

MINUTES

OF

THE TWENTIETH SESSION

OF

THE SYNOD

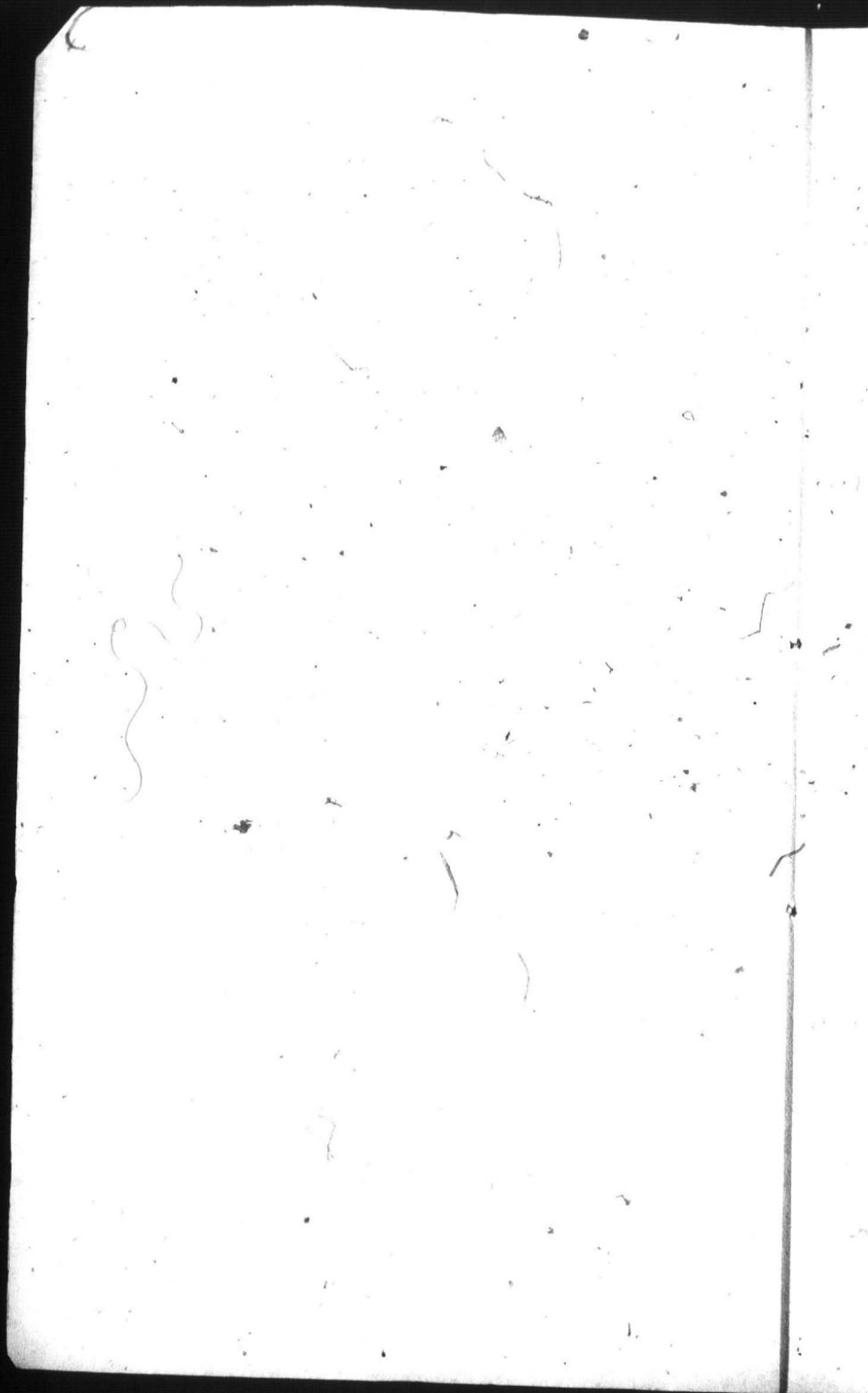
OF THE

United Presbyterian Church in Canada

HELD IN HAMILTON, JUNE 3-6, 1856.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE SYNOD.

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1856.



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ROLL OF SYNOD, JUNE 3, 1856.

The figures mark the number of Sederunts at which Members were present.

I. PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.	POST OFFICES.
8 James Skinner.....	James Fraser	Bethel	London.
.....	John Whillans	Eng. Settlement. "	"
7 J. J. A. Proudfoot, <i>Clk.</i>	Alexander Smith	London	"
John Logie.....	William Elder	Warrensville	Hay.
.....	John Allison.....	Thames Road....	"
John Fraser	James Bisset	Goderich	Goderich.
7 William Cavan	Malcolm McCallum...St. Mary's.....	St. Mary's, Blan-	..... [chard.]
.....	John Thomson.....	Downie	"
William Deas.....	James Thomson.....	Adelaide	Wasbeach.
.....	John Williamson	Warwick	"
8 Matthew Barr,	Scott.....	McKillop.....	Harpurhey.
Alex. W. Waddell....	.....	Harwich	Rondeau.
8 Archibald Cross.....	James Hay	Ingersoll	Ingersoll.
.....	John Bain.....	Woodstock	"
John Hogg	Alex. Grey	Detroit	Detroit, Mich.
James Duncan	James Shaw.....	Bayfield.....	Bayfield.
8 John Fotheringham .....	.....	Hibbert	St. Mary's, Blan-
.....	.....	Flat Creek	" [chard.]
.....	Simpson.....	Chatham.....	Chatham.
.....	Elliot Grieve.....	Westminster	London.
.....	.....	Grey	"
.....	Edward McDonald....	Brucefield	Brucefield.
.....	.....	Grant Co. Wis-	consin

II. PRESBYTERY OF FLAMBORO'.

8 Thomas Christie	James McMicking....	Flamboro'	West Flamboro'
8 Andrew Forrier, D. D.	7 Samuel McLung.....	} Caledonia, Indiana, Oneida.	Seneca.
.....
3 Alex. Ritchie	William McAlister...	West Dumfries....	Ayr.
3 John Porteous, <i>Clerk.</i>	Alexander Easton.....	Beverly	Kirkwall.
8 William M. Christie	7 James Findlay.....	Chippawa	Chippawa.
William Dickson	James McCabe.....	Thorold.....	Thorold.
7 John Lees.....	John Walker	Ancaster East....	Ancaster.
.....	4 William Kelly	Ancaster West ...	"
.....	8 Hugh Young.....	Hamilton.....	Hamilton.
.....	8 Robert Christie.....	St. George.....	Rosebank.

III. PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

John Taylor, M. D....	4 Wm. Ormiston, A. M.	2nd Toronto	Toronto.
8 William Fraser.....	7 Charles Wilson.....	W. Gwillimbury. Bond Head.	.....
"	"	James Speers.....	Essa.....
8 Alexander Kennedy....	8 William Dunbar	Dunbarton and Dunbarton.	Cookstown.
.....	.....	Canton	.....
David Coutts	James Young.....	Chinguacousy I. Mayfield.	and II.
8 John Jennings	James Robertson	1st Toronto.....	Toronto.
3 Peter Glasford.....	Andrew Riddell.....	Vaughan	Coleraine.
"	"	James Goodfellow....	Albion
8 James Dick, <i>Clerk.</i>	Thomas Woods	Richmond Hill	Richmond Hill.
7 James Pringle	James Hunter.....	Brampton & To- Brampton.	ronto Township

Roll of Synod.

Andrew Braham.....Pickering.....Pickering.
 William Wallace.....Claremont.....Claremont.
 Samuel Lindsay.....Caledon.....Caledon.
 Alex. Austin.....Tecumseh.....Penville.

IV. PRESBYTERY OF CANADA EAST.

8 William Taylor, D. D. 4 Laird Patton.....Montreal.....Montreal.
 John Morrison.....Madrid.....Waddington, N.Y.
 James Watson.....Huntingdon.....Huntingdon.
Hemmingford.....Hemmingford.
New Glasgow.....New Glasgow.
Lachute.....Lachute.

V. PRESBYTERY OF LANARK.

William Aitken.....George Foster.....Smith's Falls.....Smith's Falls.
 Alex. Henderson, *Chk.*.....William Somerville.....Fitzroy Harbour, Fitzroy Harbour.
 James Patterson.....Tobolton.....
Pakenham.
Annprior.

VI. PRESBYTERY OF DURHAM.

8 R. H. Thornton, *Chk.*.....John Michael.....Whitby.....Whitby.
 5 John Cassie.....N. Dadds.....Port Hope.....Port Hope.
 George Lawrence.....Wm. Douglass.....Clarke.....Orono.
 John Ewing.....Wm. Hunter.....Gunny.....Mt. Pleasant.
 5 W. C. Young.....4 R. Guggan.....
Newton and
Newcastle.....Clarke.
Lindsay.....
Mariposa.....Mariposa.
Verulam.....
Ernestown.....Bath.
Frederickburgh.....
Amherst Island.....Amherst Island
Prince Albert.....Prince Albert.

Gilbert Tweedie.....
 8 John Scott.....
 James McIntosh.....
 Robert Monteath.....

VII. PRESBYTERY OF WELLINGTON.

8 John Duff.....7 Alex. Watt.....Elora.....Elora.
 8 William Barrie.....James Armstrong.....Eramosa.....Guelph.
 8 Robert Torrance, *Chk.*.....Guelph.....
 8 J. F. A. S. Fayette.....Euphrasia & St. Meaford.
 8 Robert Dewar.....James S. Ross.....Vincent.....
 7 James Caldwell.....John Stewart.....Lake Shore.....Leith.
 Alex. C. Stuart.....7 Thomas Lunn.....Esquesing.....Stewarton.
Garratara.....Garratara.
Sydenham.....Owen's Sound.
Sable River.....Sullivan.
Brant.....Waukesston.
Greenock.....Riversdale.

6 Joseph Scott.....
 6 David Caw.....
 George Murray.....
 8 A. A. Drummond, *Chk.*.....
 3 Robert Rodgers.....

VIII. PRESBYTERY OF BRANT.

David Bell.....Blandford.....Chesterfield.
 6 Malcolm Folsiter.....Paris.....Paris.
 John Tennant.....Blenheim.....Princeton.
 8 Walter Renwick.....Burford.....
 John McKee.....Brantford.....
Norwichville, Norwichville
Tilsonburgh.....
 James Smith.....Glenmorris.....Glenmorris.
 James Rutherford.....Mount Pleasant, Mohawk.
Shickspere.....Shickspere.

Official Members of Synod. for 1856-7.

REV. JOHN DUFF, Elora, MODERATOR.

REV. WILLIAM FRASER, Bond Head, CLERK.

REV. JOHN TAYLOR, M. D., Toronto, PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY.

REV. THOMAS CHRISTIE, West Flamboro', TREASURER OF HOME MISSIONS.

ROBERT CHRISTIE, Esq., Rosbank, TREASURER OF SYNOD.

Conveners of Committees.

MISSION COMMITTEE—REV. ROBERT TORRANCE, Guelph.

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE—REV. PROFESSOR TAYLOR, Toronto.

UNION COMMITTEE—REV. W. TAYLOR, D. D., Montreal.

FOR DISTRIBUTION OF PREACHERS—REV. JAMES DICK, Richmond Hill.

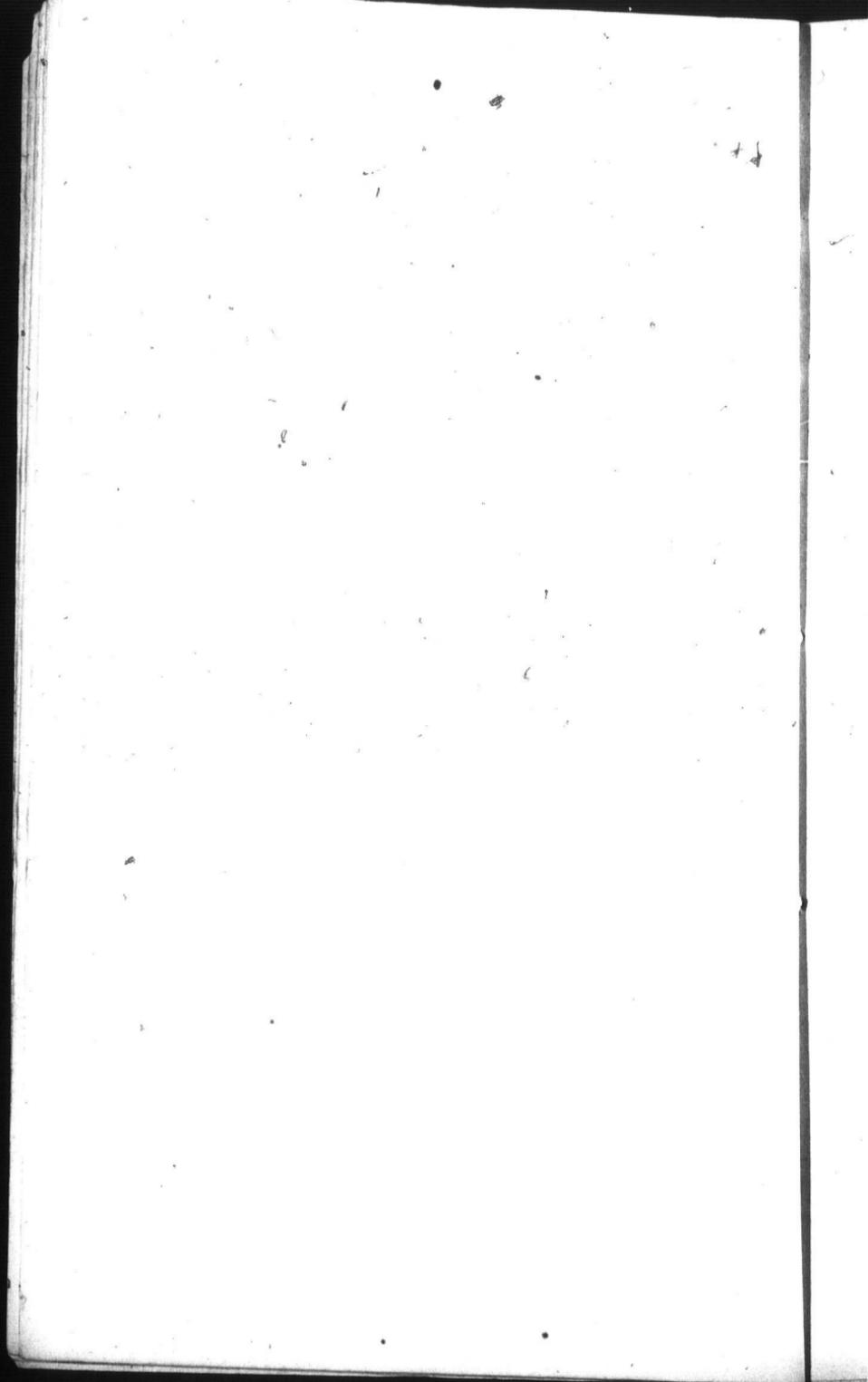
ON BILLS AND OVERTURES, ditto ditto.

ON FUNDS—REV. ALEXANDER A. DRUMMOND, Brantford.

ON FOREIGN MISSION—DR. FERRIER, Seneca.

Stated Collections ordered by Synod.

1. MISSION FUND—Collection to be made in January.
2. SYNOD FUND—Collection to be made in April.
3. THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FUND—Collection to be made in October.



MINUTES
OF THE
TWENTIETH SESSION
OF
THE SYNOD
OF THE
UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA.

I. SEDERUNT.

HAMILTON, TUESDAY,
June 3, 1856, 7½ o' clock, P. M.

The Synod of the United Presbyterian Church in Canada, met, and, after sermon by the Moderator, the Rev. Robert Torrance, from Ps. xx. 5., "in the name of our God, we will set up our banners," was constituted.

The Presbytery of London reported that they had *licensed* Report of London Presbytery. Mr. John Fotheringham, to preach the Gospel, on July 4, 1855: that they had accepted the Rev. Mr. Fraser's *demission* of the pastoral charge of the Congregation of Chatham, on July 4, 1855; and Mr. Logie's *demission* of that of Brucefield, on January 2, 1856; that they had *inducted* the Rev. Mr. Fraser, into the pastoral charge of the Congregation of Goderich, on July 18, 1855; and had *ordained* Mr. John Fotheringham to that of Hibbert and Flat Creek, on February 26, 1856. Further, that they had *organised* the Congregation of *West Nissouri*, of persons previously in connexion with the Congregation of London, on July 4, 1855; the Congregation of *Grey*, on October 3, 1855; the Congregation of *Thames Road*, of persons previously in connection with the Congregation of *Warrensville*, on November 14, 1855; and the Congregation of *Grant County*, Winconsin, of persons formerly in connection with the Congregation of the English Settlement, on April 2, 1856.

Minutes of the Synod of the

Report of Flamboro Presbytery.

The Presbytery of Flamboro' reported that, on the 10th of July last, they had *ordained* Mr. John Lees, over the Congregations of Ancaster East and Ancaster West.

Report of Toronto Presbytery.

The Presbytery of Toronto reported that, on July 3, 1855, they had *inducted* the Rev. Peter Glassford to the pastoral charge of the Congregations of Albion and Vaughan, and added his name to the Roll. That, on the 7th August last, they received into the Church, by certificate from the Board of Missions of the U. P. Synod, Scotland, the Rev. Messrs. James Caldwell and Thomas Watson, and also, on the 4th of September last they received the Rev. Walter Inglis, and reported their names to the Committee of Distribution, to be put on the list of Probationers. Also, that, on the 6th of May last, they had received the Rev. W. Fraser's *demission* of the pastoral charge of the Congregation of Tecumseth. The Presbytery, at the same time, agreed to record their satisfaction with the state of mutual respect and affection so long existing between this Congregation and Mr. Fraser, and with the fact, that this demission had taken place, by consent of both parties, in order to extend the operations and influence of the Church.

Report of Canada East Presbytery.

The Presbytery of Canada East reported that the Rev. Walter Scott had demitted the pastoral charge of the Congregation of Lachute, and that his name had been taken from the Roll of Presbytery; and that, on the 30th of May last, the Rev. Alexander Lowden, of New Glasgow, had been removed by death.

Report of Lanark Presbytery.

The Presbytery of Lanark reported the following congregational changes since last meeting of Synod, namely:— In January, 1855, certain members of the Congregation of Pakenham, residing in and around the Village of Arnprior, were, at their request, disjoined from the said Congregation, and with others, members of the United Presbyterian Church were congregated under the designation of the United Presbyterian Congregation of Arnprior, and this Congregation, thus organized was separated from the Congregation of Fitzroy Harbour and Torbolton, was formed into a new charge and declared a vacancy.

The Rev. Alexander Henderson, the Minister of those Congregations, by whom they had been formed, chose to continue in the pastoral oversight of the Congregations of Fitzroy Harbour and Torbolton. These latter congregations engage to pay, as stipend, £60 a year, which, in the opinion of the Presbytery, is the utmost, that under present circumstances, they can raise; and being purely Missionary Congregations, are, together with the Station of Riddellstown, about five miles from Fitzroy Harbour, lately opened by Mr. Henderson, and which engages to pay £10 a year, recommended to the fostering care and support of the Synod.

The Presbytery of Durham reported that, on the 17th of April last, they had *inducted* the Rev. Robert Monteath into the pastoral charge of the Congregation of Prince Albert;—said Congregation having been constituted by the Presbytery in the month of March; and that they had disjoined the Columbus section of the Congregation of Whitby, and constituted it into a Congregation on the 16th February last.

The Presbytery of Wellington reported that, on the 17th of October, 1855, they had *ordained* Mr. Robert Dewar, to the pastoral oversight of the Congregation of Lake Shore, Sydenham; that they inducted the Rev. Alex. Stuart into the charge of the Congregation of Garrafraxa, on the 1st of January, 1856; and, on the 17th of April last, had *ordained* Mr. James Caldwell over the Congregation of Esquesing.

The Presbytery of Brant reported that they had licensed Mr. William Clarke to preach the Gospel, on the 24th of July, 1855; and had organized a Congregation, in connection with the United Presbyterian Church, at Shakspeare, on the 6th May, 1856.

The Roll of Synod being completed, from the Rolls furnished by the several Presbytery Clerks, was now called and marked.

Proceeded to the election of a Moderator, when the Messrs. Duff, Kennedy and Drummond were, successively, nominated and seconded. The name of Mr. Kennedy was, at his earnest request, allowed to be withdrawn from the list of candidates, and a vote being taken, the Rev. John Duff, Mr. Duff chose

Minutes of the Synod of the

of Elora, was chosen Moderator. Mr. Duff took the chair and addressed the Synod.

On motion of Mr. Jennings, it was agreed, *nem. con.* that,—
 Devotional exercises. Inasmuch as to-morrow is to be held generally, as a Day of Public Thanksgiving, because of the restoration of peace between the Allied European nations and Russia, the first Sederunt of this Synod be devoted to religious services suitable to the occasion.

Persons to Conduct. The Moderator then appointed the Rev. Drs. Taylor and Ferrier, and Messrs. Fotheringham and Caldwell, to conduct the services of to-morrow forenoon.

Audit Committee. The Rev. Messrs. Torrance and Ormiston were appointed to examine the accounts of the Synod's Treasurers, to report to-morrow evening.

Minutes of Presbyteries, Committees to examine. The following Committees were then appointed to examine the Minutes of Presbyteries, namely, those of

London.....	Rev. Messrs. Jennings and Dick.
Flamboro.....	“ “ Thornton and Skinner.
Toronto.....	“ “ Cross and Drummond.
Canada East....	“ “ Barrie and Dewar.
Lanark.....	“ “ Pringle and Caldwell.
Durham.....	“ “ Torrance and Kennedy.
Wellington.....	“ “ Dr. Taylor & T. Christie.
Brant.....	“ “ W. M. Christie & J. Scott.

Adjourned to meet for religious services, to-morrow, at 10 o'clock.

Closed with the benediction.

II. SEDERUNT.

HAMILTON, WEDNESDAY,

June 4, 1856, 10 o'clock, A.M.

The Synod met, and was constituted by the Rev. Mr. Duff, moderator.

Religious services. Religious services were conducted, in accordance with the resolution agreed upon last night, by the Rev. Messrs. Fotheringham and Caldwell, and by Drs. Ferrier and Taylor; an

address on the subject of the late restoration of peace being, in the course of the services, delivered by Dr. Ferrier.

The Roll was called.

The Rev. John McCurdy, of Chatham, New Brunswick, Rev. J. McCurdy invited to Correspond. one of the Ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, was introduced to the Synod by Mr. Fraser, and was invited to take his seat, as a corresponding member.

Adjourned, to meet for the transaction of business at 2 o'clock.

Closed with the benediction.

III. SEDERUNT.

HAMILTON, WEDNESDAY,
June 4, 1856, 2 o'clock, P.M.

The Synod met, and was constituted by the Rev. Mr. Duff, moderator.

The Roll was called, and the minutes of the two former sittings were read and approved.

The Clerk laid on the table a list of Committees, appointed at last meeting of Synod, and required to report at this Session. List of Reports of Committees.

It was intimated by Mr. Thornton that Mr. Tweedie, who had been appointed last year to deliver an address on Missions, at this Meeting, would not, on account of ill health, be present. Mr. Tweedie absent from indisposition.

The several Committees appointed to examine the minutes of Presbyteries were instructed to give in their reports, at the second Sederunt, to-morrow. Minutes of Presbyteries, Committees to Report.

The Committee of Bills and Overtures gave in their Report and recommended that the business be taken up in the order, following, that is to say:—

- I. Reports of Presbyteries and Committees of Synod, thus,
 - (1.) Reports of Presbyteries on Superintendence of Students in Divinity.
 - (2.) Report of Committee on Union.
 - (3.) Of Committee to devise a scheme for the benefit of families of deceased Ministers.
 - (4.) Report of Distribution Committee.
 - (5.) Of Theological Education Committee.
 - (6.) Of Mission Committee.

Minutes of the Synod of the

II. A letter from the Free Church Synod of the United States, to the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church in Canada.

III. The Rev. J. A. Devine's resignation of his connection, as a Minister, with the U. P. Synod; also, the same recalled.

IV. An Overture from the Presbytery of Toronto, on the employment of Students in Divinity in supplying vacancies.

V. An Overture from the Presbytery of Toronto, on a change in certain expressions in the Formula for ordination of Ministers and Elders.

VI. The Rev. William Walker's application for admission to the United Presbyterian Church, Canada, as a probationer, with testimonials.

VII. Petition of certain Ministers and Elders of the Presbytery of Wellington, to be organized into a separate Presbytery, to be called the Presbytery of Grey.

VIII. Overture from the Presbytery of Brant, on the location of Probationers.

IX. A letter from the Bureau of Agriculture and Statistics, requiring returns of births, marriages and deaths.

X. Paper on Union, from Esquering.

Report adopted, with exception.

On motion, the report and recommendation of the Committee were adopted, with the exception that the application of the Rev. Mr. Walker be the first matter to be taken up.

Mr. Walker's application

Read Mr. Walker's application, together with testimonials from the Presbytery of Lancashire, England, of the United Presbyterian Church, as also a letter of recommendation, addressed to Dr. Ferrier, from Dr. Robson of Glasgow, testifying to the christian character and Ministerial efficiency of Mr. Walker.

Mr. Walker received.

It was unanimously agreed to receive the Rev. William Walker, as a minister of the United Presbyterian Church in this country.

Students, inspection of Reports of Presbyteries.

Called for the Reports of Presbyteries on the inspection of Students of Theology.

London.

The Presbytery of London reported that they had but one Student under their inspection during the past year, and that

he had performed, in a satisfactory manner, all the exercises prescribed to him.

The Presbytery of Flamboro' reported that during the Flamboro' last year, they have had one Student under their inspection, that he had appeared once, only, during that period, when he was enjoined to re-write the discourses which he had just delivered, and informed that unless there was marked improvement in his exercises, the Presbytery could not, in faithfulness, recommend him to proceed with his studies.

The Presbytery of Toronto reported that they had, during Toronto. the last year, six Students under their inspection, viz :— Messrs. Fletcher, Chesnut, Moffat, Donald, Hall and Hume ; that they had three several meetings with them, at which the Students were examined, or read and delivered exercises, according to the Synod's scheme for Presbyterial examination of Students.

The Presbytery of Brant reported that Mr. Moffatt deli. Brant. vered several exercises, to their satisfaction, and was transferred, at his request, to Toronto Presbytery, Feb. 5, 1856 ; also that, after examination, they had recommended Mr. Joseph Whyte to the Divinity Hall.

The Presbytery of Durham reported that they had under Durham. their care one Student, namely, Mr. McFaul. Owing to the lengthened attendance of the Students at the Hall, in Toronto, only one meeting was held with him, when the exercises, appointed by the Presbytery, were satisfactorily performed.

The Presbytery of Canada East reported that there had Canada Ea-t. been one Theological Student under their care, Mr. Stephen Balmer, who had attended the Divinity Hall of the U. P. Church, in Edinburgh, two years. He passed the usual examinations to the satisfaction of the Presbytery.

The Presbytery of Wellington had not had any students Wellington. under their inspection.

The Committee for the distribution of Preachers gave in Distribution Committee Re- port. their report of the following purport, namely :—

The Committee for the distribution of Probationers report, that from July to September, 1855, there were nine Proba-

Minutes of the Synod of the

tioners on the list, viz:—The Rev. Messrs. Caldwell, Carruthers, Clarke, Dewar, Fotheringham, Monteath, Muir, Stuart and Watson, to supply 23 reported vacancies, giving little over one-third supply. At the end of this quarter Mr. Dewar's name was taken from the list, he being settled in one of the vacancies within the bounds of the Wellington Presbytery; and Mr. Carruther's name was withdrawn in consequence of being incapacitated, by ill health, for the duties of a Preacher.

From October to December the number of Probationers was 8. The Rev. Mr. Inglis having been received and his name placed on the list. There were 23 vacant congregations reported, giving still only one-third supply. At the end of this quarter, the names of Messrs. Fotheringham and Stuart were taken from the list, the former having accepted a call within the bounds of the London Presbytery, and the latter to a congregation within the bounds of the Presbytery of Wellington. During the next quarter, viz: from January to March, 1856, there were 6 Probationers, and 24 vacant congregations, giving about one fourth supply. At the end of this quarter, the names of Messrs. Caldwell, Inglis and Monteath were taken from the list, at their own request, these brethren having been called and about to be settled. Mr. Carruthers having applied to have his name placed again on the list of Probationers, his request was complied with, but in a very short time, he was again incapacitated by ill health, so that there were only 3 Probationers during the months of April, May and June, to supply 18 vacancies, giving only one-sixth supply. There have been six preachers ordained, or inducted into pastoral charges, during the past twelve months, and one became unable for the duties of a preacher. There are still three on the list; one of whom is now under call, and will likely be settled at the end of June. There is very urgent need for more preachers. There are still about 21, or 22 vacant congregations and stations, which very much require a settled Ministry.

(Signed.) JAMES DICK, *Con.*

On motion the Report was received, and the cordial thanks of the Synod were, and are hereby given to the Committee, for the diligence and care with which they have attended to the duties committed to them.

The committee for the distribution of Preachers was then re-appointed, consisting of Rev. Messrs. Dick, Jennings and Ormiston. Mr. Dick, Convener.

Read and received a letter from the Free Church Synod

Report received.
Thanks to Committee.

Committee of
Distribution re-
appointed.

Free Church, U.
S. letter from.

of the United States, conveying to this Synod, the fraternal congratulations and assurances of the sympathy of that Body, on a variety of points, and giving information of some peculiarities in their own organization and ecclesiastical polity.

The Synod, while reciprocating the friendly sentiments contained in the letter, but refraining from entering into special questions to which certain expressions therein might give rise, agreed to appoint a Committee to prepare a reply, to be transmitted as a Synodical document. Dr. Ferrier and Mr. Barrie to be the Committee. Deliverance on Committee to reply to.

Read, a letter from the Rev. J. A. Devine, dated 22nd August, 1855, to the Rev. Robert Torrance, as moderator of this Synod, tendering his resignation of all ecclesiastical connection with this Church; Also, a letter from Mr. Devine to Mr. Torrance, dated 9th October, 1855, recalling that tender of resignation; also, a letter to Mr. Dick, as convener of the Committee of Distribution, in relation to the same matter. Devine's Mr. Case of.

It was moved by Mr. Torrance, seconded by Mr. Barrie, that Mr. Devine's tender of resignation be accepted, and that, notwithstanding his letter recalling that resignation, he be declared to be no longer a Minister of the United Presbyterian Church in Canada. Motion on.

It was moved in amendment, by Mr. Pringle, seconded by Mr. Hugh Young, Elder, that the further consideration of this matter be delayed until the first Sederunt to-morrow. Amendment.

A vote being taken, the amendment was carried by a large majority, and the Synod delayed the case till first Sederunt to-morrow. Delayed

The Rev. Edward Ebbs of the Congregational Church being present, was invited to take his seat in Synod. Rev. Mr. Ebbs invited to respond.

The Rev. John McCurdy, of Chatham, New Brunswick, was, and is hereby requested to address the Synod, at their Missionary Meeting, to-morrow evening, on the state, operations, and prospects of the Presbyterian Church of Nova-Scotia. Mr. McCurdy signified his compliance with the request. Mr. McCurdy requested to address.

Took up an Overture, from the Presbytery of Toronto, anent the occasional employment of Students of Theology. Supply, employment of Students for, Overture.

in supplying vacant congregations, and praying the deliverance of Synod.

Motion. It was moved by Mr. Porteous, seconded by Mr. Barrie, that the employment of Students, for the purpose indicated in the Overture, be left to the judgment of the Presbyteries.

Amendment. It was moved in amendment, by Mr. Drummond, seconded by Mr. Torrance, that the Students be employed in Missionary work under the Superintendence of the Presbyteries, and with the knowledge of the Distribution Committee.

Deliverance, Motion carried. A vote being taken, first on the amendment, and then on the original motion, the motion was carried by a majority, like as the Synod did, and do decide that the employment of Students of Theology in supplying vacancies shall be left to the judgment of the Presbyteries.

Formula, Overture for alteration delayed. Took up, an Overture from the Presbytery of Toronto, suggesting certain alterations in the Formula for the ordination of Ministers and Elders. In consequence of the absence, with the leave of Synod, of Mr. Kennedy, who was appointed by the Presbytery to support this Overture, it was agreed to defer its consideration until Mr. Kennedy can be present.

Grey Presbytery of, petition for. Read and received a petition from certain Ministers, members of the Presbytery of Wellington, and others, praying that the Ministers and congregations of St. Vincent and Euphrasia, Lake Shore, Sydenham, Sullivan, Brant and Greenock may be erected into a new Presbytery, to be called the Presbytery of Grey.

Petition granted, Presbytery of Grey established On motion, the Synod unanimously granted the prayer of the petition, and appointed the first meeting of the said Presbytery of Grey to be held in the town of Sydenham, on Tuesday, after the first Sabbath of July, at 12 o'clock, noon. The Rev. Mr. Fayette to be the first moderator.

Adjourned to meet again at half-past seven o'clock.

Closed with the benediction.

IV. SEDERUNT.

HAMILTON, WEDNESDAY,

June 4, 1856, 7½ o'clock, P. M.

The Synod met, and was constituted by the Rev. Mr. Duff, Moderator.

The Roll was called, and the Minutes of the last Sederunt were read and approved.

Entered upon the consideration of the Overture from the Presbytery of Toronto, in relation to the changing of certain expressions, in the Formula for the Ordinations of Ministers and Elders, of the tenor following:—

“ To the Moderator and Members of the United Presbyterian Synod.

Whereas, in the second question of the Formula for Ministers and Elders, at Ordination, and for preachers at license, the following words occur, viz:—‘ It being understood that you are not required to approve of anything in these documents,’ (i. e. the Confession of Faith, the Catechisms, Larger and Shorter) ‘ which teaches, or is supposed to teach, compulsory, or persecuting and intolerant principles in religion:’—And whereas, said words, in the opinion of the Presbytery, are indefinite, as they seem to give, or imply the negative, or silent sanction, or permission of the Church, to hold and approve of compulsory, or persecuting and intolerant principles in religion:—It is therefore overtured that the Synod alter and amend this Section of the Formula, by erasing the words *are not required to approve of*, and inserting in their stead, *disapprove, condemn*, or some such synonyme or sentence of like import.”

Mr. Kennedy was heard in support of the Overture.

It was moved by Mr. Thornton, seconded by Mr. Dunbar, that the amendment on the Formula, proposed in the Overture, be adopted by the Synod.

It was moved in amendment, by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Cross, that it is not expedient to entertain the prayer of this Overture.

A vote being taken, 25 voted for the amendment, and 13 for the motion. The amendment was therefore declared to be carried, and the Synod did, and do resolve in terms thereof, that it is not expedient to make any change in the Formula for Ordination.

Adjourned, to meet to-morrow morning, at 9 o'clock.

Closed with the benediction.

V. SEDERUNT.

HAMILTON, THURSDAY,

June 5, 1856, 9 o'clock, A. M.

The Synod met, and was constituted by the Rev. Mr. Duff, Moderator.

The Roll was called, and the minutes of last Sederunt, were read and sustained.

Mr. Devine's case, delayed.

It was agreed to delay consideration of Mr. Devine's case till the afternoon Sederunt.

Probationers location of, Overture on.

Took up an Overture from the Presbytery of Brant, relating to the location of probationers, and praying that certain changes may be made, to the purport following:—

1. "That the Distribution Committee, having been previously instructed by the Presbytery Clerks, as to the number of their vacancies and relative proportion of supply, shall be invested with power to issue all appointments to the Preachers, direct, and also forward to the vacant congregation a copy of their supply.

2. That the said Committee, while they have respect to the relative wants of Presbyteries, and study equal distribution, be also empowered to station a preacher, in a vacancy, for a longer or shorter period, at the request of the Presbytery, and with the consent of parties concerned."

Mr. Drummond supported the Overture on behalf of the Presbytery of Brant.

Motion.

It was moved by Mr. Torrance, seconded by Mr. Dunbar,—That the prayer of the Overture be granted.

Amendment.

It was moved, in amendment, by Mr. Dick, seconded by Mr. Cross,—That the first part of the prayer of the Overture be refused, and that the second part be granted.

Deliverance.

The amendment, on being put, was negatived, and the motion was carried by a large majority, and the Synod did, and do decide in terms thereof, and empower and instruct the Distribution Committee in accordance therewith.

Patterson Rev. G. invited to correspond.

The Rev. George Patterson, of Green Hill, Pictou, Nova-Scotia, being introduced by Mr. Cross, was invited by the Moderator, to take his seat in Synod, as a corresponding member.

Agriculture and Statistics-Bureau, letter from.

Read a letter from the Bureau of Agriculture and Statistics, in relation to returns of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, required by the Act, 10th and 11th Vict., Chap 14, Sec, xvi, to be made to that Department.

Letter referred to Committee.

On motion, the letter was referred to a Committee, consisting of the Rev. Messrs. Torrance and Cavan, and Mr. Lunn, Elder, to take its requirements into consideration, and re-

port by resolution, or otherwise, at the afternoon Sederunt to-day.

Read and received a petition from a meeting of delegates of the Congregations in connection with the Free Church, and the United Presbyterian Church, in Esquesing, on the question of Union between the said Churches. Union petition, Esquesing.

It was agreed to delay the consideration of this paper, till the Committee on Union with the Presbyterian Church of Canada give in their report. Delayed.

Read and received a petition from Mr. William Clarke, Probationer, for an increase of salary. Salary, petition for increase, Mr. Clarke.

On motion, it was agreed,—That the Synod feel themselves unable to comply with the prayer of this petition. Refused.

Appointed next Meeting of Synod to be held, in the United Presbyterian Church, Toronto, on the first Tuesday of June, 1857, at seven o'clock, in the evening. Synod, next meeting of.

Mr. Dick, as Convener of the Committee for Distribution of Preachers, submitted a statement respecting the position of the Rev. Mr. Livingstone, as a preacher in this Church, and requested the action of the Synod as regards his being placed on the list of Probationers. Livingstone Rev. Mr. position of.

It was agreed that Mr. Livingstone shall, in compliance with his request, be put upon the Probationers' list. Decision.

Dr. Taylor, Convener of the Committee on Union, communicated to Synod the desire of the Union Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, to be heard by Deputation, at this meeting. Union Committee, Free Church, deputation.

It was agreed to receive the Deputation at half an hour after eleven o'clock, this morning; and that the Moderator, on behalf of the Synod, shall respond to the addresses of the Deputies. To be received.

It was agreed to hear now, the Report of the Committee of Missions, with a view to the disposal of any suggestions, or propositions which it may contain, previous to the Missionary Meeting in the evening. The Report was read by the Rev. Mr. Torrance, Convener of the Mission's Committee. Mission Committee, Report read.

The Deputation from the Committee on Union of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, consisting of the Rev. Mr. Lowry, Moderator of the Synod of that Church, and the Rev. Mr. Deputation, Free Church Union Committee.

Minutes of the Synod of the

Inglis, were now introduced, by Dr. Taylor, and severally addressed the Synod.

Reply to.

The Moderator replied.

After engaging in praise by singing the 133 Psalm, Dr. Taylor, at the request of the Moderator, led in prayer.

The hour of noon having arrived, the Synod adjourned, to meet again, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

Closed with the benediction.

VI. SEDERUNT.

HAMILTON, THURSDAY,

June 5, 1856, 2 o'clock, P. M.

The Synod met, and was constituted by the Rev. Mr. Duff, Moderator.

The Roll was called, and the Minutes of last Sederunt were read and Sustained.

Motion.

On motion of Mr. Jennings, it was agreed that the decision of Synod, at the morning sitting, as to the distribution of Preachers, be reconsidered at this Sederunt.

Reports on Pres-
bytery Minutes.

London.

Flamboro'.

Toronto.

Canada East.

Brant.

Called for the Reports of the Committees to examine the Minutes of Presbyteries.

The Committees on the Minutes of the Presbyteries of London, Flamboro', Toronto, Canada East, and Brant, reported that the Records of those Presbyteries were correctly kept.

Lanark.

The Committee on the Minutes of the Presbytery of Lanark, reported that the Minutes of said Presbytery had not been put into their hands, but that an excuse for their absence had been forwarded by the Clerk.

Durham.

The Committee on the Minutes of the Presbytery of Durham reported that no book had been handed to them, but that they had received an explanatory note, from the Clerk, to the effect that no entry had been made since last meeting, in consequence of the scroll copy of the first Minutes having been mislaid.

Mission Report
adopted.

Proceeded to the consideration of the report of the Mission Committee, read at the morning Sederunt.

On motion, the Report was received and adopted, and the thanks of the Synod were given to the Committee for the ability and diligence with which they have discharged the important duties entrusted to them.

The following persons were then appointed to be the Com-^{Mission Commit-}mittee of Missions for the current year, namely :—The Rev. Thomas Christie, Professor Taylor, the Rev. Messrs. Barrie, Jennings, Torrance, Drummond, Ormiston, and Mr. Duff, Moderator of Synod, and Mr. Dunbar, together with Thomas Armstrong, James Armstrong, Robert Christie, Alexander Watt, Esquires, Synod Elders : five members of Committee to form a Quorum.—The Rev. Mr. Torrance to be Convener.

It was agreed that the sum of £10 a year be paid to the Convener of the Missions Committee, as compensation for his services in that capacity. ^{Salary to Convener, Mission Committee.}

Entered on the further consideration of Mr. Devine's ^{Devine, Mr., case of.}case, delayed from yesterday afternoon.

After reasoning, the motion first made was fallen from, ^{Deliverance.}and the Synod unanimously agreed, that Mr. Devine's tender of resignation be accepted, in terms of his letter to the Moderator of Synod, dated August 22, 1855, and that his letter recalling that tender of resignation be not received.

Took up for consideration, the resolution of Synod, adopted at the morning Sederunt, as to alterations in the powers of the Distribution Committee, ^{Distribution Committee, re-consideration of resolution}

It was moved by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Dick, ^{Motion.}that the finding of Synod, in this case, at the morning Sederunt, to-day, be rescinded.

It was moved in amendment by Mr. Drummond, seconded ^{Amendment.}by Mr. Dewar, that the finding of the Synod be sustained.

A vote being taken, the motion was carried against the amendment by a large majority : and the Synod did, and do rescind the resolution passed in the morning on this matter. ^{Deliverance.}

The Synod then adopted the second part, only, of the ^{Rule.}Overture referred to ; and did, and do hereby resolve, " that the Committee of Distribution, while they have respect to the relative wants of Presbyteries, and study equal distribution, be empowered to station a Preacher in a vacancy, for a

longer or shorter period, at the request of the Presbytery, and with the consent of parties concerned."

Missionary labour by settled Ministers.

The following resolution was moved by the Rev. Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Lunn, Elder, and was unanimously adopted, viz:—That this Synod call the attention of its clerical members to the fact that, owing to lack of preachers, many of the outlying stations are but partially supplied with the means of grace, and would earnestly urge that ministers, with the consent of their congregations, tender their services for two or more Sabbaths, annually, to the Committee of Distribution.

Lowden, Rev. A. the late, memorial on his death and state of family.

Read and received, a memorial from the session and congregation of New Glasgow, respecting the death of their late pastor, the Rev. Alexander Lowden, representing the destitute condition of the bereaved widow and family, and recommending them to the sympathy and aid of the Synod.

Memorial referred to Mission Committee.

On motion, it was agreed to recommend the memorial from the congregation of New Glasgow, to the favourable consideration of the Mission Committee.

Resolution in aid.

It was further unanimously agreed, that the Synod having been made acquainted with the pecuniary circumstances of the family of the late Rev. Alexander Lowden, of New Glasgow, in Canada East, so suddenly and unexpectedly removed from amongst us by death, hereby recommend the case of the family to the people of our respective congregations, in order that, by collections or subscriptions, they may express their interest in their welfare.

Dr. Taylor, and Mr. Patton to take charge of contributions.

Agreed to request Dr. Taylor, of Montreal, and the Synod Elder from his church, Mr. Laird Patton, to take charge of any funds which may be raised for the above purpose.

Committee to draft minute.

Appointed the Rev. Messrs. Barrie and Skinner a Committee to draw up a minute, expressive of the mind of this Synod in relation to Mr. Lowden's death.

Adjourned to meet again this evening at half-past seven o'clock.

Closed with the benediction.

VII. SEDERUNT.

HAMILTON, THURSDAY,

June 5, 1856, 7½ o'clock, P. M.

The Synod met, and was constituted by the Rev. Mr. Duff, Moderator.

The Roll was called and the Minutes of last Sederunt were read and sustained.

Entered on the exercises of the Synod's Missionary Meeting, when the Report of the Missions' Committee was again read by Mr. Torrance.

An Address, on the subject of Missions, was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Cross.

Address by Mr. Cross.

Engaged in praise by singing Ps. lxxii. 17-19.

The Rev. Mr. McCurdy, of Chatham, New Brunswick, then addressed the meeting, giving a sketch of the history and operations, generally, of the Presbyterian Church of Nova-Scotia, and closing with the suggestion that the Synod should undertake a joint Mission, with the Nova-Scotia Church, in Western Polynesia.

Address by Mr. McCurdy.

The Rev. Mr. Patterson delivered an address, in relation, more particularly, to the Foreign Mission of the Church in Nova-Scotia, setting forth its history and progress, and supporting Mr. McCurdy's suggestion.

Address by Mr. Patterson.

It was unanimously agreed,—That the thanks of the Synod are due, and are hereby tendered to Messrs. McCurdy and Patterson, for the interesting communications, made by them, respecting the state and operations, at home and abroad, of our Sister Church in Nova-Scotia; and to record the high gratification which it affords this Synod to be informed of the increasing prosperity and brightening prospects of that Church.

Thanks to Messrs. McCurdy and Patterson.

Adjourned, to meet, at 9 o'clock, to-morrow.

Closed with the benediction.

VIII. SEDERUNT.

HAMILTON, FRIDAY,

June 6, 1856, 9 o'clock, A. M.

The Synod met, and was constituted by the Rev. Mr. Duff, Moderator.

The Roll was called, and the minutes of last Sederunt were read and approved.

Mr. Cross, thanks to for address. On motion, the thanks of the Synod were given to the Rev. Mr. Cross for the able and eloquent address, delivered by him, at the Synod's Missionary Meeting last night.

Mr. J. Scott and Cavan, to address on Missions next Synod. The Rev. Joseph Scott, and the Rev. William Cavan, were now appointed to deliver addresses on Missions, at the Meeting of Synod, next year.

Ebbs, Rev. E letter from. Read a letter from the Rev. Edward Ebbs, of the Congregational Church, requesting the Synod to appoint a deputation to wait upon the Congregational Union, which is to meet in this City, on the 11th inst.

Deputation to Cong'l Union, Dr. Ferrier, Mr. Lees. Appointed Dr. Ferrier and Mr. Lees, a deputation, in terms of the letter of Mr. Ebbs, with instruction to convey to the Congregational Union of Canada, the fraternal christian greetings of this Synod.

Mission Board Scotland, thanks to. On motion of Mr. Torrance, seconded by Mr. Thornton, it was unanimously resolved,—That the cordial thanks of this Synod be tendered to the Mission Board in Scotland, for the zeal and readiness they have evinced in responding to the frequent applications of the Church in Canada, for Missionaries; and that they be again requested, through the Mission Committee, to procure and send out an additional supply to the number of *twelve*.

Missionaries, request for.

Funds, Committee on.

On motion of Mr. Torrance, seconded by Mr. Barrie, it was unanimously resolved,—That this Synod appoint a Committee on Funds, consisting of the Rev. Messrs. Drummond and Dunbar, with Robert Christie, Esq., whose duty it shall be to intimate, through the Magazine, and if necessary by Circular, to the different Ministers of Congregations, the month in which the collections should be taken up, for each scheme; the state and object of each Fund; and the duty of the Church to be liberal in their contributions.

Accounts, report of Audit.

The Committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Treasurer of Synod, (Robert Christie, Esq.,) reported that they had found those accounts kept in an accurate and orderly manner. In addition, the Committee also called the attention of the Synod to the state of the Synod Fund, and suggested that some special effort be devised to liquidate the debt.

The same Committee reported that they had examined the accounts of the Rev. T. Christie, Treasurer of the Home Synod's Grant, and found them accurately kept, showing a balance in hand of £2 17s. 10½d.

The Committee to whom was referred the letter from the Bureau of Agriculture and Statistics, reported a series of resolutions, and recommended their adoption by the Synod. Agriculture and Statistics, letter, report on.

It was agreed to defer the consideration of this question till next meeting of Synod. Delayed.

In the absence of the Rev. Professor Taylor, the Report of the Committee on Theological Education, was read by the Rev. Mr. Thornton. Theological Education Committee, report of.

The Report was received, and the thanks of the Synod were given to the Committee for their diligence and zeal in the discharge of the duties entrusted to them. Report received

On motion, the Committee was re-appointed, with the addition of the Rev. John Duff, Moderator. The Committee will then be composed of the following persons, namely:— The Rev. Professor Taylor, Rev. Dr. Ferrier, Rev. Messrs. Thomas Christie, Thornton, Dick, Barrie, Torrance, Ormiston, Kennedy and Duff. Professor Taylor to be Convener. Theological Ed. Committee re-appointed, with addition.

Appointed the Rev. Messrs. Ormiston and Thornton to assist Professor Taylor in the examination of Students of Theology. Examiners Assisted.

Ordered,—That the report on Theological Education be printed in the appendix to the Synod's Minutes. Theo. Ed. Report to be printed.

Ordered,—That the Report of the Mission Committee be also printed in said appendix. Mission report to be printed.

Mr. Skinner reported from the Committee, appointed to draw up a minute expressive of the mind of Synod, in regard to the death of the Rev. Alexander Lowden. Lowden, Rev. A. death of. Minute reported and adopted.

The Report was adopted, and is of the following tenor.

Resolved,—That this Synod, under a profound sense of their dependence on the Great King and Head of the Church, into whose hands the Father hath put all things, and the Sovereign disposal of all events, for the good of his Church; are solemnly impressed with the loud call to one and all, especially of its ministerial members, to be diligent and faith-

ful in the work of their Ministry; for they know not the day nor the hour when the Master may call them to account. They would regard it as a dark providence that God, in his holy Sovereignty, should have seen meet to take away our dear brother, the Rev. Alexander Lowden, from the vineyard, in the midst of health and usefulness, while on his way to be in our midst at this meeting of Synod; and they would humble themselves before the Lord. Truly His way is in the Sea and His path in the mighty waters, and His footsteps are not known.

Mr. Lowden had some features of character bearing marked resemblance to the Master himself. His amiability and love of the brethren were conspicuous to all who knew him. His self denial and his contentment, in regard to the things of this life, are well known to all present, and now embalm his memory in the remembrance of all who have, at this meeting, heard the report of his death. And, moreover, his being taken away from an amiable partner and five young children, in depressed worldly circumstances, touches all the cords of natural and christian sympathy, in the members of this Synod, and makes them pledge themselves to be God's Almoners in visiting his widowed partner and fatherless children in this their time of need.

Instruction to
transmit above to
Mrs L.

The clerk, was, and is hereby, instructed to transmit to Mrs. Lowden, a copy of the above Resolution, together with the proceedings at a former Sederunt, in relation to the death of Mr. Lowden.

Union Commit-
tee report.

The Rev. Dr. Taylor, of Montreal, Convener of the Committee on Union with other Evangelical Churches, gave in a report of the action of the said Committee, to the following purport:—On behalf of the Committee on Union with the Presbyterian Church of Canada, it was reported by Dr. Taylor, the Convener, that he had received a very friendly letter from Mr. Ure, the Convener of the Committee appointed by the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, suggesting the "expediency of calling a joint meeting of the two Committees." Dr. Taylor replied in the same spirit, and proposed that a joint meeting should be held in this City, on the 4th of June. Said meeting had been held, and was followed by

two adjourned meetings, in all of which there had been so much harmony of sentiment, and cordiality of feeling, as furnished matter of devout thankfulness to God. The Committees had agreed to present the following Minute to the respective Synods :—

“Having had lengthened conference together, in the conducting of which the Committees have reason to believe that they have enjoyed much of the presence of the Great Head of the Church, they are gratified to find, that, apart from the question pertaining to the power, obligation, and duties of the Civil Magistrate, they are perfectly at one on all the great doctrines laid down in the Westminster Confession of Faith ; and further, that, on the special question above referred to, and the points involved in it, or connected with it, such as the exclusive Headship of Christ over the Church, individual liberty of conscience in religious matters, and the obligation of all men, in all the relations of life, to be governed by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, there was such a measure of harmony of sentiment manifested as to warrant the hope of its being found practicable to frame some declaration on these points which might be mutually satisfactory, and calculated to prepare the way for a Union of the two Bodies. They therefore agree to ask their respective Synods to re-appoint a Committee to take additional steps to advance the Union of Churches holding so many great principles in common, and especially to prepare a Declaration which might be afterwards used as a basis of Union, in which the exclusive Headship of our Lord Jesus Christ over his Church, and the freedom of conscience, on the one hand, and the obligation of all men to be governed in all their public and private relations, by the authority of Christ, in his word, on the other may be fully maintained.”

(Signed) JOHN JENNINGS, *Chairman.*
JOHN LAING, *Clerk.*

All of which is respectfully submitted, in name of the Committee.

(Signed) * W. TAYLOR, D.D. *Con.*

The Report was received and cordially approved.

Minutes of the Synod of the

Union Committee re-appointed with additions.

On Motion, the Union Committee was re-appointed, with the addition of Thomas Lunn, Hugh Young, Robert Christie, and James Robertson, Esquires, Elders.

The Committee as re-organized is composed of the following persons, namely:—The Rev. Dr. W. Taylor, of Montreal, the Rev. Messrs. Jennings, Skinner, Proudfoot, Kennedy, Thornton and Ormiston; together with Messrs. Lunn, Young, Christie and Robertson, Elders, Dr. Taylor to be Convener.

Evangelical Christendom and Christian Times, thanks for.

On Motion of Mr. Torrance, seconded by Mr. Barrie it was unanimously resolved,—That the thanks of this Synod be sent to the generous donor of *The Christian Times* newspaper, and *Evangelical Christendom*, monthly periodical, received by Ministers of this Church.

Clergy Reserve Commutation, report of Committee on.

Called for the Report of the Committee, appointed near the close of the last meeting of Synod, to memorialize the the Governor General, in Council, on the settlement of the Clergy Reserve question, and with reference especially to the Commutation clauses introduced into the Act of settlement.

Dr. Taylor, the Convener gave, verbally, a statement of the action taken by the Committee, on the matter referred to them, and said further, that in consequence of the paper containing the resolutions which had been agreed upon, being mislaid it had not reached him for some months after the meeting of Synod, and then wanted, for certain reasons, the name of one of the members of Committee; that in consequence of this defect and the long time which had elapsed, he came to the conclusion that the proper time had gone by, and that he had not forwarded the paper to the Governor General, and now laid it on the Synod's table.

Convener's conduct approved.

The conduct of the Convener of the Committee was approved, the thanks of the Synod were given him, and the Committee discharged.

The resolutions, to the purport following, as reported by Dr. Taylor, were then unanimously adopted by the Synod, and the Clerk was instructed to transmit an authenticated copy of them to the Governor General, in Council.

Resolved,—1. That this Synod learned, with the utmost Resolutions. satisfaction, that a Bill, to settle the long-pending question of the Clergy Reserve Lands, was introduced into the Provincial Parliament, under the auspices of the Government; and especially as that Bill, according to the terms used in the Third Section, was designed “to remove all semblance of connection between Church and State” in this Province, and was therefore adapted to allay the contentions on this subject by which the Country has been so long agitated; contentions not only injurious to its prosperity, but calculated to endanger the connection happily subsisting between it and Great Britain.

2. That their hopes have been grievously disappointed, by the introduction into the said Bill of the Commutation clause, and especially by the manner in which it has been carried out; inasmuch as it makes an invidious distinction between different Religious Denominations, and inasmuch as, by removing the moneys arising out of the Commutation from the control of the Legislature, it is calculated to perpetuate all the evils of a State Endowment, in even a more aggravated form:—All which the Synod firmly believe to be opposed to the well-known wishes of the people, and fitted to re-kindle those dissensions, social and political, which it was trusted the Bill would terminate for ever.

3. That in the opinion of this Court any settlement under the Commutation Clause, with any parties whatever, which is inconsistent with the declaration already quoted from the third Section of the Act, ought not to be considered final, and should therefore, be held subject to the revision of any future Parliament.

A question being raised as to granting a synodical certificate to the Rev. Mr. Devine, it was agreed to instruct the Clerk, and he is hereby instructed to give to Mr. Devine, on his application, a historical certificate of his relation with and disjunction from this Church, embodying therein the substance of the proceedings of Synod in his case, at this Session.

Devine. Mr.
Certificate to

The Convener of the Mission Committee proposed a question as to the salary of Mr. James Fraser, Catechist, within the bounds of the Presbytery of London.

Mr. Fraser Cate-
chist, Salary of

Referred to Mission Committee.

It was agreed to refer the whole subject to the consideration and disposal of the Mission Committee.

Geddie, Rev. J. letter from, read by Mr. Jennings.

The Rev. Mr. Jennings now read a letter, addressed to him, from the Rev. John Geddie, the Missionary of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, in the Island of Aneiteum, in the South Seas, conveying most cheering intelligence of the state and progress of the mission on that Island, under his inspection and that of the Rev. Mr. Inglis, of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, in Scotland.

Thanks to Mr. Geddie, and Mr. Jennings.

The Synod agreed to record their acknowledgements to Mr. Geddie, for his valuable letter, and also their thanks to Mr. Jennings for communicating the information which it contains.

Foreign Mission, Resolution on.

It was moved by Dr. Ferrier, seconded by Mr. Jennings, and unanimously agreed,—That this Synod having listened, with much satisfaction, to the addresses of our brethren from Nova Scotia, and to Mr. Geddie's letter,—Resolve, to institute, as soon as practicable, a Mission to the South Seas, to be conjoined, should it be agreeable to the Synod of Nova Scotia, with their Mission; and that as soon as sufficient funds are realized, and a suitable Missionary obtained, they shall be happy to co-operate with the Sister Church in their zealous, and, through God's blessing, already successful labours, in that interesting field.

Committee on For. Mission.

Dr. Ferrier and Mr. Jennings were then appointed a Committee to take such steps as may be requisite to excite an interest in this object among our congregations in this country.

Instruction to Clerk.

The Clerk was instructed to send, with all convenient despatch, a copy of the proceedings in regard to this matter, to the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia.

Order for Printing.

Ordered,—That 400 copies of the Minutes of this meeting of Synod be printed for the use of Ministers and Sessions.

\$10 to doorkeeper.

Ordered,—That the sum of £2 10s be paid to the Church officer for his attendance and services at this meeting.

Thanks to Congregation of Hamilton.

The thanks of Synod were given to the office-bearers and congregation of Hamilton for the accommodation furnished by them to this meeting of Synod.

The Moderator then addressed the Synod.

After engaging in praise the Moderator announced that the next meeting of Synod would be held in the First United Presbyterian Church, in the City of Toronto, on the first Tuesday of June, 1857, at 7 o'clock, in the evening, and then closed the Session with the Apostolical benediction.

JOHN DUFF, *Moderator.*
WM. FRASER, *Clerk.*

APPENDIX

[No. I]

REPORT OF THE MISSION COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA, FOR THE
YEAR 1855-56.

Your Committee have to return thanks to the Giver of all Good, by whom they have been mercifully preserved during the past year, and are now permitted to lay before you a report of the proceedings which they have taken on those matters which were brought under their consideration in connection with the Missions of the Church. "Bless the Lord O my soul! and all that is within me bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul! and forget not all his benefits, who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases, who redeemeth thy life from destruction, who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies."

Your Committee for reasons similar to those which influenced them last year, appointed a Sub-committee to take action on cases which might arise during the intervals of meeting, requiring of course, the sub-committee to give in their report, and reserving to themselves the right of approving or disapproving of the same as they might see proper. By this arrangement the business of the General Committee has been greatly facilitated, and in no instance have they seen it necessary to challenge the decision of the sub-committee.

At their meeting in July last, held in the Village of Ancaster, a letter was read from the Rev. Dr. Somerville, Secretary of the Board of Missions in Scotland, intimating that the offered services of the Rev. Messrs. Todd and McGowan, both of whom had been in pastoral charges, had been accepted for Canada, with those of the Rev. Mr. Inglis, and of Messrs. Caldwell and Watson, Probationers of the Church. Dr. Somerville farther stated in his letter that as this completed the number of ten Preachers asked from home by this Synod, some time back no efforts would be made by the Board in Scotland to engage any more unless at the request of the Synod here. The Convener was instructed to write to the Board, tender them thanks for the kindness already shewn them in

procuring missionaries for this Province, to give, so far as he was able, an account of the state, wants and prospects of the Church; and to solicit an increase of labourers for the vacancies which still exist, and for the fresh fields which are opening up. Two of the above named ministers did not come out, but your Committee are gratified to have to state that in a letter received during the month of May, Dr. Somerville mentions that the Board had accepted the services of the Rev. Messrs. Gibson and Stevenson; we hope that these brethren will soon appear in the midst of us and show themselves disposed to go up to the high places of the field. For, with all the supply that has come from Scotland, and with the addition of those who had been trained and licensed in the Province, the wants of the church are numerous and are more increasingly pressing. Large tracts of country which have long been settled, are without Gospel ordinances administered by an educated ministry. Many members and adherents of the United Presbyterian Church, have gone into parts whither they have not been followed by our ministers, because of the work they have had to do in other quarters. In many places that were but lately a forest, and which have been settled by an enterprising population, cultivation is going forward, families are growing up, and souls are ripening for eternity; but our Church is unable to send in the word of life to them, for she has none by whom to send it. Help from home will be required for a time, at all events, and your Committee bearing in mind the promptitude and cordiality with which the Church at home has responded to past applications that have been made, for men and money, cherish the confidence that help will be still afforded from the same quarter.

Your Committee, during the year, have passed applications from Probationers and Ministers, in discharge of engagements with the Home Board to the amount of £371 7s. 8d. In all cases they have required reports of their labours within the bounds of Presbyteries to be transmitted and certified to them. Several of these reports have been sadly defective; and although the Committee have taken no action farther than to characterize them as they were read; yet they think it strange that Presbyteries have allowed them to pass through their hands, and their certification to be affixed to them without comment or qualification. In particular, your Committee would specify the matter of family visitation. Probationers give very little attention to this. Some of them, indeed, plead their inability to visit because of the short period they are within the bounds of any congregation; but more than one of the members of your Committee have found it practicable to visit as many as seven or eight families, and that at a busy season of the year and yet make their way to the next station on the following Sabbath. To the Synod we would respectfully recommend that instructions be issued to Presbyteries to see that the law of the Church on this point be faithfully complied with.

Three Congregations have received supplement in the course of the year. The whole sum granted and drawn by them is £125 19s. 9d.

Mr. Frazer, Catechist, has still been prosecuting his labours with the same Christian diligence and zeal for which he has all along been characterized. Your Committee have much pleasure in being able to state that he has not had occasion to draw any supplement from the Fund for the past year. The stations among which he has been labouring have prospered and given proof of their appreciation of his services and of their religious principle by contributing the amount, and more than the amount promised him as stipend. To Mr. Frazer himself it must be a gratification to witness these evidences of success. To the Presbytery of London, whose Catechist he is, it must be a source of gladness that he has not laboured in vain nor spent his strength for naught, while the

Synod must be pleased with this other instance of the profitable expenditure of funds raised to help those who were unable by their own contributions to obtain the administration of the word of God among them.

As usual, your Committee embrace in this report a statement of the accounts of both Treasurers:

The Rev. Mr. Christie in account with the United Presbyterian Church.

Dr.		Cr.
To balance on hand 7th June, 1855	£ 33 4 7	By paid to Probationers, &c., on order of Mis. Com., &c.....
" Home Grant.....	284 11 3	£314 17 11½
		Balance on hand. 2 17 10½
	<u>£317 15 10</u>	<u>£317 15 10</u>

Robert Christie, Esq., in account with the United Presbyterian Church.

Dr.		Cr.
Bal. June 7th, 1855	£223 5 11½	By paid out of Mission Com.....
Received from Congregations till June, 1856.....	262 17 10½	£241 4 8
		Balance on hand... 258 6 9
	<u>£486 3 10</u>	
Interest ...	13 7 7	
	<u>£499 11 5</u>	<u>£499 11 5</u>

It is with regret that certain members of the Committee feel themselves urged to complain of the non-attendance of the members in general. We merely mention the fact in this report, leaving the Synod to take action upon it at the proper time.

Your Committee would close their report by mentioning that at their meeting on 15th January last it was resolved, that in consequence of the business which their Clerk has to transact, the Synod be requested and recommended to pay him a salary of not less than Ten Pounds a year.

[No. II.]

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

The Committee on Theological Education beg respectfully to submit to the Synod the following Report:—

The Committee, agreeably to instructions, printed and circulated the address approved of at last meeting of Synod, relative to the raising of a Fund for aiding and encouraging Students in Divinity; and a number of the congregations were visited by Dr. Taylor, with reference to the same object. The reception he met with was, in every instance, cordial and kind, Ministers giving their efficient and valuable co-operation; and the contributions obtained were, generally, liberal, in some cases, deserving to be called munificent, when the size and circumstances of the congregations are considered. The entire sum received amounted to £387 13s 9½d;—being from the Congregation of Hamilton £81 5s 0d;—of Eramosa, £30 2s 6d;—of Caledonia £4 6s 3d;—of Indiana, £4 17s 6d;—of Oneida, £7 2s 6d;—of Flamboro' and Dundas, £26 5s 7½;—of Elora, £16 0s 0d;—of Guelph, £64 0s 8d;—of Beverly £5 13s 9;—of Esquesing, £35 5s 0d;—of Newcastle, £11 5s 0d;—together with the sums of £1 5s 0d, from Mr. Robert Rodgers, West Dumfries, and 5s, from Mr. James Gray, of Perrytown.

The Session of the Divinity Hall was opened on Tuesday 16th October. In the absence of the Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Ferrier commenced with devotional exercises, followed by an address. The Rev. Dr. Taylor read the Introductory Lecture. The Rev. William Ritchie, of Dunse, Scotland, who was present, being requested, delivered an address, and the Rev. Mr. Dick concluded with prayer. The Rev. Alexander Kennedy was also present. The number of students who entered was ten, viz: of the fourth year, Mr. F. Tisdell of the the third year, Messrs. A. McFaul and R. C. Moffat, of the second year, Messrs. T. G. Chesnut, W. Fletcher and D. Waters; of the first year, Messrs. W. Donald, R. Hall, R. Hume and J. White.

The Committee agreed that the Grants from the Fund for Students should be made in the form of Exhibitions, of £11, £10, and £9 each, according to merit; and that with the view of ascertaining merit, an examination of the Students, by means of written papers, on the subjects appointed by the Synod for examination in Presbyteries, should take place; and a sub-committee was appointed for carrying out this arrangement. On three successive evenings, accordingly, examinations were conducted; and the Sub-Committee afterwards gave in the following report of their procedure, which the Committee agreed to sanction and approve, viz:—"Toronto, 12th Dec. 1855. The Sub-Committee on Theological Education have carefully considered the papers given in at the Examinations on the 17th, 18th, and 19th October last and feel highly satisfied with them upon the whole, taking into account the circumstances of the case. The following is their award:—Fourth year, to Mr. Tisdell, £11; third year to Mr. Moffat, £10; second year, to Messrs. Waters and Chesnut, who are bracketed, £11, and to Mr. Fletcher £10; first year, to Messrs. Hume and Donald, who are bracketed, £11, to Mr. Hall £10, and to Mr. White, £10. Those bracketed are regarded as of so nearly equal merit that no attempt is made to distinguish them. The others in each year are regarded in the order of merit, as named above, or where there is only one in any year, his rank is indicated by the sum awarded to him. The Sub-Committee consider all to be of such respectability that they have not thought it necessary to award to any only £9. Mr. McFaul did not submit to any examination, but very respectfully begged to be excused on the ground that he did not know of the examination. The Sub-Committee regret that he did not take the same course as the others, especially as no direct intimation was given to any, and as the subjects of examination were all just those on which Presbyteries are required by the Synod to examine. The Sub-Committee, nevertheless, agree to give him £10, which, however, they do not wish to be regarded as a precedent. Dr. Taylor stated to the Sub-Committee, before the consideration of the Papers, that Mr. Waters was absent from one of the examinations, but had been allowed, on application, to write his papers afterwards in Dr. Taylors' house, and presence in doing which he had been held in all respects strictly to the same conditions, as at the public examinations. The Sub-Committee agreed to accept these Papers, but to declare that this shall not form a precedent, as they regard it of importance that the examinations shall be simultaneous and public. (Signed)

"W. ORMISTON"

The Committee felt much gratified by receiving so favourable a report, and are of opinion that such examinations are fitted to be exceedingly beneficial, and ought to be continued.

After the sums above specified as paid to students, together, with £4 13s 9d, as expenses of printing, postage and travelling are deducted from the amount received for aiding and encouraging Students, there remains, in fund, £178 0s 0½d, which will bear interest at 6 per cent. from 16th October last.

Dr. Dick's Lectures having been gone over in the three preceding Sessions, no Systematic Theology was taught during the Sessions last closed, but, instead, the attention of the students was occupied with the Evidences of Christianity, Butler's Analogy being used as Text Book, and made the subject of examination from beginning to end; and the principles and chief features of the other departments of the evidences were also brought under consideration. The Epistle to the Ephesians was critically read in Greek, selected passages of the Old Testament, regarded as specially Messianic, were read in Hebrew, together with the corresponding portions in the Septuagint. The Students were examined on Mosheim's Church History from the beginning of the 16th Century, to the end of his work. They also each delivered a discourse and gave in three written exercises on subjects prescribed to them.

The Committee expended on Books, for the Theological Library, the sum of £19 15s 11d, leaving the balance of the amount received from the Treasurer to be laid out by Dr. Taylor, in Britain, on Books which may be there more advantageously obtained. The Committee also received from the Missionary Society in the Congregation of the Rev. Mr. Jennings, a valuable donation of Books for the Library, and resolved, that the thanks of the Committee be returned to the Society, through Mr. Jennings.

The Committee have been gratified to learn that the Students were engaged during the Session, in distributing Religious Tracts, which the Committee of the Upper Canada Religious Tract Society had the liberality to furnish gratuitously.

The Committee would respectfully recommend that the mode of distributing the aid to the Students adopted last year be continued during the present, and that the Synod appoint two members of the Committee as examiners with the Professor.

The Committee, in fine, beg to congratulate the Synod and the Church, on the success which has attended the first session of the Divinity Hall, on the new plan. The number of Students has been larger than in any preceding year, and, under a kind Providence, they have enjoyed such health that they have all been enabled to give regular attendance till the close of the term. Let it be the prayer and the hope of all who wish well to the interests of religion and to the prosperity of our own denomination in particular that the number of able, pious and zealous youths devoting themselves to the Ministry amongst us may be greatly increased; and that by the Divine blessing on the means used for their training, they may come forth workmen who need not be ashamed and may be rendered abundantly successful in the furtherance of the glorious Gospel of the blessed God.

		MISSION. FUND.		THEOLOGICAL FUND.		SYNOD. FUND.	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Feb. 4.	West Gwillimbury.....	2	1 4				
"	Tecumseth.....	2	19 11½				
"	Essa.....	2	9 4				
Mar. 13.	Albion.....	1	15 0				
"	Vaughan.....	1	5 0				
Apr. 21.	2nd Congregation Toronto.....	13	10 4				
May 12.	West Gwillimbury.....	£1	11 11				
"	Tecumseth.....	1	3 1			1	10 0
			2 15 0				
	Less Presbytery Fund.		1 5 0				
June 4.	Dunbarton.....	4	0 0	4	8 9		
"	Toronto Township, and Brampton. Do. for 1855.....	5	15 6			2	19 10
		£49	2 5½	26	2 4½	7	12 11½
PRESBYTERY OF CANADA EAST.							
1855.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Dec. 19.	LaChute.....			0	15 0		
1856.							
Feb. 18.	LaChute.....	0	10 0				
"	Greenock.....	1	10 0				
Apr. 30.	Montreal.....			7	10 0		
		£2	0 0	8	5 0		
PRESBYTERY OF LANARK.							
1855.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Nov. 30.	Smith's Falls.....	5	10 0				
1856.							
June 4.	Fitzroy Harbour and Torbolton.....	1	1 7½				
		£6	11 7½				
PRESBYTERY OF DURHAM.							
1855.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Nov. 30.	Bath.....			2	10 0		
Dec. 31.	Newcastle.....			4	0 0		
1856.							
Jan. 29.	Whitby.....	18	6 3				
Mar. 31.	Newton.....			12	10 0		
Apr. 7.	Do. £20 less exchange ls 3d.....	19	18 9				
May 20.	Do.....	5	0 0				
June 4.	Clarke.....	11	10 0	2	10 0	1	6 3
"	Port Hope.....			2	10 0	2	10 0
		£54	15 0	24	0 0	3	16 3
PRESBYTERY OF WELLINGTON.							
1856.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Jan. 3.	Elora.....					5	15 0
Feb. 18.	Eramosa.....			3	10 0	4	7 6
Apr. 7.	Guelph.....					5	0 0
June 4.	Elora.....			2	15 0		
5.	Eramosa.....	5	8 0			3	15 0
		£5	8 0	6	5 0	18	17 6

PRESBYTERY OF BRANT.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
1855.										
Sept. 4.	Blandford.....	12	0	0						
1856.										
Jan. 4.	Glenmorris.....				2	10	0			
22.	Norwich.....	11	0	0	2	0	0			
"	Tilsonburgh.....	3	0	0						
"	Mount Pleasant.....	2	0	0				1	5	0
Feb. 11.	Glenmorris.....	6	11	4				1	0	0
May 20.	Brantford.....	8	0	0	10	0	0	1	5	0
June 4.	Blandford.....				6	5	0			
		£42	11	4	20	15	0	3	10	0

ABSTRACT MISSION FUND.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
1855.							
June 7.	Balance on hand.....				222	5	11½
"	Presbytery of London collected during the past year.....	48	9	9½			
"	Presbytery of Flamboro do.	53	19	8			
"	Presbytery of Toronto do.	49	2	5½			
"	Presbytery of Canada East do.	2	0	0			
"	Presbytery of Lanark do.	6	11	7½			
"	Presbytery of Durham do.	54	15	0			
"	Presbytery of Wellington do.	5	8	0			
"	Presbytery of Brant do.	42	11	4			
	Interest	13	7	7			
	Collected during past year.....£				276	5	5½
					499	11	5

Discharge.

1855.							
June 8.	Paid Rev. R. Torrance expenses at Com.	1	12	1			
"	Rev. W. Barrie do.	0	15	0			
22.	Rev. Robert Rodgers supplement.....	20	0	0			
"	LaChute do.	15	0	0			
27.	Mr. Carruthers do.	20	11	9			
"	Packenhams do.	7	10	0			
"	Order.	0	4	6			
"	Rev. J. Skinner, getting Mis. Cards Printed	2	3	4			
1856.							
Feb. 21.	Rev. Robert Monteath.....	34	10	7			
"	Rev. A. Henderson exchange 3s 6d.....	10	3	6			
Mar. 81.	Rev. Mr. Stewart Garrafraxa exchange 3s.	26	12	6			
Apr. 7.	Rev. Arch'd Cross balance of supplement	5	6	8			
30.	Order.	0	1	0			
"	Rev. Mr. Devine, Order, Pres. of Toronto	4	1	0			
May 20.	Rev. Mr. Fayette, supplement.....	25	0	0			
"	Rev. Robert Torrance, Attending Com..	5	10	0			
"	Order and Postage.....	0	2	9			
June 5.	New Glasgow Con. Supplement 3 years..	52	0	0			
"	Rev. Robert Torrance, Secretary.....	10	0	0			
"	Paid during the year.....				£241	4	8
"	Paid since balance.....				258	6	9
					37	9	6
	On hand.....				230	17	3

ABSTRACT THEOLOGICAL FUND.		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1855.							
July 3.	Balance on hand.....				121	16	6½
"	Presbytery of London collected during past year.....	8	14	5½			
"	" Flamboro " ".....	20	1	6			
"	" Toronto " ".....	26	2	3½			
"	" Canada East " ".....	8	5	0			
"	" Lanark " ".....	0	0	0			
"	" Durham " ".....	24	0	0			
"	" Wellington " ".....	6	5	0			
"	" Brant " ".....	20	5	0			

Interest.

113 13 3
3 12 6

DISCHARGE.

1855.					242	2	3½
Oct. 3.	Paid Professor Taylor.....	51	0	10			
Dec. 31.	" " ".....	51	0	10			
Mar. 31.	" " ".....	51	0	10			
	Exchange on Postage.....	0	7	0			
					153	9	6

Balance on hand 6th June 1856

88 12 9½

ABSTRACT OF SYNOD FUND.

	In arrear 7th June, 1855.....				95	10	5½
June 8.	Paid Synod officer.....				2	0	0
July 1.	Library.....				25	0	0
July 3.	Printers account.....				18	5	0
	" Rev. James Skinner attending Committee.....				1	10	0
1856.							
Jan. 15.	Rev. Thomas Christie.....				5	0	0
June 4.	Synod Clerk Salary and Postage account.....				16	1	2½
"	Rev. Thomas Christie.....				5	0	0
	Balance of Interest.....				8	0	0
					176	6	8
"	From Presbytery of London during past year.....	4	15	10			
"	do. Flamboro' do.....	13	0	9½			
"	do. Toronto do.....	7	12	11½			
"	do. Canada East do.....	0	0	0			
"	do. Lanark do.....	3	16	3			
"	do. Wellington do.....	18	17	6			
"	do. Brant do.....	3	10	0			
					51	13	4
	Arrear.....				£ 124	13	4

The Committee appointed to examine the Accounts of the Treasurer of the Home Funds, have found them kept in an accurate and orderly manner. They would respectfully call the attention of the Synod to the state of the Synod Fund, and suggest that some special effort be devised to liquidate the debt.

(Signed)

ROBERT TORRANCE.
JAMES DICK.