

MINUTES
OF
THE SYNOD
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF
NOVA SCOTIA.

Held at Truro, June, 1852.

HALIFAX, N. S.

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1852.

BOARDS, STANDING COMMITTEES, &c.

Board of Home Missions.—Rev. Messrs. McCulloch, Watson, E. Ross, Honeyman and the Presbytery Elder of Truro and Upper Londonderry—three to form a quorum. SECRETARY—Rev. W. McCulloch.

Board of Foreign Missions.—Rev. Messrs. Baxter, Keir, Roy, Walker, Bayne, Waddell, G. Patterson, and Messrs. Ebenezer McLeod, and Daniel Cameron, of West River; A. Fraser, of New Glasgow, John Yorston, and Mr. J. W. Dawson, of Pictou. COR. SECRETARY—Rev. J. Waddell.

Board of Superintendance of Theological Seminary.—The Professors ex. Officio—Rev. Messrs. McCulloch, Bayne, Christie, McGilvray, Watson, G. Patterson, and Messrs Daniel Cameron and J. McGregor. MR. McCulloch, CONVENER. MR. Bayne, SECRETARY.

Committee of Bills and Overtures.—Rev. Messrs. Bayne, Roy, and McGilvray, and Mr. Jas. McGregor. MR. Bayne, CONVENER.

Committee of Correspondence with Evangelical Churches.—Rev. Messrs. Patterson, Walker, and Bayne. MR. Patterson, CONVENER.

Committee on Rules of Procedure.—Rev. Messrs. McGregor, Cameron and Sedgewick.

Committee of Inquiry respecting the best Locality for the Seminary.—Rev. Messrs. Murdoch, McCulloch, McGregor, G. Patterson and Mr. J. McGregor.

General Treasurer for all Synodical Funds.—Abram Patterson, Esq., Pictou.

Receivers of Contributions to the Schemes of the Church.—James McCallum, Esq. P.E. ISLAND, and Mr. Robert Smith, Merchant, TRURO.

MINUTES OF THE SYNOD

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NOVA SCOTIA,

JUNE---1852.

FIRST SEDERUNT.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TRURO,

June, 22nd, 1852, 11 o'clock, A. M.

Sermon.

The Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia met, after a sermon from the Rev. James Watson, the Moderator, from the first Book of Chronicles, chap. 12, and verse 32nd, "Men that had understanding of the times to know what Israel ought to do,"—and was constituted.

Members present

Present—the Rev. Messrs. Angus McGilvray, John L. Murdoch, David Roy, John McCurdy, John I. Baxter, John Campbell, William McCulloch, Peter G. McGregor, George Christie, James Bayne, James Waddell, John Cameron, James Watson, George Walker, Robert Sedgewick, Ebenezer E. Ross and George Patterson, Ministers, and Messrs. Timothy Putnam, from the Congregation of Stewiacke, Isaac P. Dickie, from the Congregation of Onslow, Daniel Cameron from the Congregation of West River, John Mitchell from the Congregation of St. Mary's, Matt. McCurdy, from the Congregation of Truro, George Grant from the Congregation of Pictou, James McGregor, from the Congregation of Primitive Church, New Glasgow, Alexander McCurdy, from the Congregation of Musquodoboit, John Cotnam from the Congregation of Upper Londonderry, Joshua Thompson from the Congregation of Lower Londonderry, and Lawrence Miller from the Congregation of Salem Church, Green Hill, Ruling Elders.

Reports of Presbyteries

The Presbytery of Truro reported that soon after the last meeting of Synod, they had ordained Mr. David Honeyman, Preacher to the Pastoral Charge of the Congregation of Shubenacadie, Gay's River and Lower Stewiacke, and that his name had been added to the Roll of Presbytery, which on the same day, according to Synodical appointment was divided, forming respectively the Presbyteries of Truro and Halifax; and farther that Rev. James Watson having accepted a call to the Congregation of West River, his connexion with the Congregation of Economy and Five Islands had been dissolved, and his name taken from the Roll of Presbytery.

Pictou Presby.

The Presbytery of Pictou reported that they had obtained the consent of the Congregation of West River to the dissolution of the connexion between them and Mr. Ross, and that the connection was accordingly dissolved; and that they had accepted the Rev. Robert Blackwood's demission, of the charge of the Congregation of Tatamagouche and New Annan, and that his name had been removed from the Roll of Presbytery. Also, that the Rev. James Watson having accepted a call from the Congregation of West River, had been inducted into that charge.

Halifax Presby.

The Presbytery of Halifax reported they had accepted the Rev. James Byers' demission of the Pastoral Charge of the Congregation of Shelburne, Clyde River and Barrington, and that his name had been dropped from the Presbytery Roll.

Ordered that the names of Rev. Robert Blackwood, and Rev. James Byers be dropped from the Synod Roll, and

the Rev. David Honeyman's added, and being called Mr. Honeyman was present.

The Rev. Robert Sedgewick was unanimously chosen Moderator and took the chair accordingly.

The Rev. Messrs. Campbell and McCurdy, and Mr. Jas. McGregor, Ruling Elder, were appointed a committee to audit the accounts of the Treasurer. Mr. Campbell, Convener.

The Rev. Messrs. Bayne and Walker, and Mr. George Grant, Ruling Elder, were appointed a Committee to examine presbytery minutes. Mr. Bayne, Convener.

The Rev. Messrs. Smith and Watson, and Mr. Timothy Putnam, Ruling Elder, were appointed a Committee to receive and arrange Statistical Returns. Mr. Smith, Convener.

The Rev. Messrs. Cameron and Christie, and Mr. Daniel Cameron, Ruling Elder were appointed a Committee to receive and report upon Financial Returns. Mr. Cameron Convener.

The Rev. Messrs. Honeyman and McCurdy were appointed to follow the Moderator, in conducting devotional exercises, at the commencement of the next Sederunt.

Received and read the report of the Committee of Bills and Overtures, setting forth a List of the subjects to come before the Synod, and the order in which they proposed that they should be taken up.

Also recommending that the hours of meeting, at each Sederunt, should be the same as last year, with the exception of the Second Sederunt on Tuesday, when it is recommended that the Synod shall meet at 4 o'clock P. M. and adjourn at ½ past 6 to afford an opportunity for Presbyteries and Committees to meet. Adjourned to meet in the Baptist Chapel, Truro, at 4 o'clock, p.m. Concluded with prayer.

SECOND SEDERUNT.

Baptist Chapel, Same Day, 4 o'clock, P. M.

The Synod met and was constituted by the Moderator, who was followed in prayer by the Rev. Messrs. Honeyman and McCurdy, with the singing of Psalms, during the intervals. Present as to last Sederunt with the Rev. Messrs. Smith and A. P. Miller, and Messrs. J. Crerar, from the Congregation of Merigomish, and J. Fraser from the Congregation of James' Church, E. River, Ruling Elders.

The minutes being read and corrected, the Clerk of the Board of Home Missions introduced Mr. Alexander L. Wylie, Preacher lately arrived from Scotland to labour in Nova Scotia. The moderator in the name of the Synod cordially received Mr. Wylie, expressing happiness at his arrival and presence, and strong desires for his usefulness and success.

Mr. Campbell brought under the notice of Synod reference from the Presbytery of Pictou for advice, whether the Rev. Professor Ross, shall retain his place in

Status of Professor of Sem. in Church Courts.

Synod and Presbytery, now that he has by Synodical appointment been loosed from the charge of his former congregation that his time may be wholly given to the Seminary, and moved "that he retain his position as a member of Synod and of the Presbytery within the bounds of which he may reside." It was moved in amendment by Mr. Bayne, "That regarding the Theological Seminary as a strictly ecclesiastical institution, the Synod declare that any ordained minister who is principal thereof shall be entitled to a seat and vote in Synod and Presbytery." The hour of adjournment being come the sederunt was closed with prayer.

a small work embracing the Rules and Forms of Procedure of this church should be published, and that preparatory to this the proposed alterations and additions to the Rules of the United Presbyterian Church should be printed and sent down to Presbyteries and Sessions to consider and report to next Synod.

Secondly. That the Seminary Board be directed to prepare a Chapter corresponding to chap. VIII of the Rules of the United Presbyterian Church (Edition of 1848) embracing all Synodical arrangements for the Management of the Theological Seminary in all its departments.

Thirdly. That the Boards of Home and Foreign Missions be directed to prepare a similar statement of their Rules and arrangements to correspond with chap. IX in the Rules of the Parent Church.

The Report was received, the diligence of the Committee highly approved, and the recommendations adopted and ordered to be carried out, the expense to be borne by the Synod. The Committee was reappointed.

The Report of the Board of Superintendance of the Seminary was then read by the Rev. J. Bayne, Sec'y; and appended thereto a report of recent efforts made by the Rev. James Waddell in the United States, in favour of the Seminary, from which it appeared that the results will not be less than the sum of fifty pounds in cash and books, exclusive of expenses. The hour of adjournment having arrived the Synod closed with prayer.

THIRD SEDERUNT.

Same Place, June 23rd. 9 o'clock, A.M.

The Synod met and was constituted. Present as at last sederunt, with Mr. William Boak from the Congregation of Halifax, Ruling Elder.

Motion.

Minutes being approved the Synod resumed consideration of the subject under discussion last evening. Mr. Campbell withdrew the original motion in favor of the following by Mr. Christie, "that the Rev. J. Ross retain his position as a member of the Synod, and of the Presbytery within the bounds of which he may reside; and that the general principle involved in the Synod's Professors holding a seat in the Church Courts, be sent down to Presbyteries and Sessions for their opinion, to report at next meeting of Synod."

Amendment.

Mr. Bayne withdrew his first amendment and substituted the following, "That the general principle of Professors in the Theological Seminary, being ordained Ministers, holding a seat in Church Courts, while without pastoral charge, be sent down to Presbyteries for their consideration, to report thereon at next meeting, and that in the mean time Mr. Ross retain his position as a member of Synod and of the Presbytery in which he resides."

Second Amend.

Mr. Murdoch moved "That the reference from Pictou Presbytery be sent down to Presbyteries to report at next meeting of Synod," which being negatived, a vote was taken between the motion and amendment, when the amendment carried. The Rev. John McCurdy requested that his dissent should be entered on the minutes as follows.

Dissent by Mr. McCurdy.

"The undersigned, on the question of reference from the Pictou Presbytery dissents from as much of the Synod's deliverance as refers to the Rev. James Ross holding a seat in the Church Courts; inasmuch as in his opinion, it conflicts with the principles of representation and Presbyterial parity as acknowledged by this Church.

(Signed) JOHN McCURDY.

Rev. Robert Blackwood being present, was invited to correspond.

Overture to examine Syd. Min.

The Synod next took up an Overture from Mr. McCulloch for the appointment of a Committee "to examine and extract from the minutes of Synod, the various rules and deliverances which bear upon the management of the affairs of the Church." It was found that the committee on Rules of Procedure had attended to this in part, and the full accomplishment of the work was referred to that Committee.

Report of Com. on Rules of Procedure.

The Report of the Committee for preparing Rules of Procedure for the guidance of members and office bearers of this Church, was then submitted by Rev. P. G. McGregor, the Convener. The Report stated that the Committee had made the latest edition of the Rules of the United Presbyterian Church the basis of their work, and adopted all that seemed adapted to the circumstances of this church, and that they had added thereto all that they could glean from the recorded decisions of this Synod and from the Practice of our subordinate courts, and recommended:—

First. That as soon as possible after the Synod of 1853

FOURTH SEDERUNT.

Same Day and Place, 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Synod met and was constituted. Present as at last sederunt with Rev. Messrs. John Keir, Robert S. Patterson and Isaac Murray. Read the Minutes of last sederunt.

Received the report of the committee appointed to examine the new Act of Incorporation for holding church property contained in the revised Statutes. The Committee stated that they had examined it with care, and were of opinion that we could use it without the infringement of any of our principles, as a church holding and acting upon the voluntary principle, and recommended some general Rules for Synodical sanction, that Congregations might incorporate upon sound principles, and upon the same basis.

The discussion which followed having made it evident that the members of Synod were not yet satisfied that it was safe and prudent to recommend congregations to avail themselves of the Act, it was agreed that Presbyteries be directed to examine the Act with care, and that the proposed rules be printed and sent down to Presbyteries and Sessions to consider and report at next Synod.

Mr. Campbell moved "that the Committee be instructed to insert the following statement among the proposed rules: "That no minister shall be allowed to avail himself of the civil law in the collection of stipends, nor shall it be permitted to the Trustees or Managers of Congregations, in any case, to use compulsory measures, in raising money for the support of religious ordinances." The motion was negatived.

Agreed to adjourn till to-morrow morning, this evening being occupied by a Lecture from the moderator on "the indirect and direct blessings which the Glorious Gospel has conferred upon mankind." Concluded with prayer.

FIFTH SEDERUNT.

Same Place, June 24th. 9 o'clock, A. M.

The Synod met and was constituted, when the minutes of last sederunt were read. Present as at last sederunt, except Mr. Joshua Thomson who was absent with leave.

The Secretary of the Seminary Board being engaged the Synod called for the Report of Messrs. McCurdy and

Report of Messrs Murray, on the subject remitted to them by the Synod, at its last meeting. It appeared that these Brethren had not met, and each gave a statement of the causes which prevented their meeting, when it was agreed "that the Synod having heard the explanations, express regret at the failure of arrangements between them, in consequence of which the appointment has not been fulfilled."

Resumed consideration of the **Seminary Business.** The Report of the Board was again read, when it was received and the diligence of the Committee approved.

The Synod then took up in detail the recommendations of the Board. *First.* As regards the location of the Seminary and the erection of buildings. Members having pretty generally expressed their sentiments, and there being considerable diversity of opinion, it was agreed on motion of Rev. J. L. Murdoch, seconded by Mr. James McGregor, "That a Committee be appointed to make inquiries and collect information during the year, for determining a suitable locality for the Seminary, and report to the Synod at its next meeting."

A Committee was accordingly appointed, consisting of Rev. Messrs. Murdoch, McCulloch, G. Patterson and McGregor, and Mr. J. McGregor. Mr Murdoch, Convener.

The Synod authorized the Board to incur whatever expense they may think necessary for the accommodation of the classes in the mean time.

Secondly. The appointment of a second Professor.

On motion of Rev. J. McCurdy, seconded by Rev. G. Patterson, it was agreed "That while the Synod is exceedingly desirous to appoint an additional Professor as soon as practicable, in the mean time it does not see its way clear to such action, but would direct the Board to adopt such measures as they may deem expedient for bringing out more fully the resources of the Church to enable the Synod to make such appointment. The hour of adjournment having arrived the Sederunt was closed with prayer."

SIXTH SEDERUNT.

Same Day and Place, 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Synod met and was constituted. Present as at last Sederunt except Rev. Mr. Cameron and Mr John Mitchell, who were absent with leave. The Synod took up the subject of Missions, and proceeded to hear the reports of the Boards.

The Report of the Board of Home Missions was read first, by Rev. W. McCulloch, the Secretary. The Report was received and the diligence of the Board approved.

The Report of the Board of Foreign Missions was then read by the Rev. Jas. Byrne the Rec. Secretary. It was moved that the Report be received and the diligence of the Board approved. It was moved in amendment by Rev. James Waddell, "That the moneys referred to as in the hands of Rev. Dr. Tidman, having been already accounted for to the Church, and the Boards not having any definite account to give, of the reason why they have not been drawn for our Missionaries, the part of the report referring to the subject be left out."

The question being taken the motion passed; so the report was received as submitted and the diligence of the Board approved.

The Board of Home Missions then submitted for Synodical approval, a series of Regulations for the guidance of Probationers. The first four were passed with slight amendments, when the Synod adjourned till the morning, to afford time this evening for holding the annual Synodical Missionary Meeting. Closed with prayer.

SEVENTH SEDERUNT.

Same Place. June 25th. 9 o'clock, P. M.

The Synod met and was constituted. Present as at last sederunt except Mr. William Boak who had leave of

absence. Mr. Cameron was also present. The minutes of the last sederunt were approved, and the Synod continued the review of the Rules for Probationers. The Rules as passed are as follow:—

All Probationers are placed by Synod under the superintendance of the Home Mission Board as the only official channel of employment.

On application the Board is empowered to transfer Probationers from one Presbytery to another, it being understood that the Presbytery make a limited application or the Board a limited appointment, and in no case excepting a call, said appointment to be annulled.

When a Probationer's appointments have expired, and the Presbytery does not require from him further services, intimation thereof is to be conveyed by the Clerk of Presbytery to the Secretary of the Board, together with his address.

No Probationer under the superintendance of any Presbytery, shall take regular appointments under another, unless duly transferred: and if by oversight or otherwise, Presbyteries shall fail to give employment to a Probationer, he shall report himself to the Board.

Probationers are required not to interfere unnecessarily in the Congregational business or arrangements of localities in which they may be labouring, and especially when Congregations may have in view to call a Pastor.

Probationers are required to submit to Presbyteries a written report of their proceedings, and also to the Board, when their appointments are of a strictly missionary character.

Probationers may receive money in Congregations and stations in which they labour, but shall account faithfully to the Board or Presbytery who are responsible for remuneration of services.

Any ordained Probationer acting under the Board, in admitting parties to the fellowship of the Church, shall take order, that the names of said parties be inserted in the Congregational Records.

Probationers labouring in vacant Congregations are required to perform all the duties of the settled Pastor—in as far as these are consistent with their position—such as Family visitation—Visitation of the Sick—Prayer Meetings—Sabbath School—Bible Classes—and when these are wanting to endeavour their establishment, should there be a prospect of their continuance. Each Probationer to commence his visitations where relinquished by his predecessors, till the whole be accomplished.

Probationers to be exceedingly careful to observe a godly life and conversation, that their intercourse with the people in private, may confirm their public teachings.

Probationers to keep a journal of all their missionary proceedings, for the information of Presbyteries or the Board.

The Board was directed to furnish Preachers with a copy of these Rules, together with a letter of Instructions.

It was agreed that the Synod's direction of last year to procure the services of an ordained Missionary be withdrawn for the present, and until the Synod shall see cause to act in the matter.

The Recommendation for additional Missionary supply to the Presbytery of P. E. Island was reserved for subsequent consideration.

The Recommendation to license young men, before their term of study is fully completed, to meet the present urgent destitution, was next taken up, when it was moved by Mr. Watson, seconded by Mr. G. Patterson, "That the Presbyteries be authorized, after consultation with the Professors, to take on trials for licence, such of the young men as may have completed their third year's attendance upon the Hall, with the understanding that they shall return to attend the next meeting of the Hall."

The subject having been discussed and the question taken, there appeared for the motion *fifteen*, against it *five*. Eleven declined voting, so the motion passed.

The minutes of the Board were read, (with some few Minutes read.

Rules for Probationers.

I.

II.

III.

IV.

V.

VI.

VII.

VIII.

IX.

X.

XI.

Order Withdrawn.

Supply to P. E. Island.

Licensing of Students.

Report of Messrs McCurdy and Murray.

Seminary Business.

Recomm.

Location of Sem.

Temporary Accommodation

Second Professor

Decision.

Boards of Missions.

Reports received

Recommendations of Board of Home Missions.

New Board.

omissions sanctioned by Synod) and ordered to be countersigned. It was agreed that the Board for the present year shall consist of Rev. Messrs. McCulloch, Watson, E. Ross and Honeyman, with the Presbytery Elders of Truro and Upper Londonderry, three to be a quorum.

The Home Mission business being closed, the following Committees were allowed to present their Reports.

Auditing Com.

The auditing Committee reported that they had examined the different accounts; that so far as they could judge from the documents within their reach, they were accurately kept and when closed, viz. on the 19th of June the following sums were in fund:

Home Missions - - - - -	£ 89 1 0½
Foreign Missions - - - - -	338 10 4
Missionary Register - - - - -	8 10 2
Theological Seminary Fund - - - - -	0 0 0
Synod Fund - - - - -	0 11 6

HELD BY EDUCATIONAL BOARD.

Theological Professorship Fund -	£ 523 15 1
Bequests and other Funds - - -	1435 13 1

Various Sums having been received during the meeting of Synod the present state of the funds was also reported as follows:—

Sums in hand.

Home Missions - - - - -	£122 4 0
Foreign Missions - - - - -	384 15 3½
Seminary Fund - - - - -	12 15 0
Synod Fund - - - - -	39 15 1
Register Fund - - - - -	19 18 4

Order.

The Report was received. Inconvenience having been experienced from the early closing of accounts it was agreed that in future the Synodical accounts shall be closed at the end of Thursday morning's sederunt.

Report of Com. on Presby. Min.

The Committee to examine Presbytery minutes reported that having attended to this duty, they found that with a few exceptions, minutes in all the presbyteries are accurately kept and business regularly conducted. The committee recommended that in future the signing of the minutes by the Moderator of Presbytery should be done at the proper time and not postponed till the meeting of Synod. The Report was received.

Report of Com. on Fin. Returns.

The Committee on Financial Returns submitted their Report together with the Financial Table. The Committee stated what number of congregations had reported and specified several evidences of improvement. It was agreed that the Report and table should both be published. The Synod adjourned, closing with prayer.

EIGHTH SEDERUNT.

Same Day and Place, 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Synod met and was constituted. Present as at last sederunt, except Rev. Messrs Murdoch, Campbell, and Honeyman, the two latter having obtained leave of absence for the remainder of the time.

Seminary Business.

Resumed the consideration of business connected with the Seminary. The Synod first took up an overture from Rev. Jas Waddell, adopted and transmitted by the Pictou Presbytery, requesting the Synod—*First*. "To establish a standard of examination for applicants before admission to the classes of the Seminary. *Secondly*. To authorize a series of Books, to be used and notice to be given accordingly throughout the Church; and *Thirdly*. That means be employed to provide a supply of such authorized books, and place them within the reach of students." A paper signed by Professor Ross was read in connexion with the overture, suggesting a suitable standard of qualification and an enumeration of such Books as met his approval; and also the addition of another term to the course. After reasoning it was agreed to adopt the Overture and to refer it to the Board of Superintendance to take action on the subjects of it, in preparing regulations for the

Standard of Admission.

Books.

Overture adopted.

Seminary, and to authorize the Professor to require the use of the books which he has recommended.

The Synod then passed a series of Bye-Laws for the Seminary, which the Board were authorized to publish. The Board was reappointed and it was unanimously agreed to direct them to increase the Professor's Salary to £175. They were farther authorized should the resources of the Church warrant the step, to make a temporary appointment of an assistant to diminish Mr. Ross's labours.

The Rev. John McCurdy, brought under the notice of Synod the claims of New Brunswick to a share of the Missionary labours of this Church; whereupon it was agreed that the Board of Home Missions be directed to send Mr. Byers, after the second Sabbath of August, to Miramichi, to assist Mr. McCurdy in the dispensation of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and to continue in New Brunswick for five weeks additional to be employed in Missionary work in concert with Mr. McCurdy. Concluded with prayer.

Board reappointed.

Directions.

Mr. McCurdy's application granted.

Mr. Byers appointed.

LAST SEDERUNT.

Same Day and Place, 7½ o'clock, P. M.

The Synod met and was constituted. Present as at last Sederunt except Rev. Messrs. Miller and McCurdy, the former having leave of absence, and Messrs James Crerar, Isaac P. Dickie, John Cotham, James Moore, Alexander McCurdy and Mathew McCurdy, all of whom had leave of absence. Rev. J. L. Murdoch having returned, was present. Minutes of last sederunt were approved.

Mr. McCulloch, pursuant to notice given, moved "That the Moderator and Clerk be appointed to prepare and present on behalf of this Synod a suitable address to His Excellency Sir Gaspard Le Marchant, on his assuming the Government of this Province." The motion passed.

The Committee on statistics presented a verbal report, and an arranged table. The Committee represented the returns as improved and the table as more complete than formerly, but strongly recommended greater precision and punctuality. The Report was received. It was agreed that the table be printed.

Resumed the business of the Foreign Mission Board when the minutes were read and ordered to be countersigned, by the Moderator. The Board having referred Mr. Geddie's appeal for another labourer to the Synod, it was unanimously agreed on motion of the Rev. G. Walker, "That the Synod express their deep sympathy for the mission family in their solitary situation, that they habitually commend them to the guidance and protection of their Heavenly Father; and though, at present, unable to comply with the wishes of their brother, by sending a fellow labourer to his assistance, yet they consider themselves pledged by the most solemn obligations, to strengthen and uphold his hands amid all his perils and privations, and to use their utmost diligence to secure a coadjutor as soon as possible." The Board was reappointed, Mr. Alexander Fraser of New Glasgow and Mr. J. W. Dawson being members.

The Synod next entered upon the consideration of an Overture from the Session of Onslow for the establishment of a Religious Book Depository, and the commencement of a system of colportage. Mr. Baxter having addressed a Letter of inquiry to the Presbyterian Board of Publication of the United States, had received a favourable offer, which he submitted to Synod in terms of the Secretary's letter. It was unanimously agreed "to adopt the Overture, gratefully to accept the offer of the Presbyterian Board, to appoint a Committee of Colportage and authorize them to carry out the object contemplated"—the Committee to consist of Rev. John L. Baxter, (Convener) and Messrs. Isaac P. Dickie and Edward Blanchard, junr.

The Report of the Educational Board was then read and received. On the subject on which the Board asked advice

Members absent.

Address to His Excellency.

Report on Statistics.

Foreign Board.

Expression of Sympathy for Mr. Geddie.

Colportage.

Educational Board.

Opinion on reference.

it was agreed that "The Synod, not having definite information respecting the facts in the case, cannot until they ascertain these, advise the acceptance of the offer in question, and while reluctant to contemplate any legal steps, yet feel it their duty to authorize the Board to adopt such measures as they may find necessary to maintain the rights of the Synod."

Vacancy filled.

The resignation of Mr. James Dawson was accepted, and John McKinlay, Esq. was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Rep. of Com. of Correspondence.

The report of the Committee of Correspondence with Evangelical churches was read by the Rev. G. Patterson the Convener; from which it appeared that the Committee besides continuing correspondence with the United Presbyterian church in Scotland, had addressed letters to the United Presbyterian Synods of Canada and Jamaica and to the Union of Evangelical churches in France. A reply to the first letter had been received from the Rev. Mr. Somerville; intimating that Mr Wylie's services had been offered and accepted for Nova Scotia. No answers had yet been received to the other communications. The Report was received and the diligence of the Committee approved. The Committee were reappointed with their former powers and requested to publish a short narrative of their proceedings.

Report of Deputation to P. E. Island.

The Report of the deputation to P. E. Island, was also read by Rev. G. Patterson. The Report, which presented an interesting account of the intercourse of the deputation with the Ministers and Congregations of the Island, was received, and the diligence of the deputation highly approved.

Report on Widow's Fund.

The Report of the Committee of Synod to prepare and submit a plan for assisting the widows of Ministers of this Church was then read; from which it appeared that the Committee were not yet prepared to submit any plan, but were anticipating replies to some inquiries which they had made on the subject. On motion it was agreed "that as the appointment of successive Committees on this subject, has, as yet, led to no satisfactory result, the subject be dropped and the Committee discharged." The sum in

Subject dropped.

hand was referred to Messrs. Bayne and Watson for distribution.

Proceeded to provide supply for the Pulpits of the Professors of theology, while they are attending the Hall. The Presbyteries of Halifax and Truro were appointed in the order in which they are named to provide two Sabbaths each, for Mr. Smith's congregation, and Mr. Keir's pulpit to be supplied for three Sabbaths by the Presbytery of Pictou and two by the Presbytery of P. E. Island.

Rev. G. Patterson was appointed to lecture at next meeting of Synod. Ordered that a new schedule of statistical questions be printed with a column for Synod fund, another for Seminary fund, and another for the whole sum contributed to the Schemes of the Church. Also that not less than 500 Copies of the Formula of Admission for applicants for Church membership, be printed.

Agreed that a Bill of One Pound nine shillings for expenses incurred by Noel arbitration be paid. Also the usual fee to the Clerk, and One Pound for Financial questions, and that after printing and other necessary expenses are defrayed, the remainder be paid to the Professors of Theology.

The Synod unanimously expressed thanks to the Proprietors of this Building, which the Clerk was directed to communicate to Dr Lynds.

The Synod agreed to express a sense of obligation to the people of Truro, for their kindness and hospitality; also to the Session of Truro Congregation for the liberality and attention with which they have provided for the comfort of the Synod at its meetings.

Pictou, Windsor, New Glasgow and West River were respectively named as the place for the next meeting of Synod. The vote was taken between Windsor and New Glasgow, when the majority of votes were for the latter. The Synod, after the calling of the Roll, adjourned to meet in James' Church, New Glasgow, on the 4th Tuesday of June, 1853, at half-past 7 o'clock, P.M.

Concluded with praise, prayer and the Apostolic Benediction.

PETER G. MCGREGOR, *Synod Clerk.*

The Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, in account with Abr. Patterson, Treas.

DR.		CR.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1851.		1851.	
Aug. 26.	To paid Rev. P. G. McGregor, to pay Printing, including £5 paid by Jas. Dawson, 2nd July	Aug. 26.	By Balance of Accounts from James Dawson, Treasurer
	15 0 0		9 7 10
Octr. 10.	" paid balance of Salary to Rev. J. Kerr, per order		From Economy & Five Islands, June 26, omitted to be credited in former Account
	10 0 0		2 0 0
	" Do. to Rev. J. Smith, per order		Nine Nile Congregation, 48s. 6j.d. Sept. 13, Bedeque Cong. P. E. I. currency, 20s.
	10 0 0		3 5 2
1852.		Octr. 30.	Economy and Five Islands, 30s.; New Annap, 17s. 0j.d.; Tutamagouche, 17s. 7j.d.
June 19.	" Commission on £36 9 6 at 2½ per cent. Balance at date		3 4 8
	0 18 2	Novr. 20.	West Riv. Cong. £3 0 9j.d. June 1st, Salem Church, G. Hill, £2 13 6j.d.
	0 11 6		5 14 4
	£36 9 8	1852.	
		June 14.	Collection Prince Street Church, Pictou,
		19.	Halifax, per Rev. P. G. McGregor
			7 17 7
			5 0 0
			£36 9 8
		1852.	
		June 19.	By Balance at date
			£0 11 6

Pictou, 19th June, 1852.

ABR. PATTERSON, Treasurer.

N. B. Various sums were paid after the closing of the Accounts, which will be acknowledged in the Register for August, and appear in the Treasurer's Account next year.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SYNOD ON THE FINANCIAL TABLE OF 1852.

Your Committee keeping in view the objects for which these Financial Returns are annually required from each Congregation, viz: to ascertain by what title property is held;—what support is given to the Pastors;—and what means are employed to secure such support; have endeavoured to obtain correct information upon these points, by carefully examining the Financial Returns of the present year, and comparing them with those of the past year.

From these Returns it appears that the number of Congregations has not increased during the past year. This number is 35. Of these 13 have given in no Return; 6 are vacant; and the remaining 7 assign no reasons for their silence.

Following the order pursued by the Committee who drew up the Report of last year, the first point is

I. TITLE TO CHURCH PROPERTY.

<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 10px;">9</td><td style="width: 10px;">Congregations</td><td style="width: 10px;">by</td><td style="width: 10px;">Deed to Trustees.</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>"</td><td>"</td><td>Incorporation.</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>"</td><td>"</td><td>Possession.</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>"</td><td>"</td><td>Fee Simple.</td></tr> </table>	9	Congregations	by	Deed to Trustees.	8	"	"	Incorporation.	6	"	"	Possession.	2	"	"	Fee Simple.		<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 10px;">3</td><td style="width: 10px;">Congregations</td><td style="width: 10px;">by</td><td style="width: 10px;">Lease.</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>"</td><td>"</td><td>Grant.</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>"</td><td>"</td><td>Member in Trust.</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>"</td><td>"</td><td>No Title.</td></tr> </table>	3	Congregations	by	Lease.	1	"	"	Grant.	1	"	"	Member in Trust.	1	"	"	No Title.
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1	"	"	No Title.																															

II. STIPEND PROMISED TO PASTOR.

<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 10px;">2</td><td style="width: 10px;">Congregations</td><td style="width: 10px;">promise</td><td style="width: 10px;">£200</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>"</td><td>"</td><td>150</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>"</td><td>"</td><td>140</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>"</td><td>"</td><td>130</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>"</td><td>"</td><td>125</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>"</td><td>"</td><td>120</td></tr> </table>	2	Congregations	promise	£200	6	"	"	150	1	"	"	140	1	"	"	130	1	"	"	125	4	"	"	120		<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 10px;">1</td><td style="width: 10px;">Congregation</td><td style="width: 10px;">promises</td><td style="width: 10px;">£117</td><td style="width: 10px;">7</td><td style="width: 10px;">6</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>"</td><td>"</td><td>110</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>"</td><td>"</td><td>105</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>"</td><td>"</td><td>100</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>"</td><td>"</td><td>80</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>"</td><td>"</td><td>50</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> </table>	1	Congregation	promises	£117	7	6	1	"	"	110	0	0	1	"	"	105	0	0	1	"	"	100	0	0	1	"	"	80	0	0	1	"	"	50	0	0
2	Congregations	promise	£200																																																											
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1	"	"	80	0	0																																																									
1	"	"	50	0	0																																																									

III. AMOUNT OF STIPEND PAID LAST YEAR.

The whole amount promised by these Congregations is £2652, averaging £120 11s. 3d. to each Pastor. The amount paid is £2621 9s. 10d., averaging £119 2s. 9d. to each Pastor.

IV. BALANCE DUE THE PASTOR.

<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 10px;">14</td><td style="width: 10px;">Congregations</td><td style="width: 10px;">owe</td><td style="width: 10px;">nothing.</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>"</td><td>"</td><td>about £160</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>"</td><td>"</td><td>130</td></tr> </table>	14	Congregations	owe	nothing.	1	"	"	about £160	1	"	"	130		<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 10px;">1</td><td style="width: 10px;">Congregation</td><td style="width: 10px;">owes</td><td style="width: 10px;">about</td><td style="width: 10px;">£120</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>"</td><td>"</td><td>"</td><td>110</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>"</td><td>"</td><td>"</td><td>from £20 to £30</td></tr> </table>	1	Congregation	owes	about	£120	2	"	"	"	110	8	"	"	"	from £20 to £30
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8	"	"	"	from £20 to £30																									

V. SURPLUS FUNDS AFTER PAYING THE PASTOR.

Two Congregations in the Presbytery of Pictou, have reported Surplus Funds—one £29 11s. 4d.; the other £6 14s.

VI. TERMINATION OF CONGREGATIONAL YEAR.

Almost every month in the year.

VII. METHOD OF RAISING STIPEND.

There are four methods pursued by the Congregations:

<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 10px;">19</td><td style="width: 10px;">by</td><td style="width: 10px;">Voluntary</td><td style="width: 10px;">Subscriptions</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>"</td><td>"</td><td>Pew Rents</td></tr> </table>	19	by	Voluntary	Subscriptions	7	"	"	Pew Rents		<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 10px;">3</td><td style="width: 10px;">by</td><td style="width: 10px;">Weekly</td><td style="width: 10px;">Collections</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>"</td><td>"</td><td>Assessment</td></tr> </table>	3	by	Weekly	Collections	1	"	"	Assessment
19	by	Voluntary	Subscriptions															
7	"	"	Pew Rents															
3	by	Weekly	Collections															
1	"	"	Assessment															

VIII. TERMS AND MODE OF PAYMENT.

Nearly all the Congregations pay in Cash. Some pay half-yearly;—some quarterly;—and a few pay in advance.

IX. BOARD OF MANAGERS.

According to the Returns, all the Congregations which have reported have Managers, with the exception of one. The numbers vary from 1 to 14.

X. TIMES OF MEETING OF MANAGERS.

On this point there is great irregularity. In 1 Congregation they meet monthly; in 13, quarterly; in 3, half-yearly; in 3, annually; in 10, when business requires it.

XI. DO MANAGERS REPORT ANNUALLY.

In 28 Congregations they report annually; in 1, appointed to do so; in 2, have not done so yet.

Your Committee have much pleasure in stating that by comparing the Returns of the present year with those of the preceding one, there are evident signs of improvement. We may instance the following: a greater degree of liberality in supporting Gospel Ordinances. This is manifest from the fact that whilst during the preceding year the average amount of salary to each Pastor was only £92 18s. 8d., this year it amounts to £119 2s. 9d. Several Congregations have made praiseworthy exertions to remove all arrears; inasmuch that six additional Congregations are this year added to the number of those who fully and punctually discharge their obligations; and by so doing, shew that they value the ordinances of religion;—have a regard to the comforts of their Pastor, and are governed by a principle of integrity. The number of those who owe nothing is 14. The preceding year it was only 8. Again, those who still have *troublesome arrears*, do not owe the same amount as formerly.

An improvement is also observable in the mode of payment. The practice of paying in produce of all sorts, is being abandoned, and that which is much more substantial, *Cash*, is substituted in its stead.

Farther there appears to be considerable improvement in the management of Congregations, and to this in a great degree, your Committee believe, the improvement in Financial matters is to be ascribed: Active Managers are essential to the prosperity of a Congregation.

In conclusion, your Committee would suggest the propriety of urging upon Presbyteries the necessity of using diligence to secure a Return from each Congregation.

JUNE 25, 1852.

JOHN CAMERON, *Con. of Committee.*

STATISTICS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NOVA SCOTIA, 1851-52.

CONGREGATIONS.	EXTENT.	Number of adherents to the PRESBYTERIAN Church of Nova Scotia within these bounds	Number of Families.	Number of Churches.	Amount of Church Accommodation.	General Attendance.	Number of Baptisms during the year.	No. of Communicants.	Number of Accessions during the year.	Number of Communicants removed by death, or otherwise.	No. of Elders.	Lord's Supper dispensed during the year.	Number of Families who observe Family worship.	Number of Sab. Schools.	Number of Teachers.	Number of Pupils.	Sabbath School Libraries.	Number of volumes.	Prayer Meetings.	Average Attendance.	Bible Classes.	Attendance on Bible Classes.	Stipend Paid.	Foreign Missions.	Home Missions.	Miscellaneous.	
PRESBYTERY OF PICTOU.																											
Pictou	18 miles by 2	860	172	1	600	425	24	219	36	32	8	Thrice	Good proportion.	4	36	260	2	1300	2	75	2	70	£200.	£17 5 5	£7 16 8	£164 12 0	
West River	10 " 10	1230	190	2	1150	400 each	36	260	5	2	9	Thrice	Nearly all.	3	12	140	1	120	None.	5	65	3	67	Vacant.	9 3 11	4 10 11	230 17 5
East River	11 " 8	1200	157	2	1200	Very good	32	247	15	4	9	Thrice	Nearly all.	2	18	131	2	200	5	134	2	43	£110.	14 0 0	3 0 0	67 3 44	
New Glasgow	10 " 5		58	2	750	350	11	109	6	None	4	Twice	All as far as known	Good proportion.	2	20	115	2	130	3	1	1	25	150.	12 10 11	10 9 0	78 15 8
Merigomish	15 " 4	600	120	1	400	150	10	120	4	2	10	4 times	Good proportion.	1	4	25	1	100	None.	1	1	25	80.				
Tatamagouche and New Annan	18 " 12	1000	200	2	750	Good	12	150	12	None	10	Twice	Not known.	10	35	350	3	200	5	varied.	3	24	100.	8 0 0		10 0 0	
Miramichi	Part of 3 Parishes.	500	94	1	450	300	25	198	3	3	4	Twice	Not ascertained.	2	7	60	2	200	1	8	6	33	£146 12 2	5 0 0	2 6 6	30 11 8½	
Green Hill	40 sq. miles.	795	144	1	640	400	36	213	27	10	4	Thrice	All members.	2	12	100	3	250	2	40	2	35	125 0 0	8 0 0	10 12 10½	128 19 6	
Mabou	18 miles	106	32	2	200	100	6	31	6	2	4	Once	17	1	4	42	2	250					5 10 0	21 13 0	6 0 0		
Up. Settlement E. River	15 " 18	1160	180	3	1250	Good	27	210	7	2	11	4 times	All	8	23								73 1 1	9 11 10	3 19 0		
St. Mary's	40 " 12	1018	161	3	1000	350, 150, 150	29	300	30	10	16	6 times	140	9	27	185	7	515	1	20	2	32	150 0 0	6 0 0		22 5 0	
PRESBYTERY OF TRURO.																											
Truro	20 miles by 4	850	172	2½	850	500	12	229	6	19	11	4 times.	More than one half.	6	32	210	2	150	3	40	4	30	£130	£5 4 2½	£17 12 7½	£93 2 10½	
Stewiacke	20 " 8	1670	258	2	900	Good	52	335	18	7	18	Twice.	230.	10	36	314	8	300	4				150	12 6 0	8 4 0		
Onslow	160 sq. miles.	1800	300	4	1800	200 each	12	276	12	6	18	5 times.	Good proportion.	4	9	100	1	75	1	40			110	10 0 0	2 0 0	40 0 0	
Upper Londonderry	8 to 10 "	1000	175	3	900	300 each	5	181	2	4	10	Thrice.	Good proportion.	4	11	88							120	4 0 0	3 0 0	7 0 0	
Economy and Five Islands	9 by 5 "	610	70	1	300	230	3	124	6	2	7	Twice.	½ G4 in both sections.	1	2	10							60	3 18 4	1 19 2	5 0 0	
	7 " 5 "	360	60	1	400	125	8	73	2	3	5	Once.		1	2	10							32 13 3	2 2 7½	13 4 5½		
PRESBYTERY OF HALIFAX.																											
Halifax	6 miles by 2	360	61	1	400	250	13	110	29	14	3	4 times.	31	1	9	70	1	450	1	40	2	24	£200	£7 0 0	£20 0 0	£133 15 0	
Windsor and Newport	20 miles.	1000	170	2	750	200	9	207	4	14	5	4 times.	30	3	15								110	3 4 11½	3 4 11½	23 5 7	
Nine Mile River	36 " 11	800	130	3	900	200	8	140	4	2	11	6 times.	90	1	1	20							120	6 0 0	13 0 0	95 0 0	
Musquodoboit	26 " 6	1200	250	2	800	Good	23	280	16	6	13	3 times.	A large number.	4	20	200	2							60	4 0 0		76 6 0
Yarmouth	20 miles.	325	67	2	500	300	6	80	3	3	5	4 times.	19	2	14	80	2	350	2	5	30 ea.	2	100	150	14 0 0	4 10 0	21 13 4
PRESBYTERY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.																											
Princetown	10 miles by 10	781	116	1	550	360	21	291	11	9	10	Twice.	52	4	14	110	3	300	4	90			£105	£26 10 0	£5 0 0	£42 0 0	
Bedeque	20 " 10	360	60	1	300	200	14	109	4	1	8	Twice.	20	3	0	73							81	11 0 0	3 17 0	30 0 2	
Cavendish and New London	16 " 8		100	3	900	300 in two } 200 in one }	23	149	13	4	8	Twice.	44	2	11	120	1	50	2	30				135	25 2 2		35 12 0
Total		19,585	3504	50	18,500		457	4,549	281	161	221	77		89	378	2803	49	4940	58	802	32	502	£2831 6 6	£225 10 4½	£146 15 8½	£1335 14 1	

1. The number of Congregations in the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia including P. E. Island, is Thirty Five.
 2. The Total as exhibited in the above Table, refers to the sum of the Returns of the 24 Congregations whose Sessions have reported.
 3. The sums contributed to the Synod Fund and Seminary are included under the head MISCELLANEOUS, but will in future appear in separate columns.

