

MINUTES

OF THE

**Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection
with the Church of Scotland, begun at Kingston the
1st day of August, 1832, and concluded the
4th day of August, 1832 years.**

SESSION II.

DIET I.

*At Kingston, and within St. Andrew's Church there:—
the First Day of August, One Thousand Eight
Hundred and Thirty-two Years:—*

The following members of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, met, viz:—The Rev. John Machar, Rev. Thomas Clarke Wilson, Rev. William McAlister, Rev. William Stewart, Rev. James Ketchan, and Rev. William Rintoul, *Ministers*: and Mr. John McLean and Mr. Andrew McCord, *Ruling Elders*. Mr. Machar being called to the chair, opened the meeting with prayer, and Mr. Rintoul was chosen Clerk to the meeting.

It was unanimously resolved to put it on record, that the individuals constituting the present meeting, have met this day, first at Twelve o'clock, noon, and now again, together with the Rev. Robert McGill and the Rev. George Sheed, at Six o'clock, P. M., whilst the Moderator of the Synod has not been present, and that the meeting recognize their right to constitute the Synod, yet defer doing so till to-morrow at Ten o'clock, A. M.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

(Signed)

JOHN MACHAR, *Moderator, pro tem.*
WILLIAM RINTOUL, *Clerk.*

DIET II.

*At Kingston, and within St. Andrew's Church, there:—
The Second Day of August, One Thousand
Eight Hundred and Thirty-two Years:—*

The Synod of Canada met, and was constituted with prayer, when the Rev. Alexander Mathieson, was chosen Moderator.

Sederunt, Mr. John McKenzie, Mr. John Machar, Mr. James

Ketchan, Mr. William Rintoul, Mr. George Sheed, Mr. William Stewart, Mr. Thomas Clarke Wilson, Mr. Henry Esson, Mr. John Clugston, *Ministers*:—and Andrew McCord and John McLean, Esqrs., *Ruling Elders*.

Mr. Alexander Gale, was requested to act as conjoint Clerk of Synod.

The Minute of the Meeting of Members, held yesterday, was ordered to be preserved on the Record.

Mr. James Ketchan, an ordained Minister of the Church of Scotland, lately appointed to the Congregation of Belleville, appeared and craved to be admitted as a member of Synod, whereupon the Synod admitted him as a member, and connected him with the Presbytery of Bathurst.

The Synod resolved itself into a Committee of bills and overtures.

The Synod resumed.

The Clerk presented the report of the Committee of bills and overtures, which was read and approved of.

In conformity with the same, the Synod called for the report of the Committee appointed to draw up a Memorial to the General Assembly on the state of Religion in the several congregations under the care of the Synod, when Mr. McGill, the Convener, gave in a report which was read and approved—the tenor whereof follows:—"The Committee received narratives of the state of religion, from a majority of Ministers and Congregations under the jurisdiction of the Synod, copies of which, Mr. McGill, the Convener of the Committee, transmitted on the eighth of April last, to the Very Rev. Principal Macfarlane, of the University of Glasgow, the Convener of the General Assembly's Committee on the British North American Churches in connection with the Church of Scotland. The Committee lay on the table of the Synod, the original copies of the narratives. The Committee regret to inform the Synod that their report to the General Assembly was much more imperfect than it ought to have been, in consequence of several Ministers neglecting to obey the injunctions of the Synod in this matter; although all of them were twice reminded by letter from the Convener of the importance of this measure. No report whatever was received from any member of the Presbytery of Glengary. The original documents referred to in the report and laid on the table, were directed to be kept *in retentis*, and the Synod, with reference to the Presbytery of Glengary, expressed their regret that the members of said Presbytery had neglected to send in the reports, and enjoined them, as also Dr. Harkness and Mr.

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Ketchan, to forward, with all convenient speed, their reports to the Synod Clerk.

The Synod then called for the Records of the Presbytery of Quebec, which being laid on the table, the following Committee was appointed to examine them, viz:—Messrs. William Stewart, William Rintoul and Thomas C. Wilson, *Ministers*; and Mr. John McLean, *Elder*, with instructions to report to-morrow.

The Synod next called for the Records of the Presbyteries of Glengary and Bathurst, but the Clerks not being present, the Records were not produced.

The Records of the Presbytery of York were called for and produced, and the following Committee was appointed to examine them, viz:—Messrs. John Machar, Thomas C. Wilson, William McAlister, and James Ketchan, with instructions to report to-morrow.

The Report of the Standing Commission appointed to watch over the general interests of the Church, being called for, was given in by the Convener, read and approved.

The Report of the Committee appointed to collect information respecting Presbyterians in Canada, not in connection with the Church of Scotland, as to the expediency of admitting them into communion with this Church, being called for, was given in by Mr. Rintoul, and approved; the tenour whereof follows:—

The Committee met, with the Rev. William Smart of Brockville, Convener of the Committee of the United Synod of Upper Canada, for treating in the matter of the Union, and received from him the following information: That the Ministers of the United Synod are fifteen in number, viz.—The Rev. Robert McDowall, of Fredericksburg, educated in the United States; the Rev. William Smart of Brockville, educated in London; the Rev. William Bell, of Perth, educated in Scotland; the Rev. Robert Boyd, of Prescott, licensed in Ireland, and ordained in Upper Canada; the Rev. George Buchanan, of Beckwith, educated in Scotland; the Rev. Dr. Gemmel, of Lanark, educated in Scotland; the Rev. William King, of Nelson, educated partly in Ireland and partly in Scotland; the Rev. Andrew Bell, of Toronto Township, educated in Scotland; the Rev. Robert Lyle, of Osnabruck, licensed in Ireland, and ordained in Upper Canada; the Rev. Daniel W. Eastman, of Gainsborough, educated in the United States; the Rev. John Bryning, of Mount Pleasant; the Rev. Peter Ferguson, of Esquesing, educated in Scotland; the Rev. James Harris, of York, educated in Ireland, ordained

in Upper Canada; the Rev. Duncan McMillan, educated in Upper Canada; the Rev. William Jenkins, of Markham:—

That there are three licentiates, viz: Dr. Cairns, licensed in Upper Canada, and Mr. Thomas Johnston and Mr. Rogers, both licensed in Ireland. Mr. Smart reported, that in his opinion the people would generally be favourable to a union, and that his own congregation had once petitioned the General Assembly on this subject. Mr. Smart stated that the basis of the union to which the United Synod of Upper Canada would agree, would be the standards of the Church of Scotland.

The consideration of this report was delayed.

Mr. Clugston requested in behalf of the Presbytery of Quebec, that they be permitted to meet during the sitting of the Synod, for special business. Leave was granted.

The Synod then proceeded to the consideration of a reference from the Presbytery of York, respecting King's College, York, and an overture from the Rev. William Rintoul, on the training of young men for the Ministry, in connection with the Synod, in substance as follows:— It is humbly overtured, that the Synod recognize the great importance of a Seminary for educating and training young men for the Ministry within the bounds of the Synod: that the Synod should make an immediate and urgent application to the Government for founding an institution or endowing Professorships in connection with the Synod: that in the event of the Government not founding an Institution or Professorships, or indefinitely delaying it, this Synod should take into their serious consideration the importance of adopting a permanent measure for the education and training of Ministers.

Whereupon the Synod resolved to adopt the two first articles in the said overture, and appointed the following Committee to prepare an humble memorial to his Majesty, craving his Majesty's Government to endow, without delay, an Institution or Professorships for the education and training of young men for the Ministry, in connection with this Synod, viz:—Messrs. John Machar, William Rintoul, Robert McGill, John Clugston, and Henry Esson, *Ministers*; and Mr. Sheriff McLean and Mr. Andrew McCord, *Ruling Elders*; Mr. Rintoul to be *Convener* with instructions to prepare the memorial for the sanction of the Synod before the close of this Session. The Synod defer for the present giving any deliverance on the third article of the overture.

The Synod then adjourned till to-morrow at Ten o'clock, A. M., and was closed with prayer.

(Signed)

ALEX. MATHIESON, *Moderator*.
ROBERT MCGILL, *Synod Clerk*.

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DIET III.

St. Andrew's Church, Kingston, 3rd August, 1832.

The Synod met, and was constituted with prayer.

The Rev. George Cheyne appeared, and his name was added to the Sederunt. A letter was read by the Moderator from the Rev. Alexander Ross, assigning satisfactory reasons for his absence. The Report of the Arbitrators in the case of the Church of St. Gabriel Street, Montreal, being called for, Mr. McGill reported verbally on behalf of the Arbitrators, that they had come to a unanimous decision, which was read as follows:—

The Arbitrators chosen by the Rev. Henry Esson and the Rev. Edward Black, on their own behalf and on behalf of the congregation of St. Gabriel Street Church, Montreal, agreed unanimously in the following decision and award. The charge of two separate acts of intoxication alleged against Mr. Esson is totally unsubstantiated, and balancing the vague and inconclusive testimony of John Whitelaw and John Bruce, with that which establishes the general sobriety of Mr. Esson's conduct, the Arbitrators pronounce the charge of drunkenness frivolous and vexatious; and from the whole view of the evidence on this charge, they are grieved to discover an eagerness of crimination exceedingly at variance with that feeling which ought to subsist in the relation in which the accusers stand to Mr. Esson and which has manifestly led them to attach an undue importance to the testimony on which they rest their accusation. The charge of fornication is also in the judgment of the Arbitrators supported only by evidence vague and inconclusive, and when the character of the witnesses, and the irregular and objectionable manner in which the oaths and declarations of some of them appear to have been taken are considered, together with the defence of Mr. Esson, the Arbitrators regard him as exonerated from that charge, and they do hereby pronounce him not guilty of the same. In regard to the allegations so frequently brought, in the course of the defence, against Mr. Black as having originated and carried on a conspiracy with the view of effecting Mr. Esson's extrusion from the Church, the Arbitrators find these allegations unsubstantiated. But while they thus acquit Mr. Black of this charge, they think it necessary to remark that there is much in the proceedings of Mr. Esson's accusers to be condemned as hostile to the attainment of justice and in opposition to those Ecclesiastical laws which they were solemnly bound to reverence and obey. On the other hand the Arbitrators regard Mr. Esson's declining to use means for removing suspicion from the minds of his Brethren in the Session as censurable in the circumstances of the case; and it seems to them that had he, overlooking altogether the incompetency of the Session according to ecclesiastical law to decide as his judges, and seeking only to aid their investigations with a view of clearing himself from unfounded rumours, met at once in a manly and christian spirit the allegations made against him, much of the division and animosity which has so unhappily prevailed in the congregation, would have been prevented. In general, on the conduct of parties, the Arbitrators, as Christian Minis-

ters, judging in the affairs of a Christian Church, do most deeply deplore and solemnly condemn the suspicious, acrimonious and criminating spirit manifested by both parties, which has brought the foulest scandal on the Church of Christ, caused an unjust exposure of private character and produced such animosity between the parties as renders their continuance in the same congregation neither desirable nor proper. The Arbitrators entertaining these views on the essential parts of the case, do agree in the following award:—That Mr. Esson and Mr. Black do forthwith form separate congregations of such as may adhere to each respectively; That Mr. Esson shall, as senior Minister, retain exclusive possession of the Church in St. Gabriel Street, provided the proprietors who adhere to him shall purchase from the proprietors who adhere to Mr. Black, their pews at a valuation, to be determined, if necessary, by arbitrators mutually chosen, and that all the Records belonging to the Church in St. Gabriel Street be given up to Mr. Esson, in behalf of a new Session to be formed for that Church. In regard to any differences that may exist as to the proprietorship and temporalities of the Church, the Arbitrators adjudge that all such matters ought to stand exactly as they were when the Session instituted these proceedings against Mr. Esson, in November, One thousand eight hundred and twenty-nine: That those who were then proprietors of the Church shall be regarded as the present proprietors, notwithstanding that by their failing to pay their pew rents they may, according to the constitution of the Church, have forfeited their right of property: that those only who persevere in refusing to pay up their arrears shall actually forfeit their rights, and that all the money so due, and collected, shall be appropriated in the usual manner for paying the stipends of the Ministers up to this date, and the incidental charges connected with the Church; and should there arise any differences as to the collection and appropriation of the revenues of the Church between November one thousand eight hundred and twenty-nine, and June, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, to which this decision does not apply, it shall be determined by neutral persons mutually chosen, whose decision shall be final. The Arbitrators in the exercise of the trust reposed in them have unanimously agreed in the above decision and award, believing it to be founded on justice and equity, and they submit it in confidence that all parties will yield obedience to the same, not only from a regard to peace and the interests of the Church, but also in terms of the Bond which Mr. Esson and Mr. Black have signed to that effect. And the Arbitrators crave that the Presbytery of Quebec may do their part in giving effect to this decision by acknowledging Mr. Black and his adherents as a distinct Congregation already in full communion with the Church, and admitting them to all the rights and privileges flowing from this connection. In testimony whereof the Arbitrators hereto set their hands and affix their seals, at Kingston, in the Province of Upper Canada, the twenty-third day of May, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two.

(Signed) John Machar, John McKenzie, Robert McGill, George Sheed.
Signed, Sealed, &c., in the presence of George McKenzie.

The Synod received the report of the arbitrators, commended their diligence in the case, and approved of their award, and instructed them to ascertain how far it had been carried into effect, and to report as early as possible, during the present sitting of Synod.

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Certain papers connected with the preceding case, were laid by the Clerk of the Presbytery of Quebec upon the table, and were referred by the Synod to the arbitrators.

The Synod then called for the report of the Committee appointed to examine the Records of the Presbytery of Quebec, which being brought up by the Convener, was read as follows:—The Committee appointed to examine the Records of the Presbytery of Quebec, respectfully report that they find that the Presbytery have been very careful to record the extracts of the ordinations of the different Ministers within their bounds, but that the said Presbytery, in the judgment of the Committee, might have considered it unnecessary to sit in judgment on the qualification of the Ministers to be members of their body, seeing that the Synod had declared who should be members of the Presbytery. Your Committee further beg to advert to one or two inconsiderable errors committed by the Clerk, for example, in folios thirteen and fourteen, are instances of omitting to insert petitions which had been ordered to be engrossed—in folio seventeen, there is reference to a petition to the King, and an address to His Excellency, the matter of which is not on the Record—and in folio eighteen, it appears that an order to engross the same, has not been duly attended to by the Clerk of the Presbytery.

(Signed) WILLIAM STEWART, *Convener*.

Whereupon the Synod resolved that the report of the Committee be received *cum hac nota*, that as it was impossible for the Synod last year to scrutinize the credentials of Ministers, the Synod do not approve of that part of the report in which the Committee judge that it was not expedient for the Presbytery to sit in judgment on the credentials of Ministers constituting the Presbytery; and the Synod further instruct the Presbytery to cause the documents referred to in the Records, but not found therein, to be engrossed in an appendix.

Against this deliverance, Mr. Rintoul entered his dissent, for reasons to be given in due time.

The Report of the Committee appointed to examine the Records of the Presbytery of York was produced, read and approved, and the Clerk was ordered to give his attestation to the said books accordingly.

The Records of the Presbytery of Bathurst were laid on the table, and the following Committee was appointed to examine them and report, viz:—Messrs. George Cheyne, John Clugston, and William Stewart, Ministers:—and Andrew McCord, Ruling Elder.

A commission was laid on the table by Mr. Robert Drummond, as

Ruling Elder, from the Kirk session of St. Andrew's Church, Montreal, which was read and sustained, and Mr. Drummond's name was added to the Sederunt.

The Presbytery of Bathurst craved permission to meet to-morrow, for special business, which was granted.

The Treasurer of the Synod Fund gave in his report of the same, which was read and approved, and the Synod enjoined those Ministers, who have hitherto neglected to contribute, to forward their contributions to the Treasurer without delay, for the past year, and further enjoined all members of Synod to make a collection in aid of said fund, and transmit the same to the Treasurer within six months from this date.

An overture from the Presbytery of Quebec on the subject of Missions was produced and read, whereupon the Synod referred the same to the Mission Committee, adding to that Committee all the members of Synod not previously included therein.

The Committee appointed to examine the Records of the Presbytery of Bathurst gave in their report, which was read and approved, and the Synod instructed the Clerk to attest the said records accordingly.

The Synod then adjourned, to meet on the call of the Moderator.

The Synod resumed, when the report of the Missionary Committee was brought up by the Convener, and approved, and in conformity therewith, the Synod resolved to remodel the system of Missions, and to adopt the following plan, viz:—That the Presbytery of Quebec be formed into a Committee of Missions, with power to collect funds, and to appropriate the same for the support of Missions in the Lower Province; that the members of the Presbyteries of Bathurst, York and Glengary, be instructed to form a conjoint Committee, and to adopt such plans of operation as they may see fit.

In reference to the declaration of His Excellency Sir John Colborne, made in his letter to Mr. James Wylie, of Ramsay, "that he will consult the Synod on all subjects connected with the appointment of Ministers of the Church of Scotland," the Synod instructed the Standing Commission to thank His Excellency, and respectfully to request him to receive applications, from particular congregations, for a share of the Government allowance, only through the Presbytery within whose bounds such congregations are situated.

The communication from Lord Alymer, the Governor-in-Chief, to the Presbytery of Quebec, in reference to their Petition to the King for a

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share of the Clergy Reserves was read, whereupon the Synod referred the matter to the Presbytery of Quebec, and instructed them to proceed according to their best judgment, as the circumstances of the case may require.

The Synod having resolved to hear sermon from their late Moderator, at six o'clock in the evening, adjourned until to-morrow morning, at nine o'clock, for devotional exercises; the business of the Synod to commence at ten o'clock.

Closed with prayer.

(Signed)

ALEX. MATHIESON, *Moderator.*
ROBERT MCGILL, *Clerk.*

DIET IV.

St. Andrew's Church, 4th August, 1832.

The Synod met, and was constituted with prayer.

The Synod having learned from the Moderator that the credentials of Ministers belonging to the Presbytery of York have not been engrossed in the Records of that Presbytery, instruct them to cause the same to be engrossed forthwith.

The report of the arbitrators on the Montreal case, was given in and read as follows:—

The arbitrators having, in obedience to the Synod, inquired whether the award given by them at Kingston, on the twenty-third day of May last, on the disputes in the St. Gabriel Street congregation has been fulfilled, find that it has not been carried into effect; and the arbitrators regret to inform the Synod, that notwithstanding the protestations of parties as to their readiness to comply with the award, it appears to the arbitrators that the spirit of parties is such that they expect no peaceful termination of all their labours in this painful case. Persuaded that nothing which they can do will be of any avail in the matter, the arbitrators recommend to the Synod to enjoin the parties to settle this dispute in terms of the award with the least possible delay, warning them that unless the injunction be complied with they will be held to be contumacious, and left to the consequences of their conduct, and to the Tribunal of God.

Whereupon the Synod received and approved the report, and resolved in terms thereof, that the parties should be held as contumacious unless the decision of the arbitrators be immediately implemented, and that they shall be dealt with accordingly, and the Synod instruct the Clerk to send to the parties an extract of this minute.

The report of the Committee appointed to confer with a Committee of the United Synod of Upper Canada was again produced and read, and

after the Synod had maturely deliberated on the subject, the following motion was made and seconded:—The Synod having maturely considered the report of the Committee, and being deeply impressed with a sense of the importance of receiving into the Synod, the members of the United Synod of Upper Canada, both as regards the prosperity and advancement of the Presbyterian cause, and the general interests of religion in the Province, declare their readiness to receive the members of the said body, on the following conditions, viz:—That the Ministers of that body shall produce the extracts of their ordination to the Presbyteries of this Church, within whose bounds their congregations are placed, and that they, together with the sessions, or the representatives of their respective congregations, shall declare their adherence to the standards of the Church of Scotland, as to doctrine, discipline, government and worship, and also their adherence to the Presbyteries into which they are admitted, as well as to the Synod. That this measure shall not interfere with any arrangement now existing between individual members of this Synod, and the British Government, as to pecuniary allowances made to them, the Synod at the same time declaring their readiness to use their best endeavours to obtain from the British Government such extension of the allowance as may place the Ministers admitted into this Synod, in terms of this resolution, on the same footing with the present members. That the Synod instruct Presbyteries to give effect to this resolution, and they appoint the Commission to communicate this resolution to the Rev. William Smart, of Brockville, for the information of the members of the United Synod of Upper Canada; and they also instruct the commission respectfully to communicate this resolution to His Majesty's Government, the Union having been suggested by Sir George Murray, late Secretary to his Majesty for the Colonies, and at the same time to pray for an extension of the grant to Presbyterian Ministers. The Synod farther instructed the Commission to transmit to the General Assembly, a full statement of the circumstances of the Church in these Provinces, which called for this measure.

The following amendment was also proposed and seconded:—That the Synod consider a deliverance on a subject so important, as precipitate and premature, before the particular nature of that connection which does or may subsist between this Synod and the General Assembly, be fully defined. That the Synod, however, instruct the Presbyteries within their bounds, to procure all the information possible on the subject, and under existing circumstances, merely renew their declaration of the desirableness of a Union with the United Synod of Upper Canada, and request the co-operation of the United Synod towards the attainment of this object. That a memorial be prepared by this Synod, and transmitted to the Committee of the General Assembly on Colonial Churches, together with the information which may be procured on the subject, craving immediate advice.

The Roll being called and the votes taken on this motion and amendment, there appeared for the amendment two votes: against it, twelve.

Whereupon the motion was declared to be carried.

Against this decision, Mr. John McKenzie entered his dissent in his own name and in the name of such as may adhere to him, for reasons

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and John Crooks, Esquire, *Ruling Elder*, were appointed a Committee to revise the Minutes, and the Clerk was authorized to draw up an abstract of the same and to print and distribute it among the members of the Synod.

It was resolved that at least one Sermon, besides that of the Moderator should be delivered at the Meetings of Synod, the Moderator to appoint the Preacher, and that at one of the Sermons a collection be made for the Missionary funds of the particular District in which the Synod shall be held.

The Synod appointed the next ordinary meeting to be held at York, on the first Thursday of August, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-three, at Twelve o'clock, noon.

Closed with prayer, and a blessing.

(Signed)

ALEX. MATHIESON, *Moderator*.
ROBERT MCGILL, *Synod Clerk*.