

**ABSTRACT OF MINUTES**

OF THE

**Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada.**

Session 5, Year 1835.

**I. DIET.**

The Synod met at Williamstown on the 16th Sept. 1835. Sermon by Mr. George Cheyne from Phil. ii. 12. 13. Wednesday September 11.  
The roll of Synod as follows, those marked with an asterisk were present.

**ROLL OF THE PRESBYTERY OF CLENGARY.**

**MINISTERS.**

- \*JOHN MACKENZIE,..... Williamstown.
- \*ARCHIBALD CONNELL,.... Martintown.
- \*HUGH URQUHART,..... Cornwall.
- \*ALEX. M'NAUGHTON,..... Lancaster.
- \*JOHN M'ISAAC,..... Lochiel,

**ELDERS.**

- \*JOHN M'GILIVRAY..... Williamstown.
- \*HON. ARCH. M'LEAN,..... Cornwall.
- \*PETER M'INTYRE,..... Martintown.
- \*MURDOCH M'PHERSON,.... Lancaster.

**ROLL OF THE PRESBYTERY OF QUEBEC.**

**MINISTERS.**

- (vacant.)
- JAMES SOMERVILLE, St. Andrew's Church, Quebec.
- \*HENRY ESSON, St. Gabriel, Montreal.
- \*ALEX MATHIESON, do.
- \*JOHN CLUGSTON, St. Andrew's, do.
- \*JOHN TAYLOR, St. Johns, Quebec.
- (vacant.) Lachine,
- DAVID BROWN, Georgetown,
- WILLIAM MAIR, Valcartier,
- \*DUNCAN MOODY, Greenville.
- (vacant.) Dundee,
- WILLIAM ROACH, Leeds,
- EDWARD BLACK, Beauharnois,
- St. Paul's Montreal.

**ELDERS.**

- D. R. STEWART, St. Andrew's Church Quebec,
- \*THOMAS BLACKWOOD, St. Gabriel, Montreal,
- \*JAMES FLEMING, St. Andrew's do.
- ALEX. HADDAN, Lachine,
- Wm. BROWN, Valcartier,
- R. H. NORVAL, Beauharnois,

W. WALKER,  
JAMES ANDERSON,  
(vacant.)

Huntingdon, Ormiston,  
Beechridge, and Williamstown,

R. ARMOUR,  
GEORGE DANSKIN,

St. Paul's, Montreal,  
Huntingdon,

### ROLL OF THE PRESBYTERY OF BATHURST.

#### MINISTERS.

\*JOHN CRUIKSHANK,.....Bytown.  
\*THOMAS C. WILSON,.....Perth,  
\*WILLIAM MACALISTER,....Lanark.  
\*JOHN SMITH,.....Beckwith.  
\*JOHN FAIRBAIRN,.....Ramsay.  
\*GEORGE ROMANES.....Smith's Falls.

#### ELDERS.

DONALD KENNEDY,.....Bytown.  
\*JOHN ROBSON,.....Perth.  
ROBERT MASON,.....Lanark.  
ALEXANDER ERSKINE,....Ramsay,  
WILLIAM ELLIOT,.....Smith's Falls.

### PRESBYTERY OF KINGSTON.

#### MINISTERS.

\*JOHN MACHAR,  
JAMES KETCHAN,  
\*JOHN M. ROGER,  
\*THOMAS ALEXANDER,

Kingston,  
Belleville,  
Peterborough,  
Cobourg,

\*JOHN M'LEAN,  
(vacant.)  
JOHN HUTCHIESON,  
(vacant.)

#### ELDERS.

Kingston,  
Belleville,  
Peterborough,  
Cobourg.

### ROLL OF THE PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

#### MINISTERS.

ALEXANDER ROSS,.....Aldborough.  
\*ROBERT M'GILL,.....Niagara.  
\*GEORGE CHEYNE,.....Amherstburgh.  
JAMES SMITH,.....Guelph.  
PETER M'NAUGHTON,....Vaughan.  
MARK Y. STARK,.....Dundas & Ancaster.  
\*ALEXANDER GALE,.....Hamilton.  
\*PETER FERGUSON,.....Esquesing.  
\*HENRY GORDON,.....Newmarket.  
\*ANDREW BELL,.....Gore of Toronto.  
DUNCAN M'MILLAN,.....Caledon.  
\*JAMES GEORGE,.....Scarborough.  
\*WILLIAM RINTOUL,.....Streetsville.  
\*WILLIAM M'KILLICAN,....West Gwilliamsbury.  
\*DONALD M'KENZIE,.....Zora.  
\*WILLIAM T. LEACH,.....City of Toronto.

#### ELDERS.

JAMES LOCKHART,.....Niagara.  
WILLIAM CRAIGIE,.....Ancaster.  
ANDREW STEVEN,.....Hamilton.  
THOMAS BARBER,.....Esquesing.  
EDWARD W. THOMSON,....Toronto Township.  
ADAM BELL,.....Scarboro.  
GARRY CAMP,.....Streetsville.  
W. SUTHERLAND,.....West Gwilliamsbury.

Mr. John Cruikshank was chosen MODERATOR. Mr. McGill's reasons of Dissent from the decision of the Synod respecting the Roll of the Presbytery of Toronto, at last session, were read, and adherence to, the same given in by several members.

Committees appointed—for bills and overtures—for the revision of Synod, and Presbytery Records—and on the finances of the Synod.

An hour appointed for reading the Scripture and prayer every morning before the commencement of business.

## II. DIET.

*Thursday, September 17th.*

Synod constituted. Reading Scriptures and prayer by Mr. John Fairbairn.

The Presbytery of Toronto, reported diligence in visiting St. Thomas and warning the Congregation there of the deposition of Mr. David McKenzie by the Presbytery of Tongue, and in obtaining from the Quarter Sessions for the London District the suspension of his license to celebrate Marriage.

The Presbytery of Glengary reported their obtaining from the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Presbytery of Kintyre, extracts of the deposition of Mr. Alexander Campbell late of Portnahaven (now in Thorah and Eldon,) and the same were recorded.

The Committee on Synodical Correspondence reported that arrangements for correspondence with the Synod of Nova Scotia, were in progress.

A Committee on calls and constitutions of Churches was appointed, Mr. Clugston Convener.

A letter from Dr. Patrick McFarlane, late Moderator of the General Assembly, dated London, July 2nd, 1835. addressed to the Convener of the General Assembly's Committee on Colonial Churches and transmitted by him, was read and recorded; as was an extract from a Despatch of the Earl of Aberdeen Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A dissent and complaint of Mr. Thomas Blackwood, against certain proceedings of the Presbytery of Quebec, in regard to the election of Mr. John Taylor, to St. Andrew's Church, Quebec, together with a protest and appeal of Mr. Alexander Mathieson against the legality of the meeting at which such proceedings took place were taken up, and a committee appointed to examine the records of the Presbytery of Quebec, and report specially on the legality of the meeting protested against.

The petition of Francis Allan, and others respecting certain differences in the Church of Perth, with various documents connected therewith, were taken up. Parties heard were Mr. Francis Allan, Doctor Wilson, William Morris Esq. M.P., for themselves and other petitioners; Mr. John Robson, Elder, for part of the Congregation; Mr. John Fairbairn, Mr. Thomas C. Wilson, and Mr. William McAlister for the Presbytery of Bathurst,—decision in this case, deferred until to-morrow.

## III. DIET.

*Friday, September 18th.*

Synod constituted. Reading the Scriptures and Prayer by Mr. William Rintoul. Case of the Church of Perth resumed, and the following decision given in: agreed to.

That the Synod find that the constitution passed on the 3d January, 1835, cannot be sustained in so far as the provision it makes for the dismissal of Elders, and the dissolution of the pastoral connection involves matters on which the congregation is incompetent to decide, and which have been determined in this case contrary to the laws and practice of this church;—declare the said constitution null in those respects—disapprove of the constitution framed on the 28th of January, 1835, as being inconsistent in some of its details, with the rights of certain parties connected with the Church, disapprove also of the conduct of the Presbytery of Bathurst, in the approbation they recorded of the latter constitution, and order their whole minutes respecting the same to be expunged—and in respect to the great heats and divisions that have arisen in the congregation of Perth, about said constitutions, resolve that the commission of Synod proceed to Perth, forthwith, with authority to inquire into the origin of the same, and use their endeavours to remove the causes thereof, and enjoin the Presbytery of Bathurst to give effect to the decision of the Commission in so far as they Presbyterially may.

Extracts craved by Mr. Thomas C. Wilson, and granted.

The Committee appointed to inquire into the legality of a meeting of the Presbytery of Quebec held on the 16th July, 1835. reported that the same was legal. The consideration of Mr. Blackwood's dissent and complaint was resumed. Various documents connected with the same were read—farther consideration of the case deferred until to-morrow at 10 o'clock.

## IV. DIET.

Saturday, September 19th

Synod constituted. Reading the Scriptures and Prayer by Mr. Thomas C. Wilson. The case of St. Andrew's Church, Quebec, was resumed. Mr. Thomas Blackwood, and Mr. Henry Esson, were heard in support of the dissent and complaint. No appearance in behalf of the Presbytery of Quebec—but written answers to reasons of dissent put in by Mr. Walter Roach were read. Mr. Esson was heard in reply. Dunbar Ross Esq. advocate, was heard in behalf of certain Pewholders, and sitters, in said Church against the election and settlement of Mr. Taylor. Parties being removed, Mr. Taylor tendered to the Synod a resignation of his claims, founded on his election to said Church. The Synod had long reasoning, and deferred pronouncing a decision, and adjourned until Monday at 9 o'clock, A. M.

## V. DIET.

Monday September 21st.

Synod constituted. Reading the Scripture and Prayers by Mr. James George. The consideration of the case of St Andrew's Church, Quebec was resumed; when the following decision was agreed to. "The Synod sustain the dissent of Mr. Blackwood, reverse the proceedings complained of, disapprove of said proceedings as irregular and precipitate, and inasmuch as Mr. Taylor has withdrawn his acceptance of the election, instruct the Presbytery of Quebec to suspend farther proceedings in the case until a new election be made, and to concur in a call subscribed by a majority of the Electing Committee, injoining the Presbytery to proceed with much caution in the case and to use their best endeavours by conference with the Corporation of St Andrew's Church and Committee of the same to procure previously to such new election and call, the framing of such regulations as may secure the concurrence of a majority of Pewholders—and farther resolve to record their entire approbation of Mr. Taylor's conduct in the whole proceedings, as having been marked by the strictest integrity and discretion, especially in withdrawing his claims with such disinterested regard to the peace and welfare of that Church.

From this decision, messrs. Wilson, Fairbairn, and M'Alister, dissented for reasons to be given in due time: and craved extracts.

The Synod in terms of a Report of the Committee appointed to examine certain parts of the minutes of the session of St. Gabriel Street Church, ordered all the minutes from January 31st, 1822, and the papers connected with such minutes, to be destroyed.

The Report of the Committee on the Records of Synod and commission was read as follows.

The Committee appointed to examine the records of Synod and Commission beg leave to report that the records of Synod have not been laid before them—and that it has been intimated that the engrossing clerk has not been able to accomplish the transcription of them in consequence of bad health. The committee beg to call the attention of the Synod to that important matter, that due provision may be made for its accomplishment without any unnecessary delay.

Your committee having carefully examined the record of commission in connection with the injunctions of Synod to that body—have to report that the commission have executed with commendable diligence the business that had been devolved upon them, and in faithful accordance with the expressed intentions of the Synod, with the exception of an ambiguous expression in the memorial to the General Assembly on the admission of ministers not originally connected with the Church of Scotland. The Commission in their memorial express themselves thus that they are *cautious of making any measure final, until they have obtained the concurrence of your Venerable Court, an expression which appears to your committee to be susceptible of an interpretation subversive of the resolution of Synod in that matter which so far as the Synod is concerned was final.*

Your Committee have farther to report that the commission has prepared and forwarded a memorial to His Majesty regarding the Clergy Reserves, and a memorial to the General Assembly, respecting Legal Recognition of Churches, as also a memorial to the North American Land Company—without having received the authority of the Synod to do so, Your committee have examined these documents—and see nothing objectionable in their contents—except in so far as they assume to be from the Ministers and Elders of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in Synod assembled, instead of the standing Commission thereof, an error which your Committee consider of much importance more especially when taken in connection with the fact that the Synod had delegated no special authority to the commission in these matters—and of which they deem it incumbent on the Synod to express its disapprobation.—The committee farther recommend to the Synod to declare the necessity of great caution on the part of the Commission in taking up business not specially referred by the Synod—except when new and urgent

The petition of William Morris Esq. M. P. was read, together with an act of Incorporation of the Presbyterian Church, of Nova Scotia passed by the Legislature of that colony, referred to in said petition—the Synod remitted these documents to the Committee on Calls and Constitutions of Churches, with instructions to report on the same.

Reports of Committees on Presbytery Records given in. The Records of the Presbytery of Glengary were attested.—The Records of the Presbytery of Quebec were attested with this note; that the Synod declare the proceedings of the Presbytery irregular, in ordaining Mr. Walker without his having produced his extract of Licence and Presbyterial certificate, especially in the face of a dissent, and the Presbytery were enjoined to take immediate steps for obtaining the required documents.—The Records of the Presbytery of Bathurst were attested—the parts ordered to be expunged by the Synod at a former diet, being noted.—The Records of the Presbytery of Kingston were attested *cum notis*.—The Records of the Presbytery of Toronto attested *cum notis*.

Presbyteries enjoined to be regular in the examination of Session Books.—Presbyteries enjoined to send to the Clerk of Synod, their rolls duly attested at their meeting immediately preceding the meeting of the Synod.

Report of the mission Committee and corresponding Secretary read and approved.  
An overture on missions by Mr. Alexander Gale was read—consideration deferred till next diet.

VII. DIET

Tuesday, September 22nd.

Synod constituted—Consideration of Mr. Gale's overture on missions resumed. Resolved that each Presbytery form a mission Committee for their own bounds.—That they have their own Treasurer, and use their utmost efforts to obtain Funds and support missionaries, to correspond, as occasion may require, with the Synod's corresponding Secretary, as Secretary on missions, to transmit to him a report of their proceedings on or before the 20th August next, that he may draw up a general report to be laid before next meeting of Synod.

Report of the Finance Committee approved, Presbyteries to proceed to a new appropriation of any monies in their hands, from the grant for building churches, provided these are not taken up forthwith by the congregations to which they were originally appropriated—and to report finally on the subject to the Moderator within three months. The Clerk to send to Presbyteries a list of those who have not paid their assessment to the Synod Fund for the last year.—The Treasurer to pay no order in future unless the same has been duly audited and signed by the Clerk.—The accounts for the past year as audited, sustained, and ordered to be printed in an appendix to the minutes. The assessment on each congregation for the next year one pound.

Report on the mission fund referred to the mission committee.

Report of the Committee on Calls and Constitutions of Churches sustained. Mr. Clugston as Convener requested to print the questions embodied in the report, and to send copies to ministers and Sessions.—Presbyteries enjoined to collect their views and to report to the commission within six months.

The Synod agreed to an overture from the Presbytery of Toronto, and instructed the Presbyteries of Perth and Kingston, to admit Mr. William Bell of Perth and Mr. Robert McDowal of Fredricksburgh ministers lately connected with the United Synod, on the terms prescribed in the resolution of 1833, respecting the admission of ministers of that body.—The Clerk, to inform Mr. Bell and Mr. McDowal of this decision.—Against this several members entered their dissent.

Report of the committee appointed to prepare drafts of memorials received. The Presbytery of Toronto, instructed to transmit a memorial through His Excellency Sir John Colborne, in the name of the Synod praying for an increased grant for the support of Ministers in Upper Canada.—And also an address to His Excellency Sir John Colborne.—The Presbytery of Quebec, to prepare, in the name of the Synod, a memorial to the Royal Commission for assistance to the Ministers in Lower Canada; and on such other matters as the interests of the Church may require, and to send a deputation of their body to present the same.—Both Presbyteries to report their diligence to the meeting of Commission in February.

The Synod considering the peculiarly interesting circumstances of the Parent Church in Scotland, assailed by her enemies, while she is labouring to advance her internal Reformation, and to diffuse more widely, at home and abroad the light of saving truth; and considering also, the sense she has recently expressed of the prevailing sins of the community by the observance of a day of HUMILIATION, FASTING and PRAYER; resolved in sympathy with her, and for the confessing of the sins of our own Church and Provincial community, to appoint, as the Synod hereby do appoint Thursday the 21st day of January next to be observed as a day of HUMILIATION FASTING and

**PRAYER:** calling upon Ministers, Elders, and people to humble themselves before God in the acknowledgement of the spiritual indifference, irreligion and sins which abound amongst us and around us; to deprecate God's holy displeasure; and to implore a more abundant effusion of the spirit of "grace and supplication" on our Church in these Provinces, on the Church at home, and on all the branches of Christ's Holy Catholic Church throughout the world.

The Synod farther instruct ministers to read to their congregations on some convenient day before 21st, January next this act, and also the address of the General Assembly to the Ministers, Elders and people of the Church of Scotland, issued on the appointment of the Fast day in Scotland herein referred to.

The Standing Commission appointed, viz:—Messrs W. Rintoul, Alex. Gale, Mark Y. Starke, J. Machar, J. Roger, W. McAlister, H. Urquhart, A. Connel, Alex. Mathieson, J. Clugston, J. McGilvray Esq. A. Steven Esq., Hon. Arch. McLean, James Lockhart, Esq with the Moderator and Clerk *ex-Officiis*,—five to be a quorum, to meet immediately after the close of the Synod, to arrange the business specially referred to them—again at Perth, as appointed, to decide on the matter in dispute in St. Andrew's Church, there on 26th October next,—again at Toronto on the second Wednesday of February next.—And again at Kingston on the second Wednesday of September next.

A General Mission Committee appointed, viz:—Messrs Alexander Gale, James George, W. J. Leach, John Machar, John Roger, A. McNaughton, Hugh Urquhart, Thomas C. Wilson, John Fairbairn, Hon. Archibald McLean, Edward Thomson Esq. to meet at Toronto on the second Wednesday of February next.

The Presbytery of Quebec re-appointed a Committee to report on the legal recognition of Churches, on the formation of a minister's widows' fund, and on a Synodical correspondence with the other Presbyteries and Synods in British America, in connexion with the Church of Scotland,—to report to the Commission in February.

A Committee appointed to revise the minutes and prepare and print an abstract of the same.

Next Meeting appointed to be held at Kingston on the second Wednesday of September next and within the Church there at 12 o'clock noon.

Reading the Scriptures and Prayer by Mr. Henry Gordon, part of the 122nd Psalm sung—The Moderator closed the Synod with the Apostolic Benediction.

#### THE SYNOD FUND FOR 1834-5.

To amount on Dr. of Treasurer's account viz:—

Amount due Treasurer as per receipts,—August 4th 1834, £4 11 4.	}	£59 2 0½
Amount paid Rev. Mr. McGill Sundry accounts audited, £17 11 2½.		
Paid Rev. Mr. McGill, Salary for 1833-4, £15—	}	£10 2 6
Paid Rev. Mr. Machar, amount of his account, £1 19 6.		
Paid Messrs. Peddie & Co's. draft on account of Messrs. Starke, £20—	}	£1 15.
Rev. Mr. Mathieson's account, sundry expenses incurred at last meeting.		
of Synod and travelling to attend commission.	}	3 3.
Rev. Mr. Cruikshank's account of travelling charges to commission.		
Rev. Mr. Ross's account, expenses incurred in the revocation of Mr. David McKenzie's Licence to celebrate Marriage.	}	2
Rev. Mr. McGill's account for postage.		
Do. Do. Salary for 1834-5.	}	15
Rev. Mr. Gale's account travelling charges in attending meeting, at St. Thomas by order of Synod.		
Rev. Mr. Starke's Do. Do.	}	4
Rev Mr. Ferguson's Do. Do.		
Balance due to Messrs. Starke Booksellers for printing Confession of Faith &c, and Stationary, not ascertained suppose	}	35.

£13 8 2 6½

Audited by the Committee.

By amount of rates paid to Treasurer viz :--

	£.	s.	d.
Rev. Mr. McAlister, for 1834.	1	0	0
Mr. Fairbairn,	1	5	0
Mr. Connell for 1833.	1	0	0
Do. 1834.	3	0	0
Mr. Cruikshank, 1833-4	4	6	6
Mr. Urquhart. 1833.	1	5	0
Do. 1834.	2	15	0
Mr. Brown,	2	0	0
Mr. McNaughton, Lancaster,	2	0	0
Mr. Colguhan 1833,	0	10	0
Mr. Rogers, 1834,	2	0	0
Mr. Ketchan,	2	0	0
Mr. Smith, Beckwith,	2	0	0
Mr. Machar,	3	10	0
	2	0	0
Mr. Wilson,	2	10	0
Mr. Ross,	2	15	0
Mr. McGill,	3	10	0
Mr. Cheyne,	1	0	0
Mr. Smith, Guelph,	1	5	0
Mr. Stuart,	2	0	0
Mr. Ferguson,	2	15	0
Mr. Gale,	2	10	0
Mr. McNaughton, Vaughan,	2	0	0
Mr. Bell,	2	0	0
Mr. George,	2	0	0
Mr. Clugston,	2	15	0
St Andrew's Church, Quebec,	3	10	0
Mr. Wilson,	2	0	0
Mr. McAlister,	1	0	0
Mr. McKenzie, Williamstown,	5	0	0
Mr. Fairbairn,	2	0	0
Mr. McMillan,	2	0	0

By price of 48 Confessions of Faith distributed among the various sessions at 15 shillings. } £73 1 5

By rates due for 1834-5 unpaid viz :--

} 36 0 0

28 5 0

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£137 6 6

Audited by the Committee.