

EXTRACTS

FROM

THE MINUTES

OF THE

UNITED SYNOD

OF UPPER CANADA,

AT

THEIR MEETING HELD IN BROCKVILLE,

Monday, 8th June,

1835,

AND CONTINUED BY ADJOURNMENTS.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF SYNOD.

PRESCOTT:

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At their Meeting held in Brockville, Monday, June 8th, 1835, and continued by Adjournments.

Presbyterian Church, Brockville, }
Monday, June 8th, 1835.

The United Synod of Upper Canada met, according to adjournment, and was opened by a sermon delivered by the Rev. Robert McDowell, Moderator for the last year, from Isaiah, 43 and 10, "Ye are my witnesses saith the Lord.

After public worship, the Synod was constituted by prayer. The Roll was called and marked—Members Present—

BROCKVILLE PRESBYTERY.

Ministers.

- Rev. Robert McDowell, Fredericksburgh.
- " William Smart, Brockville,
- " William Bell, Perth.
- " Robert Boyd, Prescott.
- " John Gemmel, Lanark.

Elders.

- John McCrady,
- Matthew McIntosh.

TORONTO PRESBYTERY.

- " William King, Nelson.
- " George McClatchey, Clinton.

The Rev. George McClatchey was chosen Moderator for the present year. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Rev. Joseph Anderson, from the Presbytery of Ballymena, in connection with the general Synod of Ulster, having received a call from the congregation of South Gower, and installed by the Presbytery of Brockville, since the last meeting of Synod, his name on motion, was added to the roll.

The Rev. Thomas Johnstone having been ordained over the congregation of Chinguacousey by the Presbytery of York, since the last meeting of Synod, his name on motion, was added to the roll.

It was proposed and agreed that the Synod meet to-morrow morning at 6 o'clock for prayer and imploring the divine blessing on our proceedings.

Tuesday morning, 6 o'clock.

Assembled for the purpose of prayer and praise and after some time spent in these exercises, adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock.

Constituted by prayer. Roll called and Marked. Members present as above.

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The Rev. Messrs. Lyle and Rogers took their seats as members of the Synod.

The clerk was instructed to write to the Rev. John Bryning, informing him, that though the Synod sustains for this time the reasons assigned for his absence, yet they cannot extend this indulgence in future, and also to enjoin upon him the duty of a more punctual attendance.

NADA, U. C., and a member of the Washington Presbytery, having been admitted into the Brockville Presbytery since the last meeting of Synod, his name on motion, was added to the roll.

Dr. John Grant appeared as commissioner from the congregation of Williamsburgh.

Adjourned to meet at 3 o'clock.

Tuesday, 3 o'clock.

The Synod met and was constituted. Roll called and marked. Members present as above.

The reasons assigned by Mr. Bell for the absence of the Rev. Geo. Buman were sustained. The Committee appointed to prepare a book of Rules and Discipline, reported progress, and were recommended to proceed in their labours.

Messrs. Boyd, Lyle, King, and McClatchy were appointed a committee to ascertain the expence of publishing the confession of faith.

The committee appointed to prepare a pastoral letter, stated reasons for proceeding with the same, which were sustained. They were instructed to have it in readiness by the next meeting of the Synod.

The Rev. Mr. Boyd was added to the committee to prepare questions for station Presbyteries.

The Rev. Thos. Johnstone was instructed, to receive from the late clerk of Synod, all minutes, papers and documents in his possession belonging to the Synod, and to transmit them to the Rev. W. Smart the present clerk of Synod.

The overture relating to the question, whether the members in full communion only, or the members of the church and Congregation united, be allowed to vote in the election of a minister?

Adjourned to meet at 6 o'clock for public worship.

Tuesday evening, 6 o'clock.

Public worship having been performing by the Rev. Joseph Anderson, who preached from Heb. 11—22.

After a further discussion on the subject of voting at the election of a minister, the question was called for, when the roll was called, and it appeared that a majority was in favor of the principle, that members in full communion only should vote on that occasion.

Concluded with prayer. Adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 6 o'clock.

Wednesday morning, 6 o'clock.

Constituted by prayer, roll called and marked. Members present as above. Minutes read.

Mr. McIntosh applied for leave of absence which was granted.

The Presbyteries presented their reports.

The report of the Brockville Presbytery was read and approved, and is as follows:—

The Presbytery of Brockville in submitting a statement of their affairs for the consideration of Synod, would with unfeigned gratitude acknowledge the mercies of their heavenly father and covenanted God, for the kindness he has manifested in enlarging the borders of some of the congregations, as also for the great peace, unanimity and brotherly love that have reigned among all the members of the Presbytery.

Though there has been no special or remarkable revival of religion within the bounds of the Presbytery, yet the attendance on the word and ordinance, in general, has been good, and not without being accompanied with a divine blessing in considerable numbers being added to the church, in the conversion of sinners, and also in building up the people of God in knowledge, faith and practical holiness.

The Presbytery has met eight times since the last meeting of Synod.

The Rev. James Douglass minister of the Presbyterian church, Cavan, U. C, on application and submitting the necessary testimonials, was received into this body in September last.

The Rev. Joseph Anderson an ordained minister from the Presbytery of Ballymera, in connection with the general Synod of Ulster, was, after submitting his credentials, in September last, received, as a Probationer of this Presbytery. Mr. Anderson having received a call, has since been installed over the congregation of South Gower, where we trust a large and successful field has been opened for spiritual cultivation.

We would recommend for the further convenience of the members and the transactions of ecclesiastical business, that this Presbytery be divided into two or more Presbyteries.

James Cairns, a probationer under the care of this Presbytery, received a call from the congregation of Tarbolton and gave in all his trials for ordination, which were sustained, but circumstances occurred which justified the Presbytery in deferring the ordination for the present. He has since left the congregation, and the Presbytery has sustained him in so doing.

Numerous applications have been made to us for supplies of Preaching, but regret, that we have been unable to attend to the whole of them for want of probationers.

Mr. John Dickey, a probationer, has been appointed a constant supply to the congregation of Williamsburgh.

The Rev. Joseph Anderson, of South Gower, is Moderator, the Rev. W. Smart, of Brockville, clerk for the present year.

JOSEPH ANDERSON, Moderator,
WILLIAM SMART, Presby. Clerk. }

REPORT OF TORONTO PRESBYTERY.

That although they have much to lament, yet they have reason to be grateful to the Great Head of the church for his continued favors to them. In the churches under their care, the ordinances are regularly administered, and the word is received by the people with becoming attention. There is also, a progressive increase of communicants in their churches.

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Mr. Thomas Johnson having delivered the several pieces of trial usually prescribed, and being approved, the Presbytery met on the 17th of July last to ordain him to the pastoral charge of the church and congregation of Chincousy. After the ordination, the Rev. Messrs. Andrew Bell and Duncan McMillan, requested their dismissal from the Presbytery, after some deliberation on the subject, "and considering Mr. George's case, at the last meeting of Synod, as a president," they complied with the request, and dismissed them accordingly.

The Rev. Mr. Jenkins sent a letter to the Presbytery, stating his wish to withdraw from them, and his reasons for so doing. They did not pass any judgment upon it, but, left it for the decision of Synod, as he requested that it should be laid before them at their next meeting.

Mr. Porter, student from the secession church in Ireland came forward to the Presbytery, and expressed a desire to unite with them. He was examined with respect to his qualifications, and having given satisfaction, they prescribed to him the several pieces of trial, usually given to young men under their care, and having delivered the several pieces of trial with approbation, he was on the 3d of June licenced to preach the Gospel.

The Rev. Mr. Nichol having made application to the Presbytery, was directed, in the mean time, to supply some of the vacancies under their care.

As there are several vacancies wishing a supply of preaching, it is hoped, that the Synod will give them as much assistance as possible.

THOMAS JOHNSTON, Presby. Clerk.

On motion resolved, that the Presbytery of Toronto be instructed to use all laudable means to reclaim the Rev. William Jenkins, of Markham, to a sense of his duty.

On motion, resolved, that the names of the Rev. Andrew Bell, of the township of Toronto, and the Rev. Duncan McMillan, of Caledon, be erased from the roll of this Synod, which was done accordingly.

On motion, it was resolved. That this Synod be divided into 3 Presbyteries, and that the 3d be known by the name of the HOLLOWELL PRESBYTERY, and that the Rev. Robert McDowell of Fredericksburgh, the Rev. James Rogers of Demerstville and Hollowell, and the Rev. James Douglass of Cavan compose, with their Elders, said Presbytery, that the Rev. Robert McDowall be Moderator, and James Douglass clerk, that the said Presbytery meet on the first Monday in July next.

The Rev. Robert McDowall and Rev. James Rogers were instructed, to install the Rev. James Douglass over the congregation at Cavan, on the 1st Sunday in July next.

On motion, it was resolved. That the ministers of the Bathurst District viz. Rev. W. Bell, Geo. Buchannan and John Gemill be a committee of the Brockville Presbytery, to attend to any business, that may occur within their bounds.

Concluded with prayer. Adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock.

Wednesday morning 9 o'clock, June 10, 1835.

Met according to adjournment. Constituted with prayer. Roll called and marked—members present as above.

The Rev. John Gemill applied for leave of absence, which was allowed.

Moved and seconded, that the name of Adam Wilson, Elder from the congregation of Cavon be added to the roll—his name was added accordingly.

The memorial of Mr. John Carrathers praying to be licenced as a preacher under the care of this Synod, it was on motion, Resolved. That in consequence of established principles of this body, the prayer of his memorial cannot be granted, without a classical education and other necessary qualifications.

On motion, resolved. That the Rev. W. Smart, Robert McDowall, William King and William Bell, be a committee of Synod to attend to any Synodical business during the recess.

Mr. James Cairns was transferred to the bounds of the Toronto Presbytery.

The Synod having learned with regret, the departure, by death, of the Rev. Mr. Howey, of West Guiliamsburg and Essa, from the scenes of his earthly labors. They trust that the faith, zeal, and fidelity of that eminent minister of Christ, will be long cherished, and held in remembrance by his bereaved congregation, and his brethren in the ministry.

The Synod instructed the Presbytery of Toronto to supply the congregation of West Guiliamsburg and Essa, vacant by the death of the Rev. James Howey, and to take such other steps as they may deem necessary for its prosperity.

The Rev. Messrs. Boyd and Lyle were appointed a committee to prepare an address to his Excellency the Lieut. Governor.

Adjourned to meet at 3 o'clock.

Wednesday afternoon, 3 o'clock.

Met according to adjournment, constituted with prayer, roll called and marked, members present as above.

On motion, it was resolved. That although a missionary society has existed for a number of years in connection with this Synod, yet as it has not been so efficient as might be desired, it is therefore resolved, that this Synod constitute itself into a home Missionary society, for the more general spread of the Gospel throughout the Province. And that the moderator, for the time-being, be President.

The stated clerk—Secretary, and William Bell—Treasurer.

It was resolved that each minister be instructed to make two collections in his congregation, yearly, for Missionary objects, and the contingent expenses of the Synod.

On motion, resolved. That it is the duty of the members of every christian congregation, who are able to contribute to the current expences of the society, and when there is any glaring dereliction of this duty, on the part of such individuals, it ought to be made a subject of discipline by the session.

The following question was submitted to the consideration of the Synod viz. Has the church any scriptural authority to give a letter of dismissal to a refractory member? the above question was decided in the negative.

Concluded with prayer. Adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Thursday morning, 9 o'clock.

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Synod met, was constituted with prayer, roll called and marked. The committee appointed to prepare an address to Sir John Colbourne, Gov. General, &c. &c. submitted an address to the consideration of Synod, which having been read, and amended was finally approved, and the Rev. Messrs. King and McClatchey were appointed a deputation to present it. The following is a copy of the same.

His Excellency, Sir John Colborne, K. C. B. Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Upper Canada, and Major General, Commanding His Majesty's Forces therein, &c. &c. &c.

May it Please Your Excellency.

We, the United Synod of Upper Canada, convened in Brockville, at our annual meeting, leave most humbly to address Your Excellency, and assure you, that when we reflect upon the agitated and disturbed state of public sentiment, the unsettled condition of state affairs in Great Britain and Ireland and in our sister Province; we feel a great degree of thankfulness to Almighty God, that "He has cast our lots in pleasant places," and under the mild, wise and prudent administration of Your Excellency, and that we are blessed with peace, plenty, and prosperity. Although this season does not promise such a large tide of emigration into this Province, as former seasons, and many of our countrymen are coming out by the way of New York, to whom every encouragement is promised by agents, the public officers, and the people of the United States; and although Agriculture and Mercantile business may be, to some degree embarrassed, such occurrences may be expected, but, we trust, they will be of short duration, and confide in the wisdom and measures of Your Excellency to remove them as far as in your power.

Should any attempt be made, by the disaffected in this Province, to separate this Colony from the Mother Country, Your Excellency may confide in our humble support, and that by every honorable and Constitutional measure, we shall oppose such a ruinous proceeding.

We are happy in assuring Your Excellency, that the pure and undefiled Religion of Jesus is spreading far and wide and taking deep root in the Province; and we trust, in equal proportion with others, in that part of the Redeemers Kingdom, over which we are placed in the Lord. There are many places, however, not supplied with the word and ordinances of the Gospel, and we have many calls to supply them; but to increase our number, is not our highest object, yet, when and where-ever we can settle ministers, to promote the Glory of God, and the salvation of immortal souls, we do feel it our duty and use our exertions to accomplish the same.

We sincerely trust that your Excellency's views respecting education may be speedily carried into effect; that the young and rising generation, the hope of the Church, as well as of the State, may receive a virtuous and liberal education, that the channels of Literature and science may be opened wide and diffuse their benign influence upon all classes of society.

That Almighty God may enrich Your Excellency with all wisdom from on High, to prepare and qualify You for your arduous and diversified duties here, and for the Kingdom of Glory, is the ardent prayer of Your Excellency's most faithful and most obedient Servants,

*In name, presence and by appointment of the United Synod,
 (Signed) GEORGE McCLATCHEY, Moderator.
 WILLIAM SMART, Synod Clerk.*

On motion it was resolved. That it be recommended to the members of this Synod, the propriety of forming a WIDOWS' FUND, and that a committee be appointed to ascertain such necessary information, as to carry this very desirable object into effect, Messrs. Bell and Boyd were appointed said committee.

The business being completed, the Synod adjourned to meet in Toronto on the last Wednesday in June, 1836, at the hour of 6 o'clock in the evening. Concluded with singing, prayer, and the apostolic Benediction.

GEORGE M'CLATCHEY, Moderator,
 WILLIAM SMART, Synod Clerk.

* * The Rev. Geo. McClatchey is *Moderator* of Synod for the present year. The Rev. William Bell, Perth, *Treasurer*. The Rev. William Smart, Brockville, Clerk, and all communications should be addressed to him (Post Paid).

LIST OF THE MINISTERS OF THE UNITED SYNOD OF UPPER CANADA.

PRESBYTERY OF BROCKVILLE.

Rev. WILLIAM SMART,	Brockville.
" WILLIAM BELL,	Perth.
" ROBERT BOYD,	Prescott.
" *GEO. BUCHANNAN,	Beckwith.
" JOHN GEMEILL,	Lanark.
" ROBERT LYLE,	Osnabruck.
" JOSEPH ANDERSON,	South Gower.

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

Rev. WILLIAM JENKINS,	Markham,
" WILLIAM KING,	Nelson.
" JOHN BRYNING,	Mount Pleasant.
" GEORGE McCLATCHEY,	Clinton.
" THOMAS JOHNSON,	Chinguacousey.

PRESBYTERY OF HOLLOWELL.

Rev. ROBERT McDOWALL,	Fredericksburgh.
" JAMES ROGERS,	Demerstonville & Hollowell.
" JAMES DOUGLASS,	Cavon.

SYNODICAL COMMITTEE.

Rev. William Smart, Convener—R. McDowall, W. King and W. Bell.

* Since the above went to the Type, we deeply lament, that the Rev. George Buchanna Beckwith, has departed this life, leaving a widow and a large family to lament his loss.