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Extracts

FROM THE

MINUTES

OF THE

UNITED SYNOD

OF

UPPER CANADA,

AT

THEIR MEETING IN YORK,

Tuesday, 19th June,

1832,

AND

CONTINUED BY ADJOURNMENTS.

Published by order of Synod.

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1832.

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The Rev. JAMES HARRIS, *York*, is Treasurer for the Synod; and to him all monies collected in the different congregations for Missionary purposes—for the Synod Fund—and the Seminary Fund &c. ought to be paid.

The Rev. ROBERT BOYD, *Prescott*, is Moderator of the Synod, for the present year.

The Rev. ANDREW BELL, *Toronto*, is the Synod Clerk—Letters, addressed to him, to be sent to Streetsville Post Office.

The EDITH and LORNE PIERCE
COLLECTION of CANADIANA



Queen's University at Kingston

Extracts from the Minutes
OF THE
UNITED SYNOD OF UPPER CANADA,
At their Meeting in York, Upper Canada, Tuesday 19th June,
1832, and continued by adjournments.

—◆—
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, YORK, }
Tuesday, 19th June, 1832. }

The United Synod of Upper Canada met, according to adjournment, and was opened by the Moderator, the Rev. Andrew Bell, with a sermon from Psalm 87, 3. "Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God."

After public worship, the Synod was constituted with prayer by the Moderator.

The Roll was called and marked—Members present.

FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF BROCKVILLE.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.
Rev. William Smart,	<i>Brockville.</i>
" Robert Boyd,	<i>Prescott.</i>

FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF YORK.

Rev. William Jenkins,	Robert Johnston,	<i>Scarborough.</i>
" James Harris,	Malcolm McLellan,	<i>York.</i>
" William King,		<i>Nelson.</i>
" Andrew Bell,	Samuel Wallace,	<i>Toronto.</i>
" Daniel W. Eastman,		<i>Grimsby.</i>
" John Bryning,		<i>Mount Pleasant.</i>
" Peter Ferguson,	Thomas Barber,	<i>Esquesing.</i>
" Duncan McMillan,		<i>Caledon.</i>

The Rev. Robert Boyd was chosen Moderator, and the Rev. Andrew Bell, Synod Clerk.

The Minutes of the last Meeting having been read, Synod adjourned till 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Concluded with Prayer.

—◆—
Wednesday Morning, 10 o'clock.

Synod met, and was opened with prayer—Members present as above—Read the minutes of last sitting.

A letter was received from the Rev. George Buchanan assigning reasons of absence from the present Meeting which were unanimously sustained.—It was on motion,

Resolved—That the Clerk be directed to write to the other absent members, namely, the Rev. Messrs. McDowall, Wm. Bell, Gemmill, and Lyle, expressing the regret of the Synod at their absence, and urging them to attend more punctually in future; and likewise, that they be enjoined to assign their reasons of absence at next Meeting.—Received and read,

The Report of the Presbytery of York.

In reviewing the year that is past, the Members of this Presbytery feel much occasion, on their own behalf, and on behalf of their congregations for gratitude to the Great King and Head of the Church. While God has evidently been among the churches for the edification of his people and the calling in of sinners, we believe that ours have not been neglected;—that his presence has been felt amongst us;—and that beneficial results have been experienced. We have stood with the Prophet Elijah at the mouth of the Cave, and we have seen the great and strong wind, and the earthquake, and the fire passing by us,—and the Lord was not in any of these; but He has been heard and felt among us in the still small voice of the Gospel.

Pure and undefiled religion has been decidedly on the advance among us, and in a way that we think characteristic of the influences of Him who has said, “I will be as the dew unto Israel.”—Numbers have been added to our churches, particularly from among the young: and the means of grace have been well attended. The Temperance cause is also prospering amongst us, and our people are awakening more and more to the necessity of an effort being made on its behalf. A number of Societies have been formed in our congregations; and it is hoped that in this, as well as in other branches of practical holiness, their light will so shine before men, that others, seeing their good works, will glorify their Father who is in heaven.

At our first meeting, in August last year, we recommended the use of the Westminster Assembly’s version of the Psalms in all the churches under our care.

At our meeting in November last, we passed a resolution, expressive of our determination to enforce the rules laid down in the **Form of Church Government and Ordination**, relative to the ex-

mination of all persons (whether ordained ministers or licentiated,) producing dismissals from other Presbyterian bodies with a view to admission to this Presbytery, upon their Theological sentiments.

The congregation of Esquesing having given a unanimous call to the Rev. Peter Ferguson, which was after mature deliberation sustained by Presbytery, Mr. Ferguson was removed from West Gwillimbury, where he had been formerly installed; and on the 11th April last, Presbytery installed him in the charge of the congregation in Esquesing.

Mr. James Cairns, having gone through the usual pieces of trial prescribed by Presbytery in a satisfactory manner, was on the 19th of June licensed to preach the Gospel as a probationer for the Holy Ministry.

We have received Mr. William Lermont, under the inspection of Presbytery, as a student with a view to the Ministry.

The Presbyterian congregation of London, and likewise that of Eramosa have sent in regular adherences to our cause, and petitioned for supply of sermon. The former of these, by appointment of Presbytery, has been partially supplied by the Rev. Andrew Bell, and presents very cheering prospects; the latter by the Rev. Peter Ferguson. The Presbyterian congregation of Port Hope petitioned last fall for a supply of sermon from us, and although one of our members was appointed to give them a present supply, he was from unavoidable circumstances, prevented from fulfilling his appointment. The congregation of West Gwillimbury, left vacant by the removal of Mr. Ferguson, has also petitioned for supply of sermon. Besides these, there are other places which we could occupy as fields of Missionary labour; and we therefore request that Synod will appoint such probationers as may come to be at their disposal as long a time as possible within our bounds, in order to enable us to meet, as far as possible, the applications to us for supply of sermon.

We have prepared a new Formula of Questions for Licensure and Ordination, containing such amendments and additions to the one now in use as were deemed necessary by us, and we now sub-

mit the same to the consideration of Synod, in the hope that it may be adopted for general use in the Body.

By order of Presbytery,

DUNCAN McMILLAN, *Moderator.*

ANDREW BELL, *Presbytery Clerk.*

On motion, Synod entered upon the consideration of the Formula of Questions brought up by the York Presbytery.

Adjourned to meet again at 2 o'clock.

Concluded with Prayer.



Wednesday Afternoon, 2 o'clock.

Synod met, and was opened with prayer.—Read and corrected the minutes of the forenoon's sitting.

Resumed the unfinished business of the forenoon, namely, the consideration of the Formula of Questions, and said questions having been considered one by one, and approved of, it was agreed that the final adoption of the Formula be deferred till next meeting of Synod, and that the Clerk furnish members with copies; but that in the mean time, it be left to the discretion of the Presbyteries and Ministers to use it, should they see fit.

Messrs. Smart, Bell, and Wallace were appointed a committee to draw up a Pastoral Letter to the churches under the care of the Synod.

Agreed to meet for prayer at 6 o'clock to-morrow morning.

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

Concluded with Prayer.



Thursday Morning, 9 o'clock.

Synod met, and was opened with prayer. Read the Minutes of last sitting.

According to agreement a meeting was held this morning for prayer for the outpouring of the influences of the Holy Spirit on ministers and people; and likewise for the mercy of God in the midst of an afflictive visitation.—Received and read,

The Report of the Presbytery of Brockville.

In reporting to Synod, we would observe, that although we have not the transaction of much business to notice, yet in our churches the Lord has been doing great things for us whereof we are glad.—

The Spirit of God has been poured out in an abundant manner on several of our churches. The means of grace have been in general well attended and blessed. The number of the members of our churches has been increased, and they have walked worthy of the high vocation wherewith they are called. The Temperance cause is also on the advance among us, and many of our people are to be found enrolled among its friends and supporters.

At our meeting in February last, the Presbyterians in the townships of Russell, Osgoode, and Gloucester applied to us for a supply of sermon and for the adoption of some means to furnish them with the permanent enjoyment of the ordinances of the gospel. The Rev. Robert Lyle has been appointed to give them occasional supply, to organize a church, and dispense the sacrament of the Lord's Supper among them. As there are many other places depending on the several members of this Presbytery for such occasional supply of sermon as can be given, and are anxious for the full enjoyment of the gospel, we hope that Synod will take some step to procure a supply of preachers.

Our student, Mr. Dickey, is still pursuing his studies, and another one, Mr. Christie, has been received under the inspection of Presbytery.

We have prepared a draft of a memorial, to His Majesty, remonstrating against the exclusive endowment of certain churches in the Province, as unjust in principle and oppressive in operation. We lay the said document before Synod, hoping that something may be done on the subject.

A complaint having been preferred, by the congregation of Ormestown, against Mr. James Miller, who was received as a probationer at the general meeting in June last year, he has been, to a certain length, subjected to the discipline of the church, by this Presbytery, and we now refer the matter to Synod for its decision. The necessary explanations will be given when the case is called up.

By order of Presbytery,

ROBERT LYLE, *Moderator.*

WILLIAM SMART, *Presbytery Clerk.*

On motion, Synod took up the case of Mr. Miller, and after mature deliberation it was,

On motion, Resolved, That Mr. Miller's name be struck from the list of probationers, that no further proceedings be had in his case by the Brockville Presbytery until communication is had with the United Associate Presbytery of Glasgow; and that the Synod Clerk be instructed to write immediately to Dr. Kidston, the Clerk of said Presbytery, for the necessary information, and also to Mr. Miller, informing him of the decision of Synod.

Agreed that Mr. James Cairns, probationer, shall receive his appointments from the York Presbytery till the 1st of January, 1833, and from that time till the next meeting of Synod, from the Brockville Presbytery.

At 11 o'clock, Synod adjourned till 2, in order to meet for public worship with the congregation, preparatory to the dispensation of the Lord's Supper on Sabbath.

Concluded with Prayer.



Thursday Afternoon, 2 o'clock.

Synod met, and was opened with prayer.—Read and corrected the minutes of last sitting.

The Clerk laid before Synod a friendly letter, which had been addressed to him, from the Associate Reformed Synod of New York to this Synod, and which having been read it was

On motion, Resolved, That the members of this Synod are highly gratified with the Christian feelings entertained for them by their brethren in the Ministry, as well as with the accounts of the prosperity of the churches and the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom within the bounds of the Associate Reformed Synod; and, that the Rev. Andrew Bell be appointed to write a friendly letter to the Associate Reformed Synod in answer to the one now received and read.

The Rev. William Smart laid before Synod certain documents relative to the Literary and Theological Seminary at Pleasant Bay, Hillier, and reported on his visit to that place, as appointed at last general meeting.

Synod took up the subject, and after due consideration, it was,

On motion, Resolved, 1, That the members of this Synod approve of the Regulations for the management of the Seminary which have been submitted, so far as they go; and agree to give it all the encouragement in their power.

2. That the Rev. James Harris and the Rev. William Bell (or in case of the inability of the latter to attend, the Rev. Peter Ferguson)

be a committee to visit Pleasant Bay, in the beginning of August, to preach in the neighbourhood, and make such arrangements as shall be deemed necessary for securing the property to the Synod by a legal deed; and that the Rev. Messrs. William Smart, William Bell, Robert Boyd, James Harris, Andrew Bell, and Peter Ferguson, be Trustees for holding it in the name of the Synod when such arrangements shall have been made.

3. That the above deputation is authorized afterwards to furnish Mr. Cory with credentials appointing him an agent, in the name of the Synod, to solicit subscriptions throughout the Province, to assist in finishing the necessary buildings; and that the members of Synod shall further the object of his mission, to the utmost of their power in their respective neighbourhoods.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning 7 o'clock.
Concluded with Prayer.



Friday Morning, 7 o'clock.

Synod met, and was opened with prayer.—Read the Minutes of last sitting.

On motion, the draft of the remonstrance submitted by the Brockville Presbytery, was read, and Synod proceeded to consider the propriety of the measure.

Adjourned to meet at 10 o'clock.
Concluded with Prayer.



Friday Forenoon, 10 o'clock.

Synod met, and was opened with prayer.—Read the minutes of last sitting.

Resumed the unfinished business of the morning, and the propriety of the measure being fully discussed and admitted by members, it was,

On motion, Resolved, That this Synod do present a Memorial to the King, remonstrating against the policy of exclusively endowing particular churches in this Province, and thereby putting it in their power, in a certain degree, to invade and interfere with the religious privileges of the members of this Synod, as well as to disturb the peace of their congregations.

The draft of the Memorial before Synod, having been amended so as to suit the views of members, was committed to Messrs. Smart, Boyd, Bell, and Ferguson to have a copy prepared, to be signed

by the Moderator and Clerk, and to present the same to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, with a respectful request to forward it and cause it to be laid at the foot of the Throne.

A proposal having been made to commence the publication of a Monthly Religious Magazine, under the immediate control and superintendence of the Synod, it was deferred till next meeting, in order to allow time for ascertaining the extent to which it would be supported.

Resolved, That the next meeting of this Synod be held at Prescott.

Adjourned till 2 o'clock.

Concluded with prayer.



Friday Afternoon 2 o'clock.

Synod met, and was opened with prayer—Read the Minutes of last sitting.

Synod having considered various plans for procuring a supply of preachers for the destitute settlements,

Resolved, That the Clerk write to the Professors of Divinity and the Synod Clerks of the different Presbyterian bodies, in the mother Country, soliciting them to encourage young men of a missionary spirit to turn their attention to the wants of this country.

The Rev. Messrs. Smart, W. Bell, Boyd, King, A. Bell, and Ferguson, were appointed a Committee, to attend to any business resulting from the consideration of the proposed union, with the other Presbyterian Ministers in the Province, whether by joint committees or otherwise.

The business being completed, the Synod adjourned to meet in the Presbyterian Church in Prescott, on the third Tuesday in June, 1833, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

Concluded with prayer and the apostolic benediction.

ROBERT BOYD, *Moderator.*

ANDREW BELL, *Synod Clerk.*

LIST OF MINISTERS, &c.



Presbytery of Brockville.

REVEREND	ROBERT McDOWALL,	FREDERICKSBURGH.
"	WILLIAM SMART,	BROCKVILLE.
"	WILLIAM BELL,	PERTH.
"	ROBERT BOYD,	PRESCOTT.
"	GEORGE BUCHANAN,	BECKWITH.
"	JOHN GEMMILL,	LANARK.
"	ROBERT LYLE,	OSNABRUCK.



Presbytery of York.

REVEREND	WILLIAM JENKINS,	MARKHAM.
"	JAMES HARRIS,	YORK.
"	WILLIAM KING,	NELSON.
"	ANDREW BELL,	TORONTO.
"	DANIEL W. EASTMAN,	GRIMSBY.
"	JOHN BRYNING,	MOUNT PLEASANT.
"	PETER FERGUSON,	ESQUESING.
"	DUNCAN McMILLAN,	CALEDON.



Note by the Synod Clerk.—By a resolution of the United Presbytery, passed in 1829, returns are to be made once a year of the number of families, communicants, baptisms, &c. in the several congregations.

The following form is submitted to the different congregations in the hope that it will facilitate a compliance with the above mentioned resolution; and likewise preserve a uniformity in the returns—A return ought to be made from each place where there is a regularly organized Church.—Separate returns might also be made by the ministers, of the number of preaching stations (not organized as Churches,) and the number of families and baptisms, and the amount of collections (if any) at each.

Sessional Statistical Report.

[FORM.]

Attached to the Congregation.	FAMILIES.
Total in communion per last Report.	COMMUNICANTS.
Added on personal examination.	
Added on certificate from some of our own churches.	
Added on certificate from other Presbyterian churches.	
Died.	
Removed or dismissed by certificate.	
Suspended.	
Total now in communion.	
Adults Baptized.	BAPTISMS SINCE LAST REPORT.
Infants Baptized.	
Total of Baptisms.	
For Missionary Fund.	COLLECTIONS SINCE LAST REPORT.
For Seminary Fund.	
For Synod Fund,	

Minister.

_____, June —, —

_____, *Minister.*
_____,
_____, *Elder.*
_____,
_____, *Session Clerk*