

THE PROTESTANT AND EVANGELICAL WITNESS

PROVE ALL THINGS: HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD.—1 THESS. v. 21.

Vol. I.

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Tuesday, July 5, 1859.

No 1.

The Protestant

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BY
DAVID LAIRD, Editor and Proprietor.

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Advertisements inserted at the usual rate. (To prevent disappointment, all advertisements should be sent to the Office before 5 o'clock on Friday.)

TO DIE IS GAIN.

To go to God, is not to die!
To quit this place of night,
And on an angel's wing to fly
To his abode of light.
To dwell with God is not to die!
In heaven to find repose;
While awaits your soul to them ally,
From its earthly home.
O, child of God! 'tis not to die
To hear thy Sovereign's voice
Command thee come in Glory nigh,
And in his smile rejoice.
O, sheep of Christ! 'tis not to die
To go where Jesus leads;
To be of the fold of life on high,
Where all His flock He feeds.
O, blood-bought soul! 'tis not to die,
In heaven to find repose;
While awaits your soul to them ally,
From its earthly home.

From the Halifax Presbyterian Witness.

Synod of the Free Church of Nova Scotia.

This revered court met at 12 o'clock on Thursday 16th in Chalmers' Church, Halifax. After singing and prayer, the Rev. A. Munro, the retiring Moderator, preached from the text, "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper." Isa. 54. 17. He showed that those words of encouragement, addressed to the Church of old at a time of deep distress, were equally precious and true in all succeeding ages. Weapons would be formed against the church however pure her doctrine or righteous her administration. He specified some of the "weapons" which her enemies used against her, and dwelt with much force on the encouragement and joy to be derived from God's gracious promise that none of those weapons would prevail.

The Synod being constituted, the Roll was made up as follows:

PREBENDARY OF HALIFAX.—Rev Professors Knight and Lyall, Messrs Duff, Steele, Murray, McKay, Forlong, Hunter, McKnight, Sturt, and Thorburn.
PREBENDARY OF PICTOU.—Rev Messrs Stewart, Blair, Campbell and Munro.
PREBENDARY OF P. E. ISLAND.—Rev Messrs A. Sutherland, G. Sutherland, A. Munro, N. McKay, and McNeill.
PREBENDARY OF CAPE BRETON.—Rev Dr. McLeod, Messrs Wilson, Fraser, A. Ross and Harry.
PREBENDARY OF RICHMOND.—Rev Messrs M. Stewart, W. G. Forbes, J. Ross, C. J. Ross.
PREBENDARY OF VICTORIA.—Rev Messrs Gunn, McIntosh, and McKenzie.

Communications were read in favor of the following Elders, John Burgess, Rev. for Cornwallis; A. McKinlay, Esq., for Halifax; Mr. Taylor, for Dartmouth; Mr. Loyd for Lawrenceston; Mr. Angus McKay for Barney's River; Mr. John Fraser for New Glasgow.

LECTION OF MODERATORS.—Rev Mr. McKinnon, in consideration of the prospect of a speedy union with the Presbyterian Church, moved that in election a Moderator be chosen to preside over the Synod during its session, and that the member whose name stood next on the Roll, in order to place the chair on the part of the Fathers of the Synod, be elected Moderator. Rev A. Sutherland seconded the motion, and Dr. McLeod was elected accordingly.

A communication was read from the Committee of the Y. M. C. Association, offering the free use of the Association's Reading Room to members of the Synod while in town.

APPOINTMENTS.—The following appointments were made for to-morrow: Chalmers' Church, Morning, Dr. McLeod. Evening, Rev. A. W. McKay. Dartmouth, Rev. M. Stewart. Goodwood, Rev. G. McIntosh. Margarettown Harbor and Lake Porter, Rev. K. McKinnon. Lawrenceston, Rev. G. Sutherland.

Dr. Forlong being present, was requested to take his seat as member of Synod.

PROFESSOR'S REPORT.—Rev Professor King reported that during the last Session he had eleven students in his classes. Only one of these was of the third year. Three or four were in the second year of their course, and the rest had entered for the first time. He had great satisfaction in the attendance paid and the progress made by his students. The business of the class was not interrupted by sickness or any accident.

Rev Professor Lyall stated that 19 students attended his Philosophical Classes—9 in the Seminary and 10 in the Junior Class. 11 attended the Latin and Greek Classes. The progress made was extremely gratifying. Essays had been given which would do credit to any institution.

Mr. McKnight had 19 students in the Hebrew Class, 4 in the Senior and 9 in the Junior Class.—The progress made was all that could be desired.

The Synod adjourned at a quarter to 10 o'clock P. M.

PRAYER, June 17.—After reading of the minutes of last Session, the consideration of the Report of the Professor was resumed.

Rev. W. Murray thought that the statements listened to last evening on this subject should not be passed over in silence by the members of Synod. We were much gratified to God for the progress of our College. There is reason for increased confidence in our professors and the whole working of the College.

Rev A. Sutherland considered this a matter of much importance. He spoke at length on the subject of Collegiate and Academic Education, and paid a high tribute to the labors of the late Dr. McCullough in this field.

Rev Messrs Duff and Blair followed on the same subject. The Synod then proceeded to consider the state of religion within its bounds.

Rev Mr. Steele was called upon by the Moderator, stated that upon the whole the circumstances of his

congregation, though struggling with difficulties incident to youth, were such as afforded much ground of encouragement. There are 87 members on the communion roll. Eleventh day schools are well attended. The late Session was held at the residence of Rev. A. Sutherland, who was best acquainted with the circumstances of the case, he introduced the matter, and the Synod was called upon to consider it. It was well that the petitioners should understand that they could not have been heard only by Mr. Sutherland's express assent.

Mr. Sutherland then explained the case at length; and though the petitioners had not shown due regard to the authority of the Session or Presbytery, he urged the Synod to consider the prayer of the petitioners, however irregular. He also read a communication from his Session, setting forth the details of a visit from a Deputation of the General Assembly, which was held at the residence of Rev. A. Sutherland, Professor King and N. McKay took part, the Synod agreed, on motion of A. Ross, to send a Deputation to P. E. Island, the Moderator and Professor King.

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A communication was read from Rev. John Hunter, regarding the engagement of the Home Mission Committee. His resignation was accepted, and Rev. H. D. Steele appointed in his place.

BARRATT.—The Synod having been constituted as usual, and after the transaction of some formal business, Mr. Steele gave in the Report of the Home Mission Committee, which was read and approved. The Report was in substance as follows: All the collections not having been received, the further consideration of the subject was postponed till a future date.

Rev. A. Sutherland read the Report of the Temperance Society. It showed gratifying instances of improvement in many parts of P. E. Island. Magistrates were rigorously enforcing the laws against drinking and the sale of spirits. The Synod was called upon to consider the Report, and to send a Deputation to P. E. Island, the Moderator and Professor King.

Rev Mr. Steele moved that the Report just read should be received and that the members of the Synod be given to the Committee. He hoped the Synod would give regard to a Pastoral Letter on the subject of Temperance, which was read and approved. The motion was seconded by Rev. C. Ross, who referred briefly to the state of matters in Cape Breton. Intemperance was a great curse and a deadly pestilence in that district. The Synod was called upon to consider the Report, and to send a Deputation to P. E. Island, the Moderator and Professor King.

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Mr. Sutherland then explained the case at length; and though the petitioners had not shown due regard to the authority of the Session or Presbytery, he urged the Synod to consider the prayer of the petitioners, however irregular. He also read a communication from his Session, setting forth the details of a visit from a Deputation of the General Assembly, which was held at the residence of Rev. A. Sutherland, Professor King and N. McKay took part, the Synod agreed, on motion of A. Ross, to send a Deputation to P. E. Island, the Moderator and Professor King.

Andrew Robertson, Esq., gave in his communication as an Elder representing the Pictou congregation, and took his seat in the Synod.

A communication was read from Rev. John Hunter, regarding the engagement of the Home Mission Committee. His resignation was accepted, and Rev. H. D. Steele appointed in his place.

BARRATT.—The Synod having been constituted as usual, and after the transaction of some formal business, Mr. Steele gave in the Report of the Home Mission Committee, which was read and approved. The Report was in substance as follows: All the collections not having been received, the further consideration of the subject was postponed till a future date.

Rev. A. Sutherland read the Report of the Temperance Society. It showed gratifying instances of improvement in many parts of P. E. Island. Magistrates were rigorously enforcing the laws against drinking and the sale of spirits. The Synod was called upon to consider the Report, and to send a Deputation to P. E. Island, the Moderator and Professor King.

Rev Mr. Steele moved that the Report just read should be received and that the members of the Synod be given to the Committee. He hoped the Synod would give regard to a Pastoral Letter on the subject of Temperance, which was read and approved. The motion was seconded by Rev. C. Ross, who referred briefly to the state of matters in Cape Breton. Intemperance was a great curse and a deadly pestilence in that district. The Synod was called upon to consider the Report, and to send a Deputation to P. E. Island, the Moderator and Professor King.

After devotional exercises by the Moderator, the Rev. W. Murray moved that a Committee be appointed to prepare a Report on the state of religion within the bounds of the Synod, and founded on the reports that had been given in by ministers during the previous Session. The motion was seconded by Rev. A. Sutherland, and after a brief discussion, unanimously adopted. The following Committee was appointed accordingly: Rev. Dr. McLeod, the Moderator, Professor King and Rev. A. Sutherland.

Professor King then read a Petition from a portion of the congregation of New London, P. E. Island, asking for a Deputation of Synod to visit the congregation with a view to removing certain difficulties that had arisen in

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