; that 231 Congregations approved *simpliciter*, and, as in the case of Sessions, one disapproved the remit generally, and six disapproved on the ground of the resolution on modes of worship.

aris Return The Committee called attention to the terms of the return from the Presbytery of Paris, and recommended that it be read to the Assembly. The return from the Presbytery of Paris was accordingly read, stating in substance that the Presbytery approved *simpliciter* of the Remit on Union, Mr. McTavish alone dissenting from the resolution on modes of worship, but advising that, inasmuch as, in the opinion of the Presbytery, the adjourned meeting called to meet on the 3rd of November was incompetent to deal regularly with the new matter introduced into the Basis of Union, final action be not taken in the matter of Union until the regular meeting of Assembly in June, 1875.

Constitution of next Assembly. The committee reported also on the Returns to the Remit assent the Constitution of the next General Assembly, in terms,— That 15 Presbyteries approved *simpliciter*; and one Presbytery, that of Paris, disapproved of the course proposed as unconstitutional.

The reports on the returns to the remits, as above, were received.

SYNOD, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LOWER PROVINCES.

Lower Provinces, Synod of, &c. There was here presented a letter, addressed to the Moderator of the Assembly, from the Clerk of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces, covering an extract minute of proceedings of said Synod on the Remit on Union. At the request of the Moderator, these papers were read by Dr. Topp. The extract minute was ordered to be engrossed in the minutes, and is as follows:—

“At New Glasgow, and within James’ Church there, the twenty-first day of October, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces met and was constituted.

Inter alia: The Synod, finding that all the Presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces, with one exception, not yet heard from, have reported, in terms of the Barrier Act, in favour of Union with the Canada Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, and the Presbyterian Church of the Maritime Provinces in connection with the Church of Scotland; and that one hundred and seven congregations, and one hundred and seven Sessions have also reported in favour of said Union; desires to express its gratitude to God for the unanimity and harmony which have prevailed, and the happy issue which has been reached; and

the Synod is accordingly prepared to take what further steps may be necessary in order to an early consummation of the union with the other negotiating Churches.

Extracted from the minutes by

(Signed),

ALEX. FALCONER,
Synod Clerk, pro tem."

DR. WATERS—INVITED TO SEAT.

The Rev. Dr. Waters, of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Dr. Waters
Provinces, formerly a minister of this Church, being present, was invited to a seat.
invited to a seat on the platform.

ABSENCE FROM SEDERUNT—MR. REID.

Mr. Reid, Corresponding Clerk of the Assembly, asked and Absence—
obtained leave of absence from the remainder of this Sederunt, Mr. Reid.
on account of family affliction.

UNION.

It was here moved by Dr. Topp, seconded by Dr. Thornton, as Union.
follows :—The General Assembly, finding, from the returns to the Motion.
remit containing the preamble, basis and resolutions on the subject of Union, that all the 19 Presbyteries of the Church have approved of the remit ; that of 226 Sessions 217 have approved *simpliciter*, 8 with dissent from one of the resolutions, and only one has disapproved ; and that of 238 congregations 231 have approved *simpliciter*, 6 with dissent from one of the resolutions, and only one has disapproved—does now adopt the said preamble, basis, and resolutions as the articles of Union between the four negotiating churches, viz. :—the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces, the Presbyterian Church of the Maritime Provinces in connection with the Church of Scotland, and the Canada Presbyterian Church, and does resolve to consummate the Union on the ground of these articles at the close of the meeting of the Supreme Court of this Church in June next, in the event of the other Churches agreeing to the same : and further, the General Assembly, in coming to this resolution, does express its thankfulness to the God of all Wisdom and Grace, who has guided the Church to the harmonious termination of the negotiations carried on for several years, and its fervent prayer that the Union about to be consummated may by His blessing be made eminently conducive to the advancement of the cause and kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ in this and in other lands.

It was moved in amendment by Mr. John Ross, seconded by Amendment.

Mr. James Middlemiss, that the remit be disapproved.

A vote being taken, the motion of Dr. Topp was carried almost Decision.
unanimously, only the mover and seconder voting for the amendment. The yeas and nays were called for, when the motion was Yeas and
affirmed by the same vote. Nays.

Mr. John Ross and Mr. James Middlemiss craved leave to enter Dissent.
their dissent, for reasons to be given in due season.

ROLL CALLED.

Several members of the Assembly demanded the calling of the roll on the question decided. The roll was called, when one Roll called,
hundred and eleven (111) voted yea, and two (2) nay. 111 Yeas—
2 Nays.

Dissent in
part.

On motion of Principal Caven, seconded by Dr. Proudfoot, it was agreed, That, in accordance with the request made of the Assembly, some brethren who have voted yea on the motion now carried be allowed to record the fact that there is one of the resolutions which they cannot adopt, namely, that which relates to modes of worship.

The names of the members of Assembly referred to in the foregoing resolution are as follows:—Messrs. D. D. McLennan, J. McTavish, Peter Currie, John Scott (L.), Neil McKinnon, Daniel Gordon, John Ferguson, Andrew Wilson.

DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES.

Devotional
exercises to-
morrow.

On motion of Dr. Taylor, it was agreed that the first hour to-morrow morning be occupied with devotional exercises, more especially as an occasion of devout thanksgiving to God for the harmonious conclusions to which the Church has been led on the subject of Union.

The hour of adjournment having arrived, the diet was closed with the Benediction.

FOURTH SEDERUNT.

KNOX CHURCH, TORONTO,

Wednesday, Nov. 4, 1874. 7.30, p.m.

The Assembly met and was constituted, prayer being offered, at the request of the Moderator, by Dr. Proudfoot.

Minutes read

The minutes of the last Sederunt were read, and, with certain amendments, were sustained.

CONFERENCE.

Conference,
Deputation
on.

On motion of Principal Caven, duly seconded, it was agreed,—That a deputation of Assembly be appointed to wait on the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, now in Session in this city, and respectfully to ask a Conference, with the view of securing that the meetings of the Supreme Courts of the several bodies now negotiating Union shall be held in the same place in June next, so that at the termination of the business of these respective Courts, it may be convenient for them to come together at once for the consummation of the Union.

Deputation.

The deputation provided for in the resolution foregoing, was then appointed as follows:—Dr. Topp, Dr. Proudfoot, Dr. Taylor, and Mr. T. W. Taylor. The deputation were requested to proceed now to carry out the object of their appointment, and were further instructed, while conveying the message of the Assembly in regard to the conference, at the same time to inform the Synod of the action of the Assembly on the Remit on Union, and to report their diligence in the premises during this Sederunt.

CONSTITUTION OF ASSEMBLY, &c.

Assembly,
Constitution
of next.

The Assembly proceeded to consider that portion of the Report of the Committee on the Returns to Remits, having reference to the remit proposing to extend the representation of the Church in the next General Assembly.

It was moved by Dr. Proudfoot, seconded by Dr. Taylor, and Resolution. agreed to,—That with the consent of a majority of Presbyteries, the representation of the Church in the General Assembly be so extended as to embrace, at the next meeting of the Assembly, all the Ministers and Elders on the rolls of the various Presbyteries.

SABBATH SCHOOLS—DELIVERANCE ON REPORT.

The Assembly called for the Report of the Committee to frame Sabbath a Deliverance on the Report on Sabbath Schools, delayed at the meeting of Assembly in June. Sabbath Schools—Deliverance on Report

The report was presented and read. The report was received, and it was agreed to consider the several clauses thereof *seriatim*. The consideration of the draft-deliverance was proceeded with clause by clause to the end, and amendments adopted. The deliverance, as amended and adopted by the Assembly, is as follows:—

1. Renew the recommendation of former Assemblies to Presbyteries to hold an annual conference on the subject of Sabbath schools.

2. That Presbyteries be urged to give more attention to Sabbath school work, within their bounds, to collect statistics, and send tabulated returns to the convener of the Assembly's committee.

3. That Synods be recommended to give one Sederunt in the course of the year to the consideration of Sabbath school work, and kindred subjects.

4. Recommend with increased urgency the need of making certain of our Church services more adapted to the capacity of children; that occasional sermons be preached to the young; that the relative duties of parents and children be kept prominent, and especially the need of parents co-operating with Sabbath school teachers in the training and instruction of the young.

5. That it be recommended to the superintendents and teachers of Sabbath schools to endeavour, as far as possible, to direct the missionary contributions of the children of the Church to our own Home and Foreign Missionary enterprises, and to encourage with this view the formation of Juvenile Missionary Societies.

6. Renew the recommendation for the general adoption of the International Series of Sabbath School Lessons.

7. Remit to the Sabbath School Committee to examine manuals of Sabbath school teaching, and report to the General Assembly, with the view of one being recommended by the Assembly to the Sabbath schools of the Church.

8. That the lists of books for Sabbath school libraries, prepared by the committee on that subject, be printed in the *Record*.

BILLS, &c.—2ND REPORT.

Mr. R. H. Warden, from the Committee on Bills and Overtures, Bills, &c. here stated that the Assembly had now finished the several items 2nd Report. of business mentioned in the report read in the morning, and that, in addition, there had certain papers being laid before the committee, which they had agreed to transmit, noting certain facts relating to the same.

BEATTIE, MR. R. J.—APPLICATION FOR.

Beattie, Mr. R. J.—Application for. The first of these papers was an application from the Presbytery of Simcoe, for leave to receive as a probationer of this Church Mr. Robert J. Beattie, a licentiate of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, of the Presbyterian Church in the United States,—the Committee noting the fact that said application was not before the Assembly at Ottawa. The papers were read.

Motion. It was moved by Principal Caven, seconded by Mr. H. Young, that the leave asked for by the Presbytery of Simcoe, to receive Mr. Beattie as a probationer of this Church, be granted.

Amendment. It was moved in amendment by Mr. W. T. McMullen, and seconded, that inasmuch as Mr. Beattie's application was forwarded to Ottawa, in June, though not in a formal manner, leave be now granted, in the special circumstances of the case, to any Presbytery to receive him as a probationer of the Church.

Decision—Application granted. A vote being taken, the motion of Principal Caven was carried by a majority, and the Assembly agreed to grant leave to the Presbytery of Simcoe to receive Mr. Beattie in terms of their application.

CONFERENCE.

Conference, Report of Deputation. The deputation, appointed at an early period of this Sederunt to await upon the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, to inform them of the action of the Assembly this afternoon on the subject of Union, and with a view of inviting the Synod to a conference with the Assembly in regard to the most eligible place for holding the meeting for consummating the Union, now returned. Dr. Topp, on behalf of the deputation, reported verbally that they had discharged the duty assigned them; that they had been received by the sister Church with respect; that the Synod expressed themselves gratified with the message from this Assembly in regard to the action on Union, and charged the deputation to inform the Assembly that the Synod would send an answer to-morrow, stating at what time they would come to this church to hold the conference desired.

MCGUIRE, MR. H.—APPLICATION OTTAWA PRESBYTERY.

McGuire, Mr. H.—Application for. There was transmitted by the Committee on Bills and Ordinances, an application from the Presbytery of Ottawa, asking leave to receive as a probationer of this Church Mr. Hugh McGuire, a licentiate of the Presbytery of New York, of the Presbyterian Church in the United States,—the committee stating in relation to this application, also, that it had not been before the Assembly in June last. The papers were read.

Application granted. On motion of Mr. H. Young, seconded by Mr. George A. Pyper, leave was granted to the Presbytery of Ottawa to receive Mr. H. McGuire as a probationer in terms of their application.

McGuire, Mr. H.—Application to ordain. There was taken up next, and read, an application from the same Presbytery for leave to ordain Mr. McGuire as a missionary, in a field peculiarly situated, and for which he seemed to be well qualified. On motion, leave was granted to the Presbytery of Ottawa to ordain Mr. McGuire as requested.

NICOL, MR. P.—LICENSURE OF.

There was transmitted by the Committee on Bills and Over-
tures an extract-minute of proceedings of the Presbytery of
Chatham in regard to the licensure of Mr. Peter Nicol, a student
of divinity, setting forth that, owing to some omission or over-
sight, the General Assembly had not granted leave to the Pres-
bytery to take Mr. Nicol on trial for license; that the Presbytery
seeing that Mr. Nicol's certificates were highly satisfactory, and
that application had been made by them in the usual form to
the General Assembly for leave to license him, resolved under
the circumstances to proceed with the licensure of Mr. Nicol, and
to report their action to the adjourned meeting of the Assembly
in November, for their sanction; and that Mr. Nicol having
read the discourses prescribed by the laws of the Church, had
been duly licensed by the Presbytery as a preacher of the gospel.

Nicol, Mr. P.
Licensure of
Presbytery,
Chatham.

After explanation from the Corresponding Clerk of the
Assembly, on motion, the Assembly sanctioned the action of the
Presbytery of Chatham, in the premises.

Presbytery's
action
sanctioned.

MANITOBA PRESBYTERY—CO-OPERATION, OVERTURE ON.

The Assembly took up an overture, delayed from the meeting
at Ottawa, transmitted by the Presbytery of Manitoba, and bear-
ing the signature of certain members of said Presbytery, in
reference to co-operation in Church work, under certain regulations,
specified, with Ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in
connection with the Church of Scotland. The overture was read.
It was further stated by Mr. Reid, that a memorial had lately
been received from the Presbytery of Manitoba, adopting the
said overture as their own, and paying the Assembly to adopt
the scheme of co-operation set forth therein.

Co-operation
—Manitoba
Presbytery.

The Assembly, on account of the lateness of the hour, agreed
to defer consideration of this overture at the present Sederunt.

Considera-
tion deferred

DISSENT—REASONS OF—MR. J. MIDDLEMISS.

There were here submitted and read, reasons of dissent by Mr.
James Middlemiss from the action of the Assembly, at last Sederunt,
on the Report of the Committee on the Returns to the Remit on
Union. The reasons were received, and ordered to be entered on
the minutes, and are as follows:—

Dissent—
Union—Mr.
J. Middle-
miss.

"The undersigned dissents from the decision of the General
Assembly approving *simpliciter* of the Remit on Union, for the
following reasons, viz:—

1. The said decision, in accordance with the terms of the
preamble of the said remit, involves an acknowledgment that
the Church of Scotland, as at present constituted, holds the same
doctrine, government, and discipline as this Church does.

2. The said decision, in accordance with the terms of the
resolution on the mode of worship, contained in said remit,
practically legalizes any irregular practice that may have crept, as
such practices almost invariably do, into congregations previous
to the contemplated Union.

(Signed),

JAMES MIDDLEMISS.

Toronto, Nov. 4, 1874."

DISSENT—REASONS OF—MR. J. ROSS.

Dissent—

Reasons of—
Mr. J. Ross.

There were further presented and read reasons of dissent by Mr. John Ross, from the resolution of the Assembly on Union. The reasons were received and ordered to be engrossed in the Minutes, and are as follows:—

“1. Because there is, in my view, in the first article of the basis a departure from sound doctrine regarding the Word of God as the sole rule of faith and obedience.

2. Because there is not in the basis a satisfactory recognition of the rights of the Lord Jesus to the submission and obedience of civil rulers, while, by the terms in which the reception of the Confession of Faith and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms is qualified, the statements of said documents concerning the Headship of Christ over the nations stand stripped of their authority.

3. Because the preamble of the basis involves an acknowledgment of the Church of Scotland as at present constituted, thereby going far to nullify the testimonies given to the truth by the Disruption Protests, and damaging the statement given in the same preamble on the sole Headship of Christ over his Church.

4. Because the resolution on modes of worship practically legalizes any irregular practice that may have crept into any congregation prior to the Union, and especially demands of all entering the Union a pledge to allow, in all time coming, the use of instruments of music in public worship to all congregations following that practice at the time of the Union.

(Signed),

JOHN ROSS.”

ABSENCE, LEAVE OF—MR. REID.

Absence,
leave of, &c.
Mr. Reid.

The Rev. Mr. Reid, General Agent of the Church,* and Corresponding Clerk of the Assembly, asked leave of absence during the remainder of this Session of the Assembly, on account of the serious illness of a member of his family in a distant city, and whom he felt it to be dutiful to visit as soon as possible. The Assembly granted the leave asked, and agreed to express their sympathy with Mr. Reid, under circumstances so urgently requiring his retirement from this meeting.

The hour of adjournment having arrived, the diet was closed, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

FIFTH SEDERUNT.

KNOX CHURCH, TORONTO,

Thursday, November 5, 1874, 10, a.m.

The Assembly met according to adjournment last night, and, as agreed upon, the first hour was spent in devotional exercises, in which thanksgiving to God for the harmonious and satisfactory conclusions to which the Assembly had been brought on the matter of Union formed an especial element. Prayer was offered, in succession, by Messrs. James Whyte, J. McAlister, Dr. Taylor, and Principal Caven, with the singing of Psalms and the reading of the Scriptures in the intervals.

Minutes read

The minutes of the last Sederunt were read and sustained.

DISENTS—REASONS—COM. TO ANSWER.

On motion of Dr. Taylor, duly seconded, Dr. Topp, Dr. Taylor, ^{Dissent—} Mr. Hugh Young, and Mr. George A. Pyper were appointed a ^{Reasons—} committee to answer the reasons of dissent of Mr. James Middle- ^{Committee} miss, and also those of Mr. John Ross. ^{to answer}

CONFERENCE.

Dr. Taylor informed the Assembly on behalf of the deputation ^{Conference} appointed last night to wait upon the Synod of the sister Church, that he was charged with a message through the Rev. Dr. Bell, from the Synod, that they would be prepared to hold conference with this Assembly at twelve o'clock to-day.

DEATH OF MINISTERS—COMMITTEE TO DRAFT MINUTE.

The Assembly, on motion made and duly seconded, appointed ^{Death of} Dr. Burns, Mr. James Middlemiss, and Mr. George Cuthbertson ^{Ministers—} to draft a minute which may be placed on the record of the As- ^{Com. to draft} sembly, in relation to the death recently of Mr. John Baird, minister at Port Stanley, and of Mr. James Nisbet, missionary to the Cree Indians of the Saskatchewan, at Prince Albert. Dr. Burns to be convener.

MANITOBA—OVERTURE FROM.

The Assembly resumed consideration of the overture from ^{Co-operation} Manitoba in reference to co-operation with ministers of the ^{Overture,} Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church ^{Manitoba} of Scotland, deferred near the close of the Sederunt last night. ^{Presbytery.}

CONFERENCE.

Before any decision was come to on this subject the hour of ^{Conference.} twelve o'clock arrived, and, as intimated at the commencement of this Sederunt, the Assembly received into conference the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, on the matter of the most eligible place for holding the next annual meetings of the Assembly and of the Synod.

After sitting for some time the conference rose, and the Assembly resumed.

The hour of adjournment having come, the diet was closed with the Benediction.

SIXTH SEDERUNT.

KNOX CHURCH, TORONTO,

Thursday, Nov. 5, 1874, 3, p.m.

The Assembly met and was constituted, prayer being offered, at the request of the Moderator, by Mr. James Hastie.

The minutes of last Sederunt were read and sustained.

Minutes read

MANITOBA—OVERTURE FROM, ETC.

Principal Caven here moved, seconded by Dr. Proudfoot, That ^{Manitoba—} the Assembly do now reconsider the action taken at the meeting at ^{Overture} Ottawa in regard to the appointment of the Rev. Mr. Hart to a ^{from, &c.} professorship in Manitoba College.

Exception— Exception was taken to this motion on the ground that no notice had been given of the step proposed to be taken. The Moderator ruled that inasmuch as Principal Caven had introduced the subject in the morning, though the proposed resolution had not been formally put to the house, a notice of motion had thus virtually been given, and that therefore the motion was competent.

Motion agreed to. The motion for reconsidering the action of Assembly in the matter of Mr. Hart, as above recorded, was then put to the house and unanimously agreed to.

Overture referred. It was then moved by Principal Caven, duly seconded and resolved, That the overture from Manitoba be sent to a committee, to consist of Drs. Topp and Taylor, and Messrs. King, MacTavish, Caven, Taylor and Ferrier, to consider it carefully, and report a deliverance to the General Assembly at this Sederunt. The committee were then ordered to retire to consider the matter remitted to them.

CONFERENCE—REPORT ON.

Conference— The clerk reported a resolution adopted at the Conference held at noon with the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, in terms following:—
Report on. The conference, on the motion of the Rev. Andrew Wilson, seconded by the Rev. Gavin Lang, resolved, almost unanimously, That the General Assembly and the Synod should hold their next annual meetings at the City of Montreal.

BAIRD, REV. J., AND NISBET, REV. J.—DEATH OF.

Death of Messrs. Baird & Nisbet. The Assembly called for the report of the committee appointed in the morning to draft a deliverance for the adoption of the Assembly on the death of Mr. John Baird, minister at Port Stanley, and of Mr. James Nisbet, of the Prince Albert Mission.

Mr. Baird—Minute on. Mr. George Cuthbertson read a draft-deliverance in relation to the death of Mr. Baird. A draft-deliverance was read by Dr. Burns on the death of Mr. Nisbet. On motion, the joint report was received and adopted, and the deliverances contained therein were ordered to be engrossed, and are as follows:—

BAIRD, REV. J.

Baird, Rev. J.

The attention of the General Assembly having been called to the very sudden death of Mr. John Baird, of Port Stanley, one of its members, which took place on Sabbath, the 27th day of September last, after he had officiated at the morning service of his congregation, the Assembly records its deep sorrow in the loss of a minister distinguished beyond many by attainments as a scholar, amiability of disposition, pulpit power, and Christian work; and, further, record the earnest prayer that ministers of the Church, to all of whom Mr. Baird was more or less known, may profit by a due consideration of his death and its very solemn circumstances, and be led to renewed diligence in the work of their ministry, so that, through the mercy of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, they may be approved when they stand in their lot at the end of the days.

NISBET, REV. JAMES.

The attention of the General Assembly was further directed to the fact, that Mr. James Nisbet was removed by death, at Killdonan, in the Province of Manitoba, on 30th September last, and agreed to place on record the following deliverance:—

Mr. Nisbet was one of the first fruits of Knox College. For a period of twelve years, from 1850 till 1862, he made full proof of his ministry in one of our home charges, and was abundant in his evangelical labours throughout our Home Mission field. In 1862 he was selected by the Foreign Mission Committee to proceed to the Red River, and for two years was associated with Mr. Black in ministerial work there. In 1864 he was designated as a Missionary to the Indians of the Saskatchewan, and founded the Prince Albert Mission. For the past ten years he has laboured there, with unflagging zeal and self-denying devotedness, amid many difficulties and discouragements. The General Assembly would place on record their high estimate of his worth as a man and his faithfulness as a missionary. They would recognize the hand of the Lord in his sudden removal, following so closely after that of his estimable partner. They would affectionately commend the orphan children to the practical sympathy of the Church, and to the tender care of a covenant-keeping God. They would sympathize with the mission thus deprived of its head, and pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth more labourers into the hopeful and necessitous field from which this earnest worker has been removed.

Nisbet.
Rev. J.

LEGISLATION—REPORT ON.

The Assembly called for the report of the committee appointed in June last, to obtain necessary legal advice, and to take such steps as might be deemed proper for making application to the several Provincial Legislatures, for legislation necessary for the conveyance of property to the United Church, and who were to report to this meeting of Assembly.

Mr. T. W. Taylor, the convener of the committee, presented and read an interim report, embodying the draft of an act which it was proposed to complete by the addition of other sections mentioned, and to submit to the Legislatures of the Dominion and of the several Provinces.

It was moved by Professor McLaren, seconded by Dr. Proudfoot, and agreed to, that the interim report be received, and generally approved of; that the thanks of the General Assembly be tendered to the convener of the committee for his valuable services; and further, that the committee be empowered to perfect their work, and to take the proper steps to secure the necessary legislation, in the Dominion and Local Legislatures.

COMMITTEE—ADDITION TO.

On motion of Mr. T. W. Taylor, seconded by Professor McLaren, it was agreed, that the names of Mr. Justice Torrance, and James McLennan, Esq., M.P., be added to the Committee on Legislation.

The committee, with the above addition, together with that made at a former Sederunt, at this meeting, is as follows:—T. W. Committee.

Taylor, Esq., convener; Dr. Topp, Professor Gregg, D. Guthrie, Esq., Dr. Proudfoot, J. S. Archibald, Esq., Principal Caven, Principal McVicar, Professor McLaren, Mr. John McTavish, Mr. A. D. Ferrier, Mr. Justice Torrance, James McLennan Esq., M.P.

PETITIONS—MODERATOR EMPOWERED.

Petitions—
Moderator
to sign.

On motion of Mr. T. W. Taylor, seconded by Professor McLaren, it was resolved, that the Moderator be authorized to sign and present the petitions necessary for obtaining legislation affecting the property of the Church, in view of Union.

BOUNDARIES—SYNODS AND PRESBYTERIES—COM. ON.

Boundaries
—Com. on.

On motion of Mr. William Moore, seconded by Dr. Thornton, the Assembly resolved, that a committee, consisting of five members of each of the Synods, be appointed, who shall hold conference with a similar committee of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, should such a committee be appointed, to suggest a definition of the boundaries of the Synods and Presbyteries in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and to report to the first meeting of the Supreme Court of the united Church, immediately after the Union.

Committee.

The committee under the resolution foregoing was then appointed as follows:—For the Synod of Montreal—Mr. William Moore, convener; Messrs. James Watson, James Hastie, Thomas S. Chambers, Alexander Young.

For the Synod of Toronto—Dr. Thornton, Messrs. W. Donald, J. M. King, D. J. McInnes, John Gray.

For the Synod of Hamilton—Messrs. D. H. Fletcher, William Cochrane, R. Torrance, William Park, A. G. Forbes.

For the Synod of London—Messrs. George Cuthbertson, Thos. McPherson, R. H. Warden, Arch. McLean, and Dr. Proudfoot.

For the Presbytery of Manitoba—with *Synodical Powers*—Messrs. John Black, Alexander Frazer, Alexander Matheson, Prof. Bryce, James Robertson.

DISSENT—ANSWERS TO REASONS.

Dissent—
Answers to
Reasons.

The Assembly called for the report of the committee to frame answers to the reasons of dissent from the action of the Assembly on Union, submitted last night by Messrs. Middlemiss and Ross. The answers were presented and read by Dr. Topp, the convener of the committee. On motion, the answers were received and adopted, and are as follows:—

1. The first reason of Mr. Middlemiss, which is the same substantially as the third of Mr. Ross, is simply answered by the counter statement that the preamble and basis do not involve the acknowledgment of the identity of this Church with the Church of Scotland as at present constituted, and that, consequently, the dissentients are not warranted in making any statement which seems to indicate the acknowledgment of such identity.

2. The other reasons have been presented and answered at other Assemblies, and therefore there is no occasion for repeating former satisfactory answers to the same reasons.

MANITOBA—REPORT ON OVERTURE, &C.

The Assembly called for the report of the committee to whom Manitoba—
 was referred the overtures from Manitoba. The report, embodying ^{Report on}
 a deliverance was submitted, on behalf of the committee, by Dr. Topp, ^{Overture,} &c.
 the convener, and was read. On motion, the report was received,
 and it was agreed to consider the several clauses of it *seriatim*.
 The three clauses of the deliverance were read and considered,
 one by one, and were severally adopted; and then, on motion of
 Dr. Topp, duly seconded, the deliverance was adopted as a
 whole, and is as follows:—

1. That the *status* of a professor in Manitoba College be accorded to the Rev. Thomas Hart, M.A., it being understood that Mr. Hart's salary will continue to be paid, as at present, by the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland.

2. That in accordance with the memorial of the Presbytery of Manitoba, ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, appointed by the Synod of that Church to labour in Manitoba, shall have the same *status* accorded to them in the Presbytery of Manitoba as other members of the Presbytery.

3. That the Assembly expresses its gratification at the brotherly feeling manifested by elders and ordinary members of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, in connecting themselves with the congregations of the Canada Presbyterian Church in the Province of Manitoba; but, inasmuch as by so doing they are entitled to the privileges of membership, it deems it unnecessary to make any further declaration regarding their position.

ASSEMBLY, NEXT MEETING OF.

The Assembly, on motion of Dr. Proudfoot, duly seconded, ^{Assembly—}
 resolved, That the meeting of the next Assembly be held at the ^{next meet-}
 city of Montreal, and within Erskine Church there, on the second ^{ing of.}
 Tuesday in June, 1875, at half-past seven o'clock in the evening.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CHURCHES.

The Assembly, on motion of Mr. J. M. King, agreed to leave ^{Correspondence Com.}
 the whole matter of appointing delegates to represent this Church ^{to appoint}
 in the Synods and Assemblies of other Churches in the hands of ^{Delegates.}
 the Committee on Correspondence, appointed by the Assembly at
 their meeting in the city of Ottawa in June last.

The committee is as follows:—Messrs. J. M. King, convener;
 Alexander Young, R. H. Warden, R. Rodgers, ministers; Morris C.
 Lutz, Archibald Campbell, and James Court, Elders.

UNION COMMITTEE RE-APPOINTED.

On motion of Professor McLaren, seconded by Dr. Proudfoot, ^{Union Com.}
 the Assembly resolved, that the Committee on Union be re-appointed, ^{or a}
 appointed, and empowered, in conjunction with similar committees
 which may be appointed by the other negotiating Churches, to
 make such arrangements as may be deemed necessary for the
 consummation of the Union to which this Assembly has agreed.

It was further agreed that the names of Messrs. John McTavish, James Middlemiss, and Professor McLaren be added to the committee.

UNION COMMITTEE.

Union Com. The committee as reappointed, with the additions foregoing, is as follows :—Dr. Topp, convener ; Dr. Taylor, Mr. R. Ure, Principal Caven, Mr. T. McPherson, Principal MacVicar, Mr. John McTavish, Mr. James Middlemiss, Professor McLaren, Ministers ; Messrs. D. McKay, Hon. J. McMurrich, Thomas McCrae, J. L. Gibb, G. Hay, T. W. Taylor, Elders.

THANKS.

Thanks. The Assembly agreed to record their thanks—

1. To the trustees of Knox Church for the accommodation furnished for this meeting.
2. To the members of the Church and other friends in the city, for their generous hospitality.
3. To the directors and managers of the railway companies who have granted a reduction of fare to members of the Assembly travelling over their respective lines.

CLOSE.

Close. The business being finished, the Moderator briefly addressed the house, and at his request prayer was offered by Dr. Topp. The Assembly engaged in praise, singing two stanzas of the 122nd Psalm, commencing with the 7th verse. The Moderator then declared this General Assembly dissolved, and, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only King and Head of Zion, indicted another General Assembly to be held in the City of Montreal, and within Erskine Church there, on the second Tuesday of June, 1875, at half-past 7 o'clock in the evening. The Moderator closed the session with the Apostolic Benediction.

THOMAS MCPHERSON, *Moderator.*

WM. REID, M.A., }
WM. FRASER, } *Joint Clerks of the General Assembly.*

TORONTO, November 5th, 1874.

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