

MINUTES OF THE

Upper Council

AT THEIR MEETING

IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, YORK,

ON THE

20th AUGUST, 1830, AND CONTINUED BY ADJOURNMENT TILL

2nd SEPTEMBER INSTANT

BY

YORK:

WILLIAM LYON MACKENZIE,

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MINUTES

Of the United Presbytery of Upper Canada, at their meeting in York, U. C. August 30th, 1830, and continued by adjournment till 2nd September.

*Presbyterian Church, York,
30th August, 1830.*

The United Presbytery of Upper Canada met, according to adjournment, and after sermon by the Rev. Robert Boyd, was constituted with prayer by the Rev. William Smart, moderator of the last meeting.—The roll was called and names marked.—Members present.

MINISTERS.

Robert McDowall,
William Smart,
William Bell,
Robert Boyd,
William King,
James Harris,
Andrew Bell,
Robert Lyle.

ELDERS.

Abraham Smith,
Edward Henderson,
George Miller,
Jackson Potter.

Moved, seconded and agreed to, that the Rev. Robert McDowall be Moderator, for the present year.—The Rev. Robert Lyle, at his request, was allowed to resign the office of Clerk, and the Rev. W. Smart was appointed in his stead.—After the minutes of last meeting were read, the Rev. Andrew Bell, from the York Committee, presented their report, which was read, approved and ordered to be inserted in the minutes.

REPORT OF THE YORK COMMITTEE OF PRESBYTERY, &c. &c.

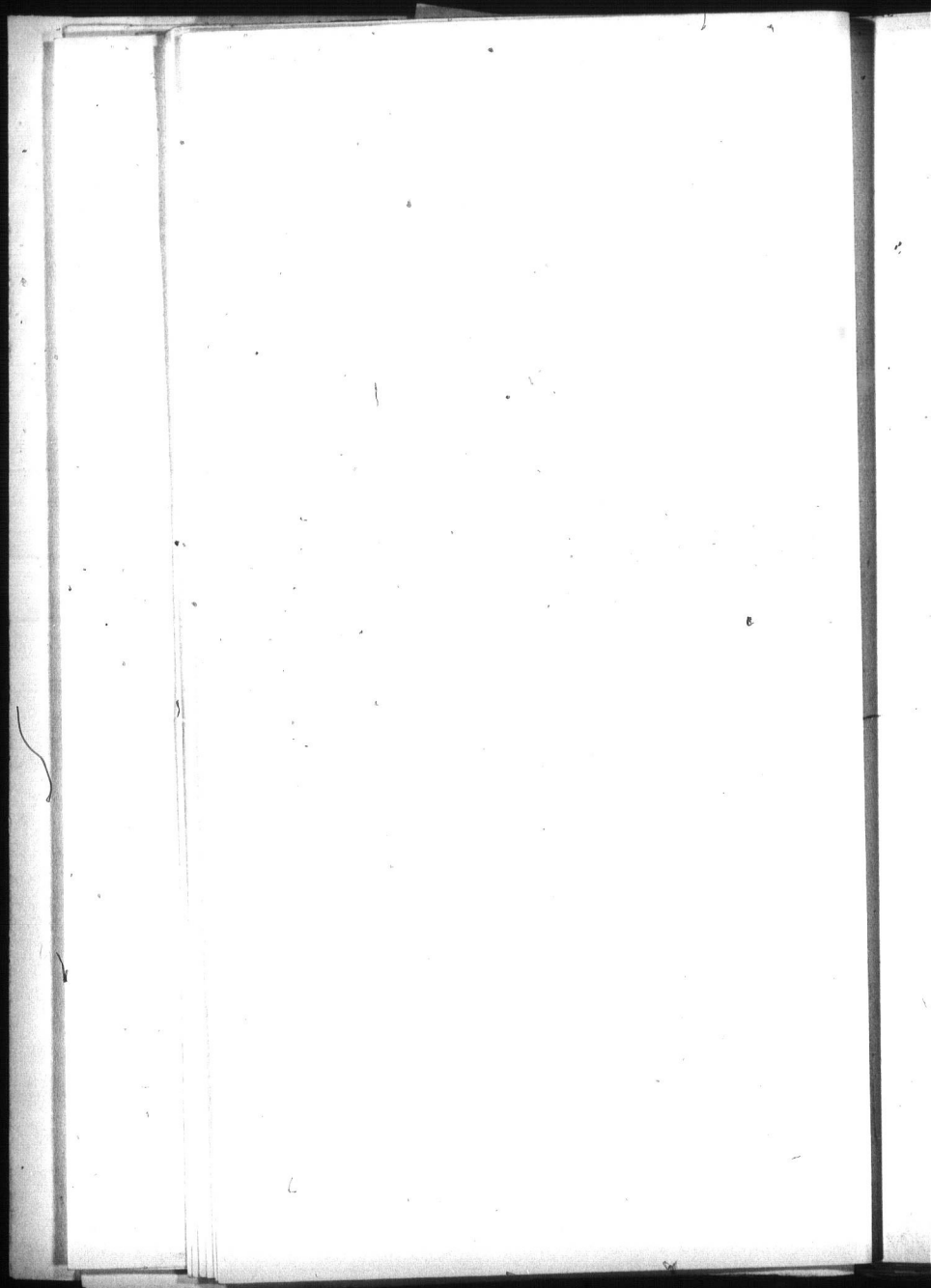
The Committee of Presbytery, consisting of the Ministers in the Hque and Gore and Niagara Districts, Report

That Mr. Duncan McMillan, who was last year examined by the Presbytery and received as a student under their inspection, having made considerable progress in his studies, the committee judged it expedient to receive him on trials for licence, in order that some of our vacant congregations might be supplied with his services as soon as possible.

They accordingly prescribed him subjects for a homily and lecture. At a meeting of the Committee held in York on the fifth of August last, he delivered these discourses, which were approved of, and sustained as pieces of trial by the Committee. Subjects were then prescribed him for a critical exercise and popular discourse, to be delivered at the present meeting of presbytery; and he was desired to be ready to be examined at the same time, in the languages, philosophy, and theology.

The Committee are aware that from the want of opportunity and from the peculiar circumstances in which he has been placed he cannot have such a finished education as those that have enjoyed the advantages of a university; but at the same time it is but justice to him to say that he has made an exceedingly diligent use of the limited means of education within his power, and has made considerable attainments in the several branches of literature to which his attention has been turned.

The calls for help from many of our vacant congregations being so urgent—the harvest so plentiful—and the labourers so few, the Committee are of opinion, that, till once the wants of our church can be supplied in some other way than from our present resources, it would not be a duty to insist upon a lengthy and formal term of education at a university as a qualification of those who wished to



enter into the ministry, especially as a respectable and useful education can be given amongst ourselves.

The Committee, therefore, from the knowledge they have of Mr. McMillan's qualifications, and the confident hope they entertain, that, with these, he will be highly useful in many of our vacant congregations, feel warranted in recommending the Presbytery to take him on final trial for licence at the present meeting.

It appears, from the printed minutes of the meeting of Presbytery held at Freeport in February last, that applications having been made by the Rev. Daniel W. Eastman of Grimsby and the Rev. Eli Chadwick of Charlottesville, to be admitted as members of Presbytery, the business was referred to this Committee. With regard to this the Committee report, that neither of the parties has since made any application to them on the subject, and that, consequently, they are not yet admitted, and the business lies over *in statu quo*.

ANDREW BELL,
Chairman of Committee.

York, 30th August, 1830.



Upon motion, *Resolved*, That the Presbytery take Mr. McMillan on final trial for licence, at one o'clock to-morrow.

Application was made, by Mr. John Brining of Mount Pleasant, for licence to preach the gospel, in connection with the Presbytery.

After much discussion, and serious deliberation, as to the necessity of taking some extraordinary steps in order to increase the ministry, and supply the wants of the destitute parts of the country.

It was, on motion, *Resolved*, That, from the pressing wants of the country and its particular circumstances, the rule heretofore acted on, requiring a collegiate education as a qualification of candidates for the holy ministry be relaxed—but that it be distinctly understood, that this is only a temporary measure.

Agreed to examine Mr. Brining in the forenoon to-morrow—
Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning—Closed with prayer.

Tuesday Morning, 9 o'clock.

Presbytery met, and was opened with prayer—Members present as above—The Rev. Daniel W. Eastman of Grimsby, along with an elder from his Church, appeared and applied to be received, as a Member of Presbytery—The documents, which he presented, being highly satisfactory to the Presbytery, the question was put "Receive or not?"—The roll being called and marked, it was carried "Receive"—Mr. Eastman's name, and that of his elder, (Daniel Smith,) were ordered to be added to the Roll, and they took their seats accordingly.

Presbytery proceeded to hear a specimen of trial from Mr. Brining, which was highly satisfactory, and after a minute examination and all being sustained; it was upon motion, *Resolved*, That he be admitted a licentiate, and that the Rev. William Bell license—Accordingly Mr. Brining, having satisfactorily answered the questions of the formula appointed to be put to candidates, was licensed to preach the gospel, as a probationer for the Ministry.

Adjourned to meet at one o'clock—Closed with prayer.

Tuesday, one o'clock.

Presbytery met and was opened with prayer—Members present as above. A letter was received from the Rev. William Jenkins, assigning reasons for his absence from the present meeting, which were unanimously sustained.



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Mr. McMillan having delivered a critical exercise and a popular discourse, the members made their remarks on them, and approved and sustained them as pieces of trial.

The Rev. Messrs. (W. Bell, King, and Lyle were appointed to examine Mr. McMillan as to his proficiency in the languages, philosophy, church history and divinity—which being done, and the Presbytery being satisfied, it was unanimously agreed, that he be licensed to preach the gospel, immediately after public worship in the evening, and that the Moderator license.

The Rev. Robert McDowall being called on to give a statement respecting his missionary tour through the eastern part of the Province, made a verbal report—The Presbytery's accounts with him were afterwards considered.

Adjourned to meet at seven o'clock in the evening—concluded with prayer.

Tuesday Evening, 7 o'clock.

Presbytery met and was opened with prayer—Members present as above.

Mr. McMillan's pieces of trial having been all sustained, and he having answered in a satisfactory manner the questions of the formula appointed to be put to candidates, he was licensed to preach the gospel as a probationer for the holy ministry.

Agreed that he should receive his appointments from the York Committee of Presbytery till the end of October, and afterwards from the Presbytery Clerk.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Moderator be enjoined by this Presbytery, to enter into an immediate correspondence with the Professors of Theology, in the different Theological Halls in Great Britain and Ireland, requesting them to direct the attention of their respective students and probationers to Upper Canada, as a field of useful and profitable labour.

On motion, *Resolved*, That it is expedient, from the present state of the country, and the pressing demands of this Presbytery for ministers, that the ministers be authorized to superintend the studies of such young men of piety as may desire to become ministers of the gospel; and that encouragement be given to youths of talents and religious character.

On motion, *Resolved*, That a Treasurer for the Home Missionary Society be appointed, to receive the sums collected in different parts of the country, for defraying the expence of missions in destitute settlements—and that the Rev. James Harris be the Treasurer.

Adjourned till eleven o'clock to-morrow. Closed with prayer.

Wednesday, 2nd September, eleven o'clock.

Presbytery met and was opened with prayer—Members present as above—Resumed the consideration of the Missionary business.

Resolved, That every Missionary, on his tour, is authorised to make collections wherever it is practicable, and report to the Presbytery the amount of the sums collected.



The different ministers having given accounts of the increase of congregations that were looking to them for stated supply of sermon; and the great number of missionary stations that were occasionally visited, it was

Resolved, That each minister organize Branch Missionary Societies, in connection with the Presbytery, in his own neighbourhood, wherever the people are desirous of having preaching from this Presbytery.

Mr. Phillips, a preacher, lately from England, laid before the Presbytery recommendatory letters from several clergymen in England, testifying to his Christian character as well as his literary qualifications; and stated that he had accepted an invitation to preach at Hamilton in the Gore District, and wished to be received into connection with the Presbytery. Members having made their remarks on the case, it was

Resolved, That the Presbytery are highly pleased with Mr. Phillips' recommendations, but as he is yet a stranger among us, it is deemed inexpedient to receive him at present; but that he be recommended to continue his course at Hamilton, and that, if after the expiration of six months, reports are favourable, the York Committee of ministers are authorized to proceed in the case as they see fit.

After some conversation on the necessity of a more extensive circulation of the Scriptures, it was

Resolved, That the ministers belonging to this Presbytery, use their endeavours to get Bible Societies formed in the several congregations in which they labour.

Adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock. Closed with prayer.

Wednesday Afternoon, 2 o'clock.

Presbytery met, and was opened with prayer. Members present as above.

The Rev. Messrs. William Bell and William Smart gave an interesting report of their missionary labours in which they had been engaged, in travelling through the country from Brockville to York.

In consequence of a resolution of the Presbytery, at its last meeting at Brockville, a respectful application was made, by the Moderator, to His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, for an official list of the Trustees of the District Schools, and, of the members of the Boards of Education, throughout the Province; which His Excellency kindly furnished. The same was laid before the Presbytery, and ordered to be printed in an appendix to the Minutes, for the information of the public, that they may be enabled to judge for themselves, to what religious denomination the greater part of the Trustees, &c. belong.

The Rev. Messrs. Robert Boyd and Andrew Bell were appointed a Committee to transcribe the Minutes for publication.

The next meeting of Presbytery to be held in the Presbyterian Church, South Gower, on Wednesday, the 26th of January, 1831.

Concluded with prayer.

ROBERT McDOWALL, Moderator.
WILLIAM SMART, Presbytery Clerk.

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APPENDIX.

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A List of the Trustees of the District Schools, and Members of the Boards of Education established in the several Districts of the Province.

EASTERN DISTRICT.

*Trustees for the District Schools,
first appointed in 1808.*

Hon. and Ven. Dr. Strachan,
Rev. S. Mountain,
Hon. A. McLean,
Samuel Anderson,
Joseph Anderson,
John Cryster, and
A. McMillin, Esq.

*Members of the Board of Education,
first appointed in 1816.*

Donald McDonald,
Archd. McLean.

OTTAWA DISTRICT.

Hon. and Ven. Dr. Strachan,
Alexr. McDonald,
George Hamilton,
Charles Sheriff,
P. P. Hotham, and
John Kearns, Esquires.

John McDonell.

BATHURST DISTRICT.

Hon. and Ven. Dr. Strachan,
James H. Powell,
George T. Burke,
William Morris,
H. Graham, Esqr. and
Revd. Michl. Harris.

Revd. Mr. Harris,
William Morris,
Anthony Lesslie,
Alexr. McMillan and
George H. Rende, Esqrs.

JOHNSTOWN DISTRICT.

Hon. and Ven. Dr. Strachan,
Revd. R. Blakey,
Revd. J. Wenham,
Elnathan Hubbel,
Jonas Jones, and
Charles Jones, Esquires.

Revd. J. Wenham,
Elnathan Hubbel,
Jonas Jones,
Joel Stone and
Charles Jones.

MIDLAND DISTRICT.

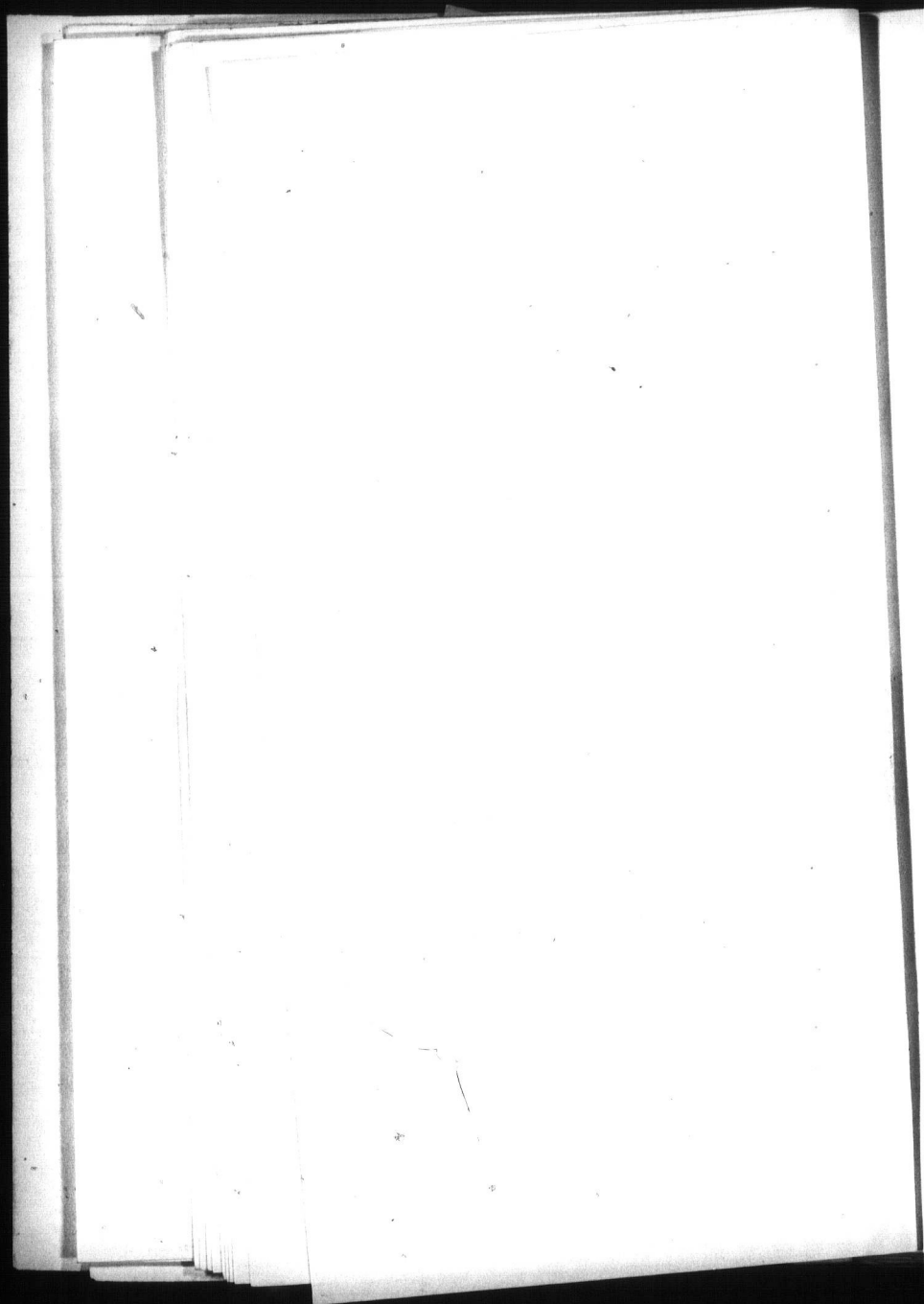
Hon. and Ven. Dr. Strachan,
Ven. Archdeacon Stuart,
C. A. Hagerman,
James Sampson,
Allan McLean,
Thomas Markland,
John Macaulay, Esq. and
Hon. G. H. Markland.

Ven. Archdeacon Stuart,
C. A. Hagerman,
James Sampson, and
Thomas Dorland, Esq.

NEWCASTLE DISTRICT.

Hon. & Ven. Dr. Strachan,
Rev. A. N. Bethune,
Walter Boswell,
Zacheus Burnham,
Robert Henry,
Elias Jones,
John Peters and
Leonard Soper, Esquires.

Rev. A. N. Bethune.



HOME DISTRICT.

Hon. and Ven. Dr. Strachan,	Hon. and Ven. Dr. Strachan,
Hon. D'Arcy Boulton,	Grant Powell, Esq.
John Smith, Esq.	Hon. William Allan.
Hon. D. Cameron,	
Hon. J. Baby,	
J. B. Robinson and	
D'Arcy Boulton, Esquires.	

GORE DISTRICT.

Hon. and Ven. Dr. Strachan,	Elijah Secord, and
James Crooks,	B. O'Reilly, Esquires.
James Racey,	
John Watson,	
Matthew Crooks,	
Thomas Taylor,	
William Ellis, and	
John Law, Esquires.	

NIAGARA DISTRICT.

Hon. and Ven. Dr. Strachan,	Rev. Thomas Green,
Hon. William Dickson,	Richard Leonard, Esq.
Richard Leonard,	
Thomas Cummings,	
James Muirhead,	
Rev. Thomas Green, and	
Rev. Robt. McGill.	

LONDON DISTRICT.

Hon. and Ven. Dr. Strachan,	John Rolph,
M. Burwell,	J. B. Askin,
John Bostwick,	James Mitchell, and
Jos. Ryerson,	Geo. C. Salmon, Esqrs.
J. Mitchell,	
John Rolph,	
J. Harris, Esquires, and	
Rev. James Evans, appointed the	
4th of June, 1830.	

WESTERN DISTRICT.

Hon. and Ven. Dr. Strachan,	Hon. A. McIntosh, and
Hon. James Baby,	William Hands, Esq.
Hon. A. McIntosh, and	
Alexander Duff, Esq.	

PETERBOROUGH SCHOOL.

TRUSTEES.

Thomas A. Stewart,	Robert Reid, Esq.
Charles Rubridge, and	Rev. T. Crowley.