

THE
ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE SYNOD
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA,
IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

SESSION XXIII.
HELD AT WILLIAMSTOWN, 7TH JULY,
1852.

Nec Tamen Consumeatur.

TORONTO:
PRINTED BY HUGH SCOBIE, KING STREET EAST.
1852.

REV. JOHN McMORINE, RAMSAY,
Moderator of Synod.
REV. ANDREW BELL, DUNDAS,
Synod Clerk.
JOHN CAMERON, ESQUIRE, TORONTO,
Synod Treasurer.
HUGH ALLAN, ESQUIRE, MONTREAL,
Treasurer of the Synod's French Mission Committee.

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REV. ALEXANDER MATHIESON, D.D., MONTREAL.
REV. HUGH URQUHART, A.M., CORNWALL.
HON. PETER MCGILL, MONTREAL.
HON. JOHN HAMILTON, KINGSTON.
WILLIAM EDMONSTONE, ESQUIRE, MONTREAL.
HEW RAMSAY, ESQUIRE, MONTREAL.
JOHN SMITH, ESQUIRE, MONTREAL.
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REV. JAMES GEORGE,
Professor of Systematic Theology.
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Professor of Biblical Criticism and Church History.
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JOHN GREENSHIELDS, Esq.	WILLIAM EDMONSTONE, Esq.
ANDREW SHAW, Esq.	W. GORDON MACK, Esq.

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OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA,
IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.
JULY, 1852.

1. PRESBYTERY OF BATHURST.—Clerk, REV. WILLIAM BAIN, A.M., Perth.
Meets at Ferth on the second Wednesday in January, May and September.

CONGREGATIONS.	MINISTERS.	ELDERS.
Perth, 1st Church	William Bell, A.M.	John Ferguson.
South Gower	Joseph Anderson, A.M.	Jacob VanAllan, jun.
Pakenham	Alexander Mann, A.M.	Hugh Dickson.
Kitley	David Evans	James Edgar.
Lanark	Thomas Fraser	Alexander Stewart.
Perth, St. Andrews	William Bain, A.M.	Malcolm McPheerson.
Ramsay	John M'Morine	Robert Bell.
Bytown	Alexander Spence	Hon. Thomas McKay.
Smith's Falls	Solomon Mylne	Duncan McTavish.
Buckingham & Cumberland	David Shanks	Archibald Petrie.
Brockville	John Whyte	John McKerras.
Beckwith	Duncan Morrison	Donald McLaurin.
McNab and Horton	George Thomson, A.M.	John McNab.
Richmond		William McFarlane.
Dalhousie		Robert Urquhart.
Newboro' and Bedford		J. Atcheson.

2. PRESBYTERY OF KINGSTON.—Clerk, MR. K. McLENNAN, A.M., Kingston.
Meets at Kingston on the First Wednesday of every month.

Kingston	John Machar, D.D.	John Mowat.
Seymour	Robert Neill	Robert Cleugh.
Queen's College	James Williamson, A.M.	
Queen's College	John M. Smith, A.M.	
Belleville	William McEwen, A.M.	George Neilson.
Camden		Mark Hermiston.
Otonabee, Dummer, Asphodel, Percy, Belmont.		Archibald Coquhoun, Ordained Missionary.
		Kenneth McLennan, Missionary.

3. PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.—Clerk, REV. J. BARCLAY, A.M., Toronto.
Meets at Toronto, on the Third Tuesday of February, May, August & November.

Pickering	Peter McNaughton, A.M.	John Medill.
Esquesing and Milton	Peter Ferguson	John Turnbull.
Scarboro'	James George	James A. Thomson.
King	John Tawse, A.M.	James McCallum.
Chinguacousy	Thomas Johnson.	
Mono	Alexander Lewis.	
Eldon	John McMurehy.	
Toronto	John Barclay, A.M.	Hon. Judge McLean.
Gwillimbury West	Alexander Ross.	
Clarke and Hope	Samuel Porter.	
Hornby	William Barr	David Forrest.
Markham	James Stuart.	
Vaughan		Donald Cameron.
Darlington, Scott and Uxbridge, Thorah, Brock and Reach, Caledon, Newmarket, Whitby, Mara, Nottawasaga and Sunnidale.		A. Blair, Missionary.
		John Campbell, A.M., Missionary.

SYNOD ROLL,—JULY, 1852.

4. PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL.—*Clk, REV. A. WALLACE, A. B., Huntingdon. Meets at Montreal, on the First Wednesday of February, May, August & Nov'r.*

CONGREGATIONS.	MINISTERS.	ELDERS.
Montreal, St. Andrew's	A. Mathieson, D.D.	John Smith.
Dundee	Duncan Moody.	
Chatham and Grenville	William Mair.	
Orms town	James Anderson	Neil Campbell.
Georgetown	James C. Muir	Robert Robertson.
Quebec, St. Andrew's	John Cook, D.D.	John Thompson.
Lachine	William Simpson	John Learmont.
Hemmingford	John Merlin	John Reay.
New Richmond	John Davidson.	
Three Rivers	James Thom.	L J. McNair.
Huntingdon	Alexander Wallace, A.B.	Hugh Barr.
Montreal, St. Paul's	Robert McGill	George McKenzie.
St. Louis	James T. Paul.	
Beauharnois	Thomas Haig	James Lang.
Beech Ridge, Valcartier, Melbourne, Laprairie, St. Eustache, New Carlisle, Norvaltown.		
French Congregation, Montreal and Quebec.	} Louis Baridon, Missionary.	

5. PRESBYTERY OF GLENGARY.—*Clk, REV. T. MCPHERSON, A. M., Lancaster. Meets on the Third Wednesday of January, May and September.*

Williamstown	John McKenzie, A.M.	Hon. John McGillivray.
Cornwall	Hugh Urquhart, A.M.	James Pringle.
Martintown	John McLaurin	Alexander McMartin
Osnabrock	Isaac Purkis.	William R. Croil.
Lancaster	Thomas McPherson, A.M.	John McPherson.
Dalhousie Mills and Cole St. George	Aeneas McLean	Angus Catanach.
Finch	Donald Monro	Duncan McMillan.
Williamsburgh	Thomas Scott	David Johnston.
Lochiel		John Fraser.
L'Orignal		Charles P. Treadwell.
Coteau du Lac		Robert McLutye.

6. PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.—*Clerk, REV. J. B. MOWAT, A. M., Niagara. Meets at Hamilton on the second Wednesday in January, May and September.*

Nelson	William King	Timothy Cooper.
Mount Pleasant	John Bryning	
Clinton and Grimsby	George M'Clatchey	George Muir.
Goderich	Alexander MacKid	John Haldane.
Dundas and Ancaster	Andrew Bell	Alexander Burnside.
Fergus	Hugh Mair, D.D.	A. D. Fordyce.
Guelph	Colin Gregor	Andrew Quarry.
Stratford and N. Easthope	William Bell, A.M.	William Byers.
Simcoe and Vittoria	George Bell, A.B.	Abraham Youngs.
Niagara	John B. Mowat, A. M.	Gilbert McMicken.
Hamilton	Daniel McNee	D. MacDougall.
Galt	Hamilton Gibson	Simon Patterson.
Chatham	John Robb	
Saltfleet and Binbrooke		Charles Anderson.
Amherstburgh, Williams, London and Westminster, Aldborough, Yarmouth, Woodstock and Norwich, Wellesley, Woolwich, Dover, Fredericksburgh, Brantford.		

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ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with
the Church of Scotland, begun at Williamstown, the 7th
day of July, and concluded the 12th day of
July, 1852 years.

SESSION XXIII.

DIET I.

*At Williamstown, and within the Church there,—Wednes-
day, the Seventh day of July, One Thousand Eight
Hundred and Fifty-Two years:—*

The which day, after sermon by the Rev. Robert Neill, Minister of Seymour, Moderator of the Synod for the preceding year, from Zechariah X. 1. "Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field,"—the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, met, according to appointment, and was by him constituted with prayer.

Presbytery Rolls having been given in, the Synod Roll was made up and read over.

Sederunt Mr. Robert Neill, *Moderator*; Mr. Alexander Mann, Mr. William Bain, Mr. Solomon Mylne, Mr. John Whyte, Mr. Duncan Morrison, Dr. John Machar, Mr. James Williamson, Mr. John Malcolm Smith, Mr. Peter Ferguson, Mr. John Barclay, Mr. Duncan Moody, Mr. James Anderson, Mr. James C. Muir, Dr. John Cook, Mr. William Simpson, Mr. John Merlin, Mr. John Davidson, Mr. James Thom, Mr. Alexander Wallace, Mr. Robert McGill, Mr. James T. Paul, Mr. Thos. Haig, Mr. John McKenzie, Mr. Hugh Urquhart, Mr. John McLaurin, Mr. Thomas McPherson, Mr. Aeneas McLean, Mr. Donald Monro, Mr. Thomas Scott, Mr. George McClatchey, Mr. Andrew Bell, Mr. Colin Gregor, Mr. George Bell, Mr. John B. Mowat, Mr. Daniel McNee, and Mr. John Robb, *Ministers*; together with Mr. John McKerras, Mr. John Mowat, Hon. Judge McLean, Mr. John Smith, Mr. Robert Robertson, Mr. George McKenzie, Mr. Alexander McMartin, Mr. John McPherson, Mr. Angus Catanach, Mr. Duncan McMillan, Mr. David Johnston, and Mr. Charles P. Treadwell, *Elders*.

The Synod then proceeded to the election of a Moderator for the ensuing year, when the Rev. John McMorine, Minister of Ramsay, was unanimously elected, and, at the Synod's desire, took the chair.

6. MINUTES OF SYNOD, WILLIAMSTOWN, WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 1852.

The Synod next proceeded to the election of three Trustees for Queen's College at Kingston, in room of the Rev. James George, the Rev. James C. Muir, and the Rev. Andrew Bell, who retire from office at this time, according to the terms of the Royal Charter of Queen's College, when the Rev. James George, the Rev. James C. Muir, and the Rev. John McMorine, were unanimously elected, and their names placed at the top of the Roll; and the Clerk was instructed to intimate the same to the Board of Trustees.

The Synod next proceeded to the election of two Clergy Reserve Commissioners, in room of John Smith, Esq., and Alexander McMartin, Esq., who retire from office at this time, according to the Regulations of Synod of 1848, when John Smith, Esq., of Montreal, and Alexander McMartin, Esq., of Martintown, were unanimously re-elected, and their names directed, in terms of the aforesaid Regulations, to be placed at the foot of the list of Commissioners, and the Clerk was instructed to certify the above appointment to the Board of Commissioners, and also to the Government.

The Synod appointed the following Committee of Bills and Overtures, with instructions to meet this afternoon; and all papers to come before the Synod, were ordered to be given in to the said Committee, viz:—the Moderator and Clerk, Mr. Alexander Mann, Dr. John Machar, Mr. John Barclay, Dr. John Cook, Mr. Hugh Urquhart, and Mr. John B. Mowat, *Ministers*; and Mr. John Mowat, Mr. John Smith, and Mr. Charles P. Treadwell, *Elders*.

It was, on motion, agreed that the thanks of the Synod be given to Mr. Neill, their late Moderator, for the very excellent sermon with which he opened the Synod,—which was done by the Moderator accordingly.

The Synod appointed the following Committee to revise the Records of Synod, and report on them, viz:—Mr. Bain, Mr. Williamson, and Mr. Simpson.

The Synod called for the Records of Presbyteries, which were given in, when the Synod appointed the following Committees to revise the same, and report on them, viz:—Mr. Neill, Mr. James Anderson and Mr. Robert Robertson, to revise the Records of the Presbytery of Bathurst; Mr. Bain, Mr. Whyte and Mr. George McKenzie, to revise the Records of the Presbytery of Kingston; Mr. Morrison, Mr. McGill, and Mr. John Smith, to revise the Records of the Presbytery of Toronto; Mr. McLaurin, Mr. George Bell, and Mr. Duncan McMillan, to revise the Records of the Presbytery of Montreal; Mr. Wallace, Mr. Paul, and Mr. John Mowat, to revise the Records of the Presbytery of Glengary;

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MINUTES OF SYNOD, WILLIAMSTOWN, WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 1852. 7.

Mr. Aeneas McLean, Mr. Thomas McPherson and Mr. Charles P. Treadwell, to revise the Records of the Presbytery of Hamilton.

There was produced and read to the Synod, the answer of His Excellency the Governor General to the Address of the Synod presented to him last year; also, a communication from the Governor's Secretary, intimating, for the information of the Synod, that the Secretary of State for the Colonies, had laid before the Queen, the Synod's Address to Her Majesty, which they presented to His Excellency for transmission in July next.

The Synod appointed the following Committee to draft an Address to Her Majesty the Queen, viz:—Dr. Cook, Mr. McLaurin, and Mr. John McPherson; and the following to draft an Address to His Excellency the Governor General, viz:—Mr. McGill, Dr. Machar, and Mr. John Smith.

Leave was granted to Presbyteries to meet in Williamstown, for all competent business, during the meeting of the Synod, at such hours as the Synod may not be sitting.

The Records of the Commission of Synod were called for and produced, and the Synod had read the proceedings of the Commission during the past year. After lengthened discussion thereon, on motion of Dr. Cook, seconded by Professor Smith, the following deliverance was agreed to, viz:—"The Synod disapprove of the deliverance of the Commission at Montreal, on the Third of February last, in respect of the grant of £500 to Queen's College, from the Clergy Reserve Commissioners, as tending to throw unnecessary obstacles in the way of a highly desirable object; and the Synod do cordially approve of the said grant, as eminently called for in the present circumstances of this Church, and entirely in accordance with both the letter and spirit of the Clergy Reserves Act."

The Synod agreed, that during their present Session, they shall meet at Ten o'clock, A. M., and that there shall be an interval of two hours from Two till Four; and it was further agreed, that the first part of each morning's Sederunt be devoted to devotional exercises.

The Synod then adjourned till Ten o'clock to-morrow morning, and was closed with prayer.

8. MINUTES OF SYNOD, WILLIAMSTOWN, THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1852.

DIET II.

At Williamstown, and within the Church there :—Thursday, the Eighth Day of July, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-Two Years :—

The which day, the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, met, according to adjournment, and was constituted with prayer.

The Rev. John B. Mowat, on the call of the Moderator, conducted the devotional exercises of the Synod, in praise, reading the scriptures, and prayer.

Sederunt as before.

The Minutes of yesterday were read and approved of.

The Committee of Bills and Overtures made a report of the business to come before the Synod.

The Managers of the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund, presented to the Synod their Annual Report, which was read, and is as follows :—

The Managers have again the satisfaction of congratulating the Synod upon the prosperous condition of this Fund. During the past year the sum of £546 16s. 7d. has been received from the following sources :

Congregational Collections.....	£260 12 9
Ministers contributions, and Professors Queen's College.....	197 15 0
Revenues of Monies invested.....	88 8 10
	£546 16 7

As compared with the preceding year, the total amount of collections supplied by Congregations during the present year, shews an excess in favour of the latter, amounting to £51 4s. 8d., and the Managers are sanguine, that, as the importance of the Fund becomes better known, a still farther increase may be looked for in future years. In their last Report, the hope was expressed, that even the poorest of our Congregations would contribute annually at least as much as their Minister's individual contributions. It consists with the knowledge of the Managers, that, in many cases a vigorous and successful effort was made to do so, but the Treasurer's statement shews that there are still not a few of the Congregations who make merely nominal collections. The following Ministers have made no returns for the past year :—

- Rev. J. Merlin, Hemmingford.
- “ J. Davidson, New Carlisle.
- “ Thomas Johnson, Chinguacousy.
- “ Alex. Lewis, Mono.
- “ Wm. Barr, Hornby.
- “ H. Gibson, Galt.

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MINUTES OF SYNOD, WILLIAMSTOWN, THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1852. 9

The Synod is respectfully invited to take such steps as in its wisdom it may deem meet to enforce compliance with its own order, both as to regularity in collecting and remitting for the Fund, and in encouraging the people to increased liberality in their contributions.

The present condition of the Fund is as follows :

Amount already invested.....	£1897 0 0
On hand, to be invested.....	84 16 9
Making a capital sum of.....	£1981 16 9

The expenditure during the year has been :

Annuities, including arrears to Mrs. Lambie.....	£73 6 3
Postages, Printing, Stationery, &c., a set of Ledger, Journal and Cash Books.....	10 1 6
	£83 7 9

The Managers take credit to themselves for the strict economy with which the Fund has been managed since its commencement, as well as for the profitable character of the investments which have been made, and they trust, that in both these important respects, their conduct may meet with the approbation of the Synod.

It being at all times the anxious desire of the Managers, to increase the Annuities as frequently as the state of the Fund will permit, they were gratified at being enabled to avail themselves of the first opportunity of doing so which presented itself. At a Meeting of the Board, held on 22nd April, 1852, after a careful consideration of the means at their disposal, it was unanimously Resolved :

“That the Annuity to be paid to Widows shall be increased to £12 10s. from the first Fund, and according to the scale already approved of from the second Fund. That, in the event of a child or children coming on the Fund, in consequence of the death of both parents, the same annuity as in the case of a widow, shall be payable to him, her, or them, until the youngest daughter shall attain the age of 21 years, (unless sooner married, when it shall cease,) or the youngest boy shall attain the age of 16 years, unless he is studying with a view to the Ministry in the Church of Scotland, or in this Synod, when it shall continue to be paid until he attains the age of 21 years.”

This Resolution will, doubtless, give satisfaction to the Synod. The provision for an extended education to the sons of Ministers proposing to study with a view to the Sacred Office will, it is hoped, under the Divine blessing, tend greatly to increase the number of those who shall hereafter have to fill the Pulpits of the present incumbents. The extension of the term during which annuities shall be paid to the Orphan Daughters of Ministers is not the least pleasing feature in the above Resolution. Such cases usually require more assistance and sympathy than that of the other sex. It will be the aim of the Managers whenever they deem it safe to do so, to extend this class of annuities till it covers the lifetime of the Annuitant, or until she is married or otherwise rendered independent of its aid.

The Managers did not deem it prudent during the past year to make any alteration in the scale of Annuities payable from the Congregational Collections. Having deliberately and conscientiously adopted it as upon the whole, the fairest to all parties concerned, and as the one most conducive to the growth of the Fund, they do not desire to interfere with the proportions established by them and confirmed by the Synod till they have gained further experience of its practical working. Any alteration that may hereafter be made will probably be to increase the Annuities though the relative proportions will be preserved.

On former occasions—particularly in their 2nd and 3rd Annual Reports, copies of which are herewith transmitted—the Managers dwelt at so much length on the advantages derived from the graduated scale that they would not have thought it necessary to notice the subject again, had it not become known to them that one of the Presbyteries has overtured or is about to overture the Synod for a change in the management of this part of the Fund. As it is, the Managers content themselves by referring to their reasons formerly urged, to the deliverance of the Synod itself at its last meeting, and to the statement of their conviction that if the Annuities from this source be made uniform, an immediate and serious decrease will take place in the collections. While freely acknowledging the duty devolving upon the larger and older established Churches of assisting in the maintenance of the Widows of Ministers belonging to Congregations more recently formed, or in remote settlements where large contributions cannot be looked for, yet they think a limit ought to be placed somewhere, and the mode that has been adopted is the only one which has occurred to them as at all likely at once to draw out the support of the older and more numerous attended Congregations, and to hold out an inducement to every Congregation except (and this exception should be borne in mind) the few who collect more than £12 annually, the position of whose Widows is not improved by anything over that amount. If, indeed, any selfish feeling prevailed in this matter, it would obviously be more for the advantage, even as matters now stand, for the larger contributors to take up a nominal collection and insure their Ministers lives for £400 each, which they could readily do. Should any attempts be made to equalize the Annuities, the Managers fear that while the smaller Congregations do not increase their contributions, the larger ones will certainly decrease.

The Managers report, that, in addition to the two Lay Members of their number who retire in rotation, another will require to be named in lieu of Mr. Thomas Wilson, who has left the Province, and is now resident in London. They would respectfully suggest, that Mr. Thomas Peck would be a useful Member of the Board.

The Managers, in conclusion, congratulate the Synod that no new claimants have come upon the Fund during the financial year that has just closed.

The whole respectfully submitted.

(Signed) ROBERT MCGILL, *Chairman, P. T.*

HEW RAMSAY, *Secretary.*

MONTREAL, 1st July, 1852.

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MINUTES OF SYNOD, WILLIAMSTOWN, THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1852. 11

It was then moved and seconded, and unanimously agreed to, that the Report now read be received and approved of;—and that the grateful thanks of the Synod be given to the Managers of the Fund, for the admirable manner in which they have managed the Fund entrusted to them during the past year, and likewise for the able and satisfactory Report which they have presented to the Synod: And, further, the Synod enjoin Ministers to bring before their Congregations, at the season appointed for the Annual Collection in behalf of this Fund, its special claims on the liberality of their people: And the Synod record their disapprobation of the conduct of the Six Ministers who have neglected to make collections from their people in behalf of this Fund, and they are hereby strictly enjoined to a more faithful discharge of their duty in this particular.

A number of the Managers being present, the Moderator tendered to them the thanks of the Synod accordingly.

There was then transmitted to the Synod, by their Committee of Bills and Overtures, an Overture from the Presbytery of Hamilton, that the Synod should “reconsider the plan adopted by the Managers of the Ministers’ Widows’ and Orphans’ Fund, proportioning the annuities paid to Ministers’ Widows to the amount contributed by said Ministers’ congregations, and which plan was sanctioned by the Synod at last meeting.” The same having been read, but not having been supported, was fallen from.

The Synod then proceeded to the election of three Trustees for the management of the Ministers’ Widows’ and Orphans’ Fund, in room of the Rev. Robert McGill, John Greenshields, Esq., and Andrew Shaw, Esq., who retire from office at this time, in conformity with the provisions of the Act of Incorporation, when the said Rev. Robert McGill, John Greenshields, Esq., and Andrew Shaw, Esq., were unanimously re-elected, and their names directed to be placed at the head of the lists of Ministers and Laymen respectively composing the Board. The Synod also, on the recommendation of the Board of Managers, elected Thomas Peck, Esq., in room of Thomas Wilson, Esq., who has left the Province, and directed his name to be inserted in that part of the list of Managers formerly occupied by the name of Mr. Wilson.

The Synod appointed the following Examining Committee, in terms of the Act anent the Examination of Ministers, Preachers and Students coming from other Churches, not in connection with this Church, viz:—The Moderator and Clerk, Mr. Mann, Mr. Bain, Mr. Whyte, Dr. Machar, Mr. Williamson, Mr. John M. Smith, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. George, Mr. Barclay, Mr. Muir, Dr. Cook, Mr. McGill, Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Urquhart,

Mr. McPherson, Mr. McClatchey, Mr. George Bell, and Mr. John B. Mowat.

It was intimated to the Synod, on behalf of the Presbytery of Hamilton, that it was the intention of said Presbytery, with leave of the Synod, to take Mr. William Johnson, A. M., Student of Divinity of Queen's College, on trials for license; and it was also intimated, on behalf of the Presbytery of Kingston, that it was their intention, with leave of the Synod, to take Mr. Frederick Petrie Sim, Student of Divinity of Queen's College, on trials for license:—When, it having been ascertained that, in both cases, the circular letters, issued by these Presbyteries respectively, had been received in due time, and that no objections were offered, the Synod directed that said Students appear before the Examining Committee;—and appointed a meeting of the Examining Committee to be held to-morrow morning at Nine o'clock.

There was laid before the Synod a Statement from the Clergy Reserve Commissioners, in regard to the state of the Fund, and the same having been read, the Synod declared their satisfaction therewith, and instructed the Moderator to convey to the Commissioners, in the name of the Synod, their cordial thanks for the great diligence and ability with which they have conducted the interests of their trust. Several of the Commissioners being present, the Moderator tendered to them the thanks of the Synod accordingly.

The Synod appointed Mr. George Bell, Mr. John B. Mowat, and Mr. John Whyte, a Committee to attend to the Financial concerns of the Synod; and the Synod instructed Presbytery Clerks and others to pay over to the Committee all monies collected by them for the Synod Fund, and directed all accounts against the Synod to be given in.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee of Bills and Overtures, an Overture from the Presbytery of Hamilton anent a proposed plan for the payment of the travelling expenses of members attending the meetings of Synod, to the effect following, viz:—
“Whereas great inconvenience and detriment have resulted to the business of the Church, by the non-attendance of members at meetings of the Synod, and, at the same time, great injustice is done to those members who actually attend, by throwing the whole expense of the transaction of public business on them,—an expense often disproportionately great, in consequence of the distance some have to travel, notwithstanding that all are equally interested in the proceedings,—it is therefore respectfully overtured that the Synod do request the Clergy Reserve Commissioners, in fixing the yearly allowance to Ministers, to grant a sum of Three or Four Pounds, or such other sum as they may

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MINUTES OF SYNOD, WILLIAMSTOWN, THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1852. 13

deem right, as part of the allowance to each Minister, strictly on the condition and with the understanding that the said sum is to be available only for travelling expenses to the meetings of Synod, and for no other purpose whatever;—that, in order to this, it shall be retained in the hands of the Commissioners, and be by them paid over to the Synod Treasurer;—and that the Finance Committee, annually appointed by the Synod, shall, at the close of each meeting of Synod, appropriate the whole amount to the payment of the travelling expenses of those Ministers who have actually attended the meeting of Synod, in proportion to the distance travelled by them respectively." The same was read, and having been fully discussed, the Synod appointed the following committee to consider the matter and prepare a scheme embodying the views of the Synod as now expressed, viz:—Dr. Cook, Mr. McGill, Mr. McNee, the Hon. Judge McLean, and Mr. Mowat, Senior.

There were transmitted to the Synod, by their Committee of Bills and Overtures, Overtures from the Presbyteries of Toronto and Hamilton, anent the terms of the appointment of the Missionaries recommended at last Synod to be procured from Scotland, inasmuch as from some misapprehension as to the design of the Synod in mentioning certain Towns and Cities, merely as head-quarters for the said Missionaries while laboring under the direction of the Presbytery of the bounds, some of them have been appointed as City Missionaries in the places named. The said Overtures having been read and considered, the Synod agreed to dismiss the Overtures, inasmuch as the Resolution of the Synod of last year, complained of in them, did not and does not contemplate Missionaries for large Towns,—but inasmuch as the Colonial Committee seem to have misapprehended in the case of Mr. Blair, the object of that Resolution, the Moderator be requested to communicate with the Colonial Committee on the subject, explain the views of the Synod, and call the attention of the Committee to the terms of the Resolution in question. The Synod, further, understanding that it was desirable that the services of Mr. Blair, appointed by the Colonial Committee as a Missionary to the City of Toronto, should be transferred from the Presbytery of Toronto to the Presbytery of Montreal, directed the said Presbyteries to meet together, for the purpose of effecting such transfer and making the necessary arrangements in connection with the same.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee of Bills and Overtures, Overtures from the Presbyteries of Toronto and Hamilton, to the effect that the Synod suspend or rescind the Act of Synod of last year anent the training of licentiates to the Pastoral work. The same

were read, and, after long reasoning, the Synod agreed to suspend the operation of the said Act for one year.

The Synod made the following appointments for the public services of the Sabbath, viz:—Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Whyte to preach in Williamstown; Mr. Scott to preach in Lancaster; Mr. Andrew Bell and Professor Williamson to preach in Martintown; and Mr. Moody to preach in Lochiel.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee of Bills and Overtures, a Petition from Mr. Peter Lindsay, Student of Divinity in Queen's College, praying that the Third year of his Theological Course might be remitted, and that he might be taken on trials for license. After lengthened discussion it was moved by Mr. Mann, seconded by Mr. Mylne, "that the prayer of Mr. Lindsay's petition be granted." It was also moved, in amendment, by Mr. Andrew Bell, seconded by Mr. Simpson, "that the Synod, considering the course of study prescribed, in their Act anent the course of study for the Holy Ministry, to be the minimum necessary, declare that the provisions of that act must be adhered to, and accordingly decline granting the prayer of Mr. Lindsay's Petition." The roll having been called and the votes marked, the amendment was carried by a majority of votes, and the Synod discerned in terms thereof, declining to grant the prayer of Mr. Lindsay's Petition.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee of Bills and Overtures, an Overture from Mr. McGill anent remodelling the Constitution of the Commission of Synod, to the following effect, viz:—

"Whereas the persons usually nominated to constitute the Commission of Synod, are never able to meet together for the transaction of business, so that what is called the Commission of Synod is often nothing more than a few of the members of the particular Presbytery within whose bounds the Commission for the time is appointed to meet, and anomalous and irregular proceedings have sometimes taken place; and whereas, for the prevention of these in future, it is necessary to render the Commission what it was intended to be, a *bona fide* EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SYNOD; it is hereby overtured:—

1. That the members of which the Commission shall be constituted shall be nominated by their respective Presbyteries, during the meeting of Synod, in the ratio of one member for every six (*less or more*) ministers composing each Presbytery. The nomination by Presbyteries to be duly certified to the Synod on the day previous to its adjournment: and, in case any Presbytery shall fail to certify, the Moderator of Synod shall nominate for such Presbytery.

2. That the Commission shall meet on the call of the Moderator, if need be, on the second Wednesday in May, and the second Wednesday in October, in the place where the Synod held its last meeting.

3. That shall be absence of Presbyter assigned,

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MINUTES OF SYNOD, WILLIAMSTOWN, THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1852. 15

3. That the presence of one member at least from every Presbytery shall be deemed essential to constitute a quorum; and, if, through the absence of its member, any Presbytery is not duly represented, the said Presbytery shall be held delinquent, and, unless valid reasons be assigned, shall be subject to censure by the Synod.

4. That the Commission shall have no power to originate any new measures, or to transact any business whatever except such as has been committed to it by special instructions from the Synod.

5. The Moderator of the Synod will be the Moderator of the Commission; and, in case of his absence, any member of the Commission may be chosen to fill that office. The Clerk to be chosen from the members present.

6. It shall be the duty of the Commission to record its proceedings, and to lay a copy of the record before the Synod.”

The Synod, after some discussion, agreed to transmit the same to Presbyteries for their consideration that they may send up their opinions thereon to next meeting of Synod.

There was transmitted to the Synod, by their Committee of Bills and Overtures, a Memorial from the Rev. Robert McGill, accompanying a copy of a Petition intended to be presented to the Legislature on his own behalf and all who may approve of it, in regard to certain annoyances on the part of the Roman Catholics, suffered by some of the congregations of this Church, in some of the cities and towns of this Province, and chiefly in the city of Montreal, such as “deafening peals of bell ringing during the hours of public worship,”—“processions, attracting the young and the idle away from their religious duties, and so crowding the streets that many are hindered and prevented on their way to the Sanctuary of God,” and “the use of racket courts and other noisy games, on the Lord’s Day,” annoying “those who reside in the neighbourhood,” and praying the countenance and support of this Church at large, in endeavouring to obtain relief from said annoyances. After some consideration of this matter, the Synod agreed that the prayer of the Memorial be granted, and that the whole influence of the Synod be given in support of Petitions to the Legislature for this purpose.

The Synod adjourned until tomorrow morning at Ten o’clock, and was then closed with prayer.

DIET III.

*At Williamstown, and within the Church there:—Friday,
the Ninth day of July, One Thousand Eight Hun-
dred and Fifty-two Years,—*

The which day, the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, met, according to adjournment, and was constituted with prayer.

On the call of the Moderator, the Rev. William Bain conducted the devotional exercises of the Synod, in praise, reading the Scriptures, and prayer.

Sederunt. The Minutes of yesterday were read and sustained.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee of Bills and Overtures, a Memorial from the Congregations of McNab and Horton, for aid from the Colonial Committee in liquidating the debt on their Church; also, a Memorial from the Congregation of Kitley, to the Colonial Committee for aid in finishing their Church: together with extract Minutes of the Presbytery of Bathurst, recommending both cases. The Synod agreed to sanction the said applications, and instructed their Clerk to transmit the Memorials to the Colonial Committee of the General Assembly, with the Extract Minutes of Presbytery and Synod, as also copies of the Title Deeds of the said Churches, as soon as the same can be obtained.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee of Bills and Overtures, an Overture from several members of the Synod, to the effect that the Synod would appoint the time and place of their meeting for the following year, when the greatest number of members are present. The Synod, having considered the same, resolved to agree, at the present time, upon the time and place of next year's meeting.

(For this Minute see last page.)

The Synod called for the Report of the Joint Meeting of the Presbyteries of Toronto and Montreal, when the following Minute was given in, and having been read, the Synod approved of the same, and ordered it to be recorded:—

*At Williamstown, the Ninth Day of July, One Thousand
Eight Hundred and Fifty-Two Years:—*

On which day, a Joint Meeting of the Presbyteries of Toronto and Montreal, was held, by injunction of Synod, to consider the case of the

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transference of Mr. A. Blair, Missionary, Toronto, to the jurisdiction of the Presbytery of Montreal, and was constituted with prayer.

The Presbytery of Toronto expressed their willingness to transfer Mr. Blair to the jurisdiction of the Presbytery of Montreal;—and the Presbytery of Montreal agree to receive Mr. Blair as a Missionary within their bounds, under the Minute of the Synod of yesterday, i. e., to act, not in the Cities only, but generally as the Presbytery may direct,—the Presbytery assuming that part of Mr. Blair's salary, payable from the Presbytery Mission Funds, of Fifty Pounds, currency, from the date of his acquiescence in this arrangement. The Presbytery of Toronto, at the same time, do not assume any right to give any direction as to the transfer of Mr. Blair's services, which, by the terms of his appointment, were for the City of Toronto, and not therefore subject to the general powers of the Presbytery. They desire, also, that it may be understood that, in assenting to the transfer, they make no admission of liability for the remuneration of services confined to the City of Toronto. Mr. Barclay, at the same time, intimated, on the part of his congregation, that they would make a collection towards the object of providing for the portion of Mr. Blair's salary, during the period of his residence in Toronto, not provided for, by the Colonial Committee or by the Clergy Reserve Commissioners.

(A true copy.)

ALEX. WALLACE, *Clerk.*

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee of Bills and Overtures, an Overture from Mr. McGill, anent the necessity of making greater exertions to bring forward young men to study for the Ministry, together with certain suggestions in regard to the same. The said Overture is as follows:—

“Whereas since the secession of many of our Ministers in 1844 this Synod, and several of the members thereof individually, have used great exertions to procure Ministers to supply the destitute localities within our bounds, and, during the seven years that have since elapsed, we have obtained eight Ministers from the Church of Scotland, and nine from other Presbyterian bodies, which, together with six Ministers licensed and ordained by the Synod, making a total of twenty-three, presents only an actual increase of nine members on the Roll of 1851 over that of 1845,—an increase bearing no adequate proportion to the spiritual destitution which prevails among the members of our Church in this Province, enlarging, as it does, by emigration and the natural increase of population; THEREFORE it is respectfully overtured that this Synod do take some effectual means to enforce the duty that is laid upon us to perpetuate and extend our Church, and to diffuse its blessed influence among all, who shall ask for the benefit of its ministrations, by training up young men for the Ministry; and that for the attainment of this object the Synod do ordain that Presbyteries shall use effectual means to secure at least one student, on an average, from every four congregations, and, if need be, assist to maintain him at Queen's College during the whole course of his studies; and that, for the carrying out of this scheme, the Synod shall organize itself into Educational Boards, of four congregations each, on such a plan as shall best insure cordial and effective co-operation in this measure.”

After lengthened discussion, the Synod resolved "that the Rev. Mr. McGill, the Rev. Dr. Mathieson, the Rev. Dr. Cook, John Smith, Esq., Hugh Allan, Esq., John Greenshields, Esq., William Edmonstone, Esq., and Hew Ramsay, Esq., be a Committee to correspond with all the Ministers of this Church on the subject of obtaining Students for the Holy Ministry, and to devise means, as far as may be in their power, to enable deserving young men to attend Queen's College, or Grammar Schools preparatory to such attendance:—and Ministers are hereby strictly enjoined to communicate with the said Committee without delay, and make them aware from time to time of the efforts which they are making in this matter, and the measure of success which is attending them:—the said Committee to report to the Synod:—Mr. McGill to be Convener."

The Committee appointed to prepare a draft of an Address to Her Majesty the Queen gave in the same, which was read and adopted, and ordered to be engrossed for the Moderator's signature.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee of Bills and Overtures, an Overture from Mr. Charles P. Treadwell, *Elder*, anent the importance and necessity of authorizing the Elders in vacant congregations to conduct public worship in the same on the Lord's Day. The Synod, having taken this matter into their serious consideration, agreed to recommend, as they hereby earnestly and affectionately do recommend, to all their congregations destitute of fixed Pastors, and where the charge of the flock necessarily devolves upon the resident Elders, that, bearing in mind that the Sabbath is Divinely commanded to be an holy convocation unto the Lord, they should assemble together for the worship of God upon the Lord's Day,—and that their Elders should lead them in their devotional exercises and read to them the Scriptures and such Evangelical discourses as may be recommended for this purpose by the Presbytery of the bounds.

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee of Bills and Overtures, a Paper anent the necessity for making every exertion to promote the better observance of the Sabbath Day throughout this land; when it was unanimously resolved—"That all the [Ministers of this Synod be specially enjoined frequently to enforce the observance of the Fourth Commandment on their people, as essential not less to their individual improvement, than to the maintenance and extension of pure religion throughout this land,—to observe a firm and prudent exercise of discipline on this head,—and, in particular, to use all zeal and diligence to secure regular attendance on both diets of public worship:—and further, that Sessions be instructed to report to this Synod at next

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meeting, on the manner in which the Lord's Day is observed within their bounds, and to point out the remedies which they may deem most expedient and effectual to correct the several forms of Sabbath desecration which prevail within their respective localities."

The Synod had transmitted to them, by their Committee of Bills and Overtures, an Overture from the Rev. Professor Smith, in regard to making another effort to procure Preachers from Scotland. After mature deliberation, it was unanimously resolved—"that, in the present great spiritual destitution unhappily still existing among the adherents of this Church in many parts of the country, the Synod do make another strenuous effort to secure Licentiates from Scotland, as Missionaries to labour under the direction of the respective Presbyteries of the Church, with a view to their settlement in some of the vacant Congregations within the bounds of such Presbyteries: that the Synod make another application to the Clergy Reserve Commissioners, requesting them to make a provision for the number of Missionaries who may be obtained in consequence of this new effort, similar to that which they agreed to at the request of the Synod at its meeting last year: that the desirableness of increasing the number of six Missionaries, agreed upon at last Synod, to Eighteen or Twenty, be stated to these Commissioners: and that in order to carry out this object, so desirable and so essential in the present state of this Church, the Synod do appoint a Deputy to proceed to Scotland as early as possible, to co-operate with the Rev. Dr. Mathieson, now in Scotland, to visit the several Presbyteries of the Church, and, on learning the names of suitable and available Preachers, to enter into correspondence with them, and meet with them, and make every effort to induce them to place their services at the disposal of this Church, to fill up the waste places in our Spiritual Zion. And, the Synod, having every confidence in the zeal, discretion, and discrimination of the Rev. Dr. Cook, of Quebec, did, and hereby do, appoint him as their Deputy for carrying out, in concurrence with the Rev. Dr. Mathieson, the object of this Resolution." The Synod, further, recommended to Dr. Mathieson and Dr. Cook, to use every endeavour to secure the services of as many Licentiates as possible, capable of preaching in the Gaelic language, and at least one or two capable of preaching in the French language. And the Synod request the Clergy Reserve Commissioners to provide for the expenses of the Rev. Dr. Cook, in this mission for increasing the means of Religious Instruction in Canada,—and also for such expenses as may be incurred by the Rev. Dr. Mathieson while engaged in this particular service in Scotland. And the Synod directed their Clerk to furnish Extracts of this Minute to the Clergy Reserve Commissioners, to the Colonial Committee, to Dr. Cook, and to Dr. Mathieson.

The Synod called for the Reports of the Committees appointed to

revise the Records of the Synod, and the Records of the several Presbyteries. A Report on the Synod Records was given in, read, and sustained; and the Synod ordered the Records to be attested by their Moderator, as carefully and correctly kept. Reports were also given on the Records of the Presbyteries. The same were read and sustained, and the Synod ordered their Clerk to attest the Records of these several Presbyteries, as carefully and correctly kept.

The Synod adjourned until to-morrow morning at Ten o'clock, and was closed with prayer.

DIET IV.

At Williamstown, and within the Church there,—Saturday, the Tenth Day of July, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Two Years:—

The which day, the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, met, according to adjournment, and was constituted with prayer.

On the call of the Moderator, the Rev. Professor Williamson conducted the devotional exercises of the Synod, in praise, reading the Scriptures, and prayer.

Sederunt.

The Minutes of yesterday were read and approved of.

The Examining Committee reported that Mr. William Johnson, A. M., and Student of Divinity, of Queen's College, recommended for license by the Presbytery of Hamilton, and Mr. Frederick Petrie Sim, Student of Divinity of Queen's College, recommended for license by the Presbytery of Kingston, had laid before them their certificates of attendance in the classes at Queen's College; that they had been examined in all the branches of Education specified in the Act anent the Examination of Students, Preachers, &c.; and that the Committee were fully satisfied with them. Whereupon the Synod, having heard this Report, granted leave to the Presbytery of Hamilton to take Mr. William Johnson on trials for license, and to the Presbytery of Kingston to take Mr. Frederick P. Sim, on trials for license.

The Synod appointed Mr. McGill and the Hon. Judge McLean to draw up a Minute expressive of the views of this Synod in regard to the importance and desirableness of greater union among the several branches of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

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MINUTES OF SYNOD, WILLIAMSTOWN, SATURDAY, JULY 10, 1852. 21

The Hon. Mr. Justice McLean, reported the Draft of an Address to Her Majesty the Queen, against the alienation of the Clergy Reserves, which, having been read and considered, was adopted by the Synod, who at the same time, expressed to Mr. McLean their thanks for the interest he has always taken in the affairs of this Church and the assistance he has so frequently rendered to this Synod in the transaction of business.

The Hon. Mr. Justice McLean having brought before the Synod, in friendly conference, the letter with which Mr. McGill has introduced one of his Overtures to the Synod as containing passages and pervaded by a general tone which has been deemed unjust and offensive, Mr. McGill gave in to the Clerk the following Paper to be entered upon the Minutes:—"Mr. McGill having heard from many of his brethren, for whose feelings and judgments he has the highest respect, that some passages and the general tone of his letter in *the Presbyterian*, introducing his Overture to the Synod, anent increasing the number of Students at Queen's College, have been deemed unjust and offensive, and may be employed, by those who have no friendly feeling to this Church, in a very injurious way, and for purposes very different from those which the writer intended, freely admits the possibility of this mis-application, and sincerely regrets, on this account, the publication of them in *the Presbyterian*;—but in the full persuasion that there is nothing in the condition of this Synod which should put it in any unfavorable contrast with any religious Body in Canada, Mr. McGill engages to use his best exertions to counteract any unfavorable influence which the said letter may produce upon the true character of this Church, and to promote, as he has always endeavored to do, the peace and prosperity of our Zion."—On the reading of which, the Members of Synod expressed themselves satisfied, and the further discussion of the subject was given up.

The Synod called for the Report of the Committee appointed to consider the Overture anent the Payment of Travelling Expenses to the meetings of Synod, which was given in and read, and, in terms of the recommendation of said Report, the Synod unanimously agreed "that such sum, as the Clergy Reserve Commissioners may fix, shall be deducted from the Allowance of each Minister, at the July term, till it be ascertained by the Report of the Synod Clerk that he has attended the meeting of Synod for the year, and that whatever sum be thus saved to the Fund shall be placed in the hands of the Treasurer of the Synod to be disposed of at the meeting of Synod in such a way as shall appear to the Synod most suitable to equalize the travelling charges of Members,—leaving it, however, to the Clergy Reserve Commissioners

to adopt any method by which the object in view may appear to them to be more simply or effectually attained."

The Synod called for the Report of the Finance Committee in regard to the Synod Fund, which was given in and read, showing the amount paid in and by what congregations. The Synod enjoined Presbytery Clerks to make immediate application for the arrears due by those congregations which have not yet sent in their collections, and to have the same forwarded without delay to the Treasurer.

The Synod, having understood that the present Theological Professors of Queen's College are about to retire, agreed to tender to them the thanks of the Synod for the readiness with which they consented to fill the situations now occupied by them, at a time of difficulty, and for the care and attention which, amidst many difficulties resulting from various circumstances, and during the short time they were able to spare from their own Pastoral labours, they bestowed on the Education of the young men preparing for the Holy Ministry,—which was accordingly done by the Moderator in name of the Synod.

The Synod adjourned until Twelve o'clock, Noon, on Monday next, and was then closed with prayer.

DIET V.

At Williamstown, and within the Church there,—Monday, the Twelfth Day of July, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Two Years:—

The which day, the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, met according to adjournment, and was constituted with prayer.

On the call of the Moderator, the Rev. Duncan Morrison conducted the devotional exercises of the Synod in praise, reading the Scriptures, and prayer.

Sederunt.

The Minutes of Saturday were read and approved.

The Synod called for the Draft of the Address to His Excellency the Governor General, which was given in, read, and adopted.

There was produced and read a Memorial to the Synod from Messrs. David Burgess, Robert McWilliams, Alex. Nesbitt, *Elders*, and William Rea, *Session Clerk*, in the Congregation of Otonabee, Belmont and Percy, complaining of certain deliverances of the Presbytery of Kingston, in regard to said Congregation. The Synod remitted the said Memorial

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to the Commission of Synod, with instructions to them to investigate the whole matter, at their autumn meeting, and decide in the same as they may see best for the good of the Church,—such decision to be final. The Clerk was also instructed to intimate this to the parties, and cite them to attend, explaining to them, at the same time, that their Memorial only reached the Synod near the close of the business in consequence of its having been enclosed to Dr. Mathieson, of Montreal, who is at present absent in Scotland.

The Synod called for the Report of the French Mission Committee, which was given in and read by Mr. McGill, on behalf of the Committee, to the effect that Mons. Louis Baridon had been the only agent in the employment of the Committee during the past year,—being, as the Committee have every reason to believe, a pious man, of good judgment and sound discretion, and well instructed in those questions on which Protestants differ from Roman Catholics: that he had been chiefly employed in circulating religious books and tracts, and in exhorting, and conversing and praying with French Canadians on religious subjects as he had opportunity: that monthly Reports are given in by him to the Committee, giving an account of his labours, and detailing at length the most striking occurrences of the month: that from these Reports there is encouraging reason to believe that sacred Truth is being widely disseminated among the Roman Catholics of Lower Canada by M. Baridon and other similar agents, and, though they do not testify to numerous conversions, they plainly testify to the advancement of Scriptural knowledge within the sphere of their labours; and that some of the instructions given by the Synod last year, respecting the Property of the Mission, had not yet, from various circumstances, been fulfilled, but that it was hoped they would be attended to soon. The Treasurer's Report and Accounts were also laid before the Synod and read, showing the receipts and expenditure for the year, and the present state of the Fund, from which it appeared that several Congregations have failed to remit collections during the past year. The Synod agreed to receive and approve of this Report, and re-appointed the Committee, viz:—Dr. Mathieson, Mr. McGill, and Dr. Cook, *Ministers*, and *one Elder* from each of their Sessions respectively, together with Hugh Allan, Esq., Treasurer. The Synod, further agreed, that it be made a part of the instructions to Dr. Cook, as their Deputy to Scotland, and also to Dr. Mathieson, that they use their best endeavours to procure, towards this work, the services of at least one or two Licentiates of the Church of Scotland capable of preaching in the French language. And the Synod finding that several Congregations have made no contribution during the past year, enjoin the Ministers of all Congregations who are in arrears to make collections in aid of the Mission Fund without delay, and transmit the same to the Treasurer. And the Synod, with the

view of obtaining the services of additional Missionaries, and putting the Mission into a state of greater efficiency, and on a broader basis, do strictly enjoin all Ministers, at the appointed time, to bring the claims of this Mission before their Congregations, advocate the same, and allow the Christian people an opportunity to contribute to the support of the Mission.

The Synod called for the Report of the Committee appointed to draw up a Minute expressive of the views of this Synod in regard to the importance and desirableness of greater union among the several branches of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, which was given in by Mr. McGill, read and approved of, and is as follows:—"The Order and Constitution of the Presbyterian Church is eminently fitted to be the frame work of that unity in the visible Church for which all good men pray, and which, as they believe, will prevail in that blessed era of truth, concord and righteousness, to which they look forward in hope. It secures alike the rights and privileges of Ministers and people. While every Congregation is a body complete within itself, the organization of many into one Church may safely and easily be diffused over an entire continent. Our symbols of belief, our modes of worship, our rules of spiritual discipline, our forms of ecclesiastical procedure are substantially the same; and no diversity known to us can warrant the divisions, which, in whatever cause originating, present our condition unfavourably before the Christian world. It was the aim and work of this Synod from its earliest formation to gather into one fold all who were united on the common basis of Presbyterianism, persuading them to lay aside the distinctive names and peculiarities which arose from circumstances that never had existence here, and might, as we deemed, be forgotten with great advantage in the prosecution of that work which God had given us to do in this new world. In this work we were blessed with a large measure of success, and it once seemed to our fond expectations that the Presbyterian Church in Canada might soon exhibit a fair and exemplary spectacle of Christian unity. This hope was unhappily destroyed by the Secession which occurred a few years ago, not on the ground that we had departed from the faith, or had lost our spiritual liberty, but on the ground of controversies which had sprung up in the Established Church of Scotland on matters that had no practical bearing whatever on our condition. During the years that have since elapsed we have endeavoured, according to our ability, to build up the waste places and to promote the spiritual well-being of the flock committed to our care. We have endeavoured to cherish a spirit of meekness and forbearance to preach Christ, not out of contention, but in faithfulness and love, and to draw closer the bonds of brotherhood

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among ourselves, that those who sought Divine ordinances in our fold might enjoy them in security and peace. But we do not fail to look with fraternal interest beyond our own circle of fellowship. We still acknowledge that the Church is one body of which Christ is the Head, and that it is a sore evil and detriment, when those are divided and estranged who should be labouring with harmonious co-operation in the same work. Why should we be divided, for instance, on the subject of the voluntary support of religion? Is there not ample scope and urgent necessity for the exercise of liberality on the part of Churches and individuals, to maintain and extend the ordinances of religion? Why should we be divided on the subject of the connection between Church and State? No Church, in the peculiar circumstances of this country, wishes this connection, nor does the State wish it. We do not think it necessary to protest against the encroachments of the civil power upon the Church, in a land where the State seems fully disposed to cast off the support of religion as a cumbrous thing. It is clear to us that our Church must mainly depend on the liberality of its people, and that the State will concede nothing beyond the equal protection of the laws. The views now stated touch on two of the principal questions on which Presbyterianism is divided, and may afford prospectively a practical solution of the difficulty. In the meantime, let us pray that all branches of the Presbyterian body may be equally intent in maintaining a high standard of education in the Ministry, avoiding all unholy rivalry that they may cultivate the spirit of brotherly kindness and charity. We may then cherish with greater certainty the hope that Divine Providence will prosper each of us in our work, and that the unity which we desire and pray for is coming nearer to us."

The Synod called for the report of the Committee on the Draft of the Form of Procedure in the calling and settling of Ministers, when it was reported on behalf of the Committee that the said Draft was not yet perfected. Whereupon the said Draft was again remitted to the Presbytery of Montreal, as a Committee of the Synod, with instructions to use greater diligence in perfecting the same, as far as practicable, in accordance with the opinions of Presbyteries already sent in to them, and report to next meeting of Synod.

The Synod agreed to renew their Act anent Regulating the Public Collections in the several Congregations; and instructed their Clerk to take order that, at a sufficient time before that appointed for the several collections, a suitable notice of the appointed time and the special object of each of the collections be published and circulated throughout the different congregations.

The Clerk reported that agreeably to the instructions given by the

Synod at a former meeting, as well as at the earnest solicitation of many members of the Synod, he had got printed *verbatim*, from the First Volume of the Synod Records, the Minutes of the Synod from the time of its first organization in 1831 up to 1836, inclusive; and that as the printed Minutes for several years onwards, up to 1843 or 1844 were merely Abstracts of the Proceedings, and as the stock of these was nearly exhausted, he intended to carry on the work up to that point. The Synod approved of the diligence of the Clerk in this matter, and instructed him to prepare an Appendix consisting—*First*, of such “Memoranda from Presbytery Records” as it may be desirable, in a historical point of view, to have printed, and which Presbytery Clerks are hereby enjoined to furnish,—and, *Second*, of such Extracts from the Records of the Commission of Synod, and such other important Synodical documents having a bearing on the history of the Church, as may be agreed on by the Committee formerly appointed to advise with the Clerk in this matter, viz.: the remaining members of the First Synod. The Synod, further, considering the present state of the Synod Fund, agreed that a separate contribution of not less than One Pound from each Minister be sent in as soon as possible, (of which a separate account will be kept,) for the special purpose of defraying the expense of this New Edition;—the said Edition to be distributed in such manner as the Synod may hereafter direct—the Clerk, in the meantime, furnishing each Minister with a copy as soon as ready.

The Address to Her Majesty the Queen, having been engrossed for the Moderator’s signature, is as follows:—

Unto the Queen’s Most Excellent Majesty.

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN:—

We, Your Majesty’s most loyal and dutiful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, in Synod assembled, gladly embrace this opportunity of renewing the expression of our devoted and undiminished attachment to Your Majesty’s Royal Person and Government.

We rejoice to say, that in the important Province of the British Empire, in which our lot is cast, the inestimable blessings of peace and prosperity are fully enjoyed, so that, under the benign protection of Your Majesty, we are in possession of the most perfect liberty in the due exercise of all our Ecclesiastical functions. And we earnestly trust that those important Civil and Religious Privileges we enjoy shall ever be maintained unimpaired.

We sincerely trust that Great Britain is destined to occupy a yet more illustrious place than heretofore in the annals of nations, and take the lead in the great work of advancing the welfare and happiness of mankind and of diffusing over the world the blessings of knowledge and religion.

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That Almighty God, the King of Kings and Ruler of Nations may long preserve your Majesty's life, a life so dear to your subjects in every quarter of the world, and abundantly enrich Your Majesty, Your Royal Consort the Prince Albert, His Royal Highness the Heir Apparent to the British Throne, and all the Members of Your Royal House, with every blessing temporal and spiritual, is our sincere and constant prayer.

Signed at Williamstown, this Twelfth Day of July, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Two Years :—In Name, in Presence, and by Appointment of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, by

JOHN McMORINE, *Moderator.*

The Address to Her Majesty the Queen, against the alienation of the Clergy Reserves, having been engrossed for the Moderator's signature, is as follows:—

Unto the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN :—

We, your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, beg leave to approach Your Majesty to express the views of the Church to which we belong, in reference to a matter of the utmost importance to very many of Your Majesty's subjects in this Province, the proper support to be afforded for religious instruction.

When the Province of Canada, by an Act of the Imperial Parliament, was divided into Upper and Lower Canada in 1791, a recommendation was made, by Your Majesty's pious Grandfather, that a Provision in lands should be made within each of the new Provinces for the support of a Protestant Clergy. In the enactment referred to, one seventh of the lands, then belonging to the Crown, in these Provinces, was required to be set apart for Religious purposes—and, when the Governments were organized under the new Charter, that provision of the Imperial Statute was carried into effect. These lands, for many years in the infant state of the Province, were wholly unproductive, and the support of the Church of England devolved upon the Government, or Societies in England, established for the purpose of propagating the Gospel in foreign parts. While the Province was chiefly a wilderness, and the Presbyterian Population confined principally to one Section, few Clergymen of the Church of Scotland were required, and few were induced to leave their homes and connections to labor in so uninviting a field. By the rapid advance in population and improvement, the demand for such labourers has greatly increased, and now the lands set apart for religious purposes have become of such value as to hold out some assurance that the objects of a Pious Sovereign may be accomplished. The Right of the Sovereign of the United Kingdom and the Imperial Parliament to appropriate a portion of the lands of the Crown to Religious purposes will scarcely be questioned, and to the exercise of that Right we have always been unable to discover any reasonable objection. We humbly beg leave to submit to Your Majesty that a portion of the people of Canada cannot legitimately claim, even if they were disposed to do so, that Lands appropriated by the British

Nation, because within the Province of Canada, necessarily belong to the people of Canada, and are liable to be wholly diverted from the great and pious objects for which they were intended.

“ We regret exceedingly that efforts are being made, by some of the Denominations of Christians in these Provinces, to obtain the sanction of Your Majesty and of the Imperial Parliament to a measure for the withdrawal from Religion of all support derived from these Lands and the application of the Funds to secular purposes ; but we trust and believe that Your Majesty’s Government are too strongly impressed with the sacred obligation which all must feel of providing efficient means for the religious and moral instruction of the community to admit of such efforts being successful. To many Congregations and people in the remote settlements the Regular worship of God conducted by Ministers of their Church must be in a great measure denied should the support referred to be withdrawn. We therefore pray that Your Majesty in the exercise of the Royal Prerogative may not be induced to depart, in this Province, from a principle which cannot be abandoned in the United Kingdom without shaking to their very foundation the glorious Institutions which have exalted it as a Christian Nation.

We pray to God that Your Majesty may long reign over a free, a loyal, and a religious people.

Signed, at Williamstown, this Twelfth Day of July, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Two Years :—In Name, in Presence, and by Appointment of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, by

JOHN McMORINE, *Moderator.*

The Address to His Excellency the Governor General, having been engrossed for the Moderator’s signature, is as follows :—

To His Excellency the Right Honorable James, Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, Governor General of British North America, &c., &c., &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :—

We, the Ministers and Elders of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, in Synod assembled, embrace the opportunity of our Annual Meeting again to renew the expression of our devoted and constant attachment to Her Majesty’s Royal Person and Government,—and also, at the same time, to tender to Your Excellency, as Her Majesty’s Representative in Canada, an expression of our dutiful respect, loyalty, and submission.

The Church of Scotland, from which we are descended, and whose name, in this Province, we bear, has always been distinguished for a high principled attachment to the British Constitution,—for zeal and wisdom in the advancement of Parochial Education,—and for the faithful and zealous inculcation of the Apostolic admonition—‘ Fear God and Honor the King.’ In our sphere it will continue to be our earnest endeavor to follow her illustrious example, by promoting, so far as in us lies, whatever may conduce to the present improvement and well being of our people, which, we are well assured, will be most effec-

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MINUTES OF SYNOD, WILLIAMSTOWN, MONDAY, JULY 12, 1852. 29

tually done in connection with the training of them for that world where mortality shall be swallowed up of life.

It is known to Your Excellency, from those sources of public information which are always under your eye, that the adherents of our Church, especially in Canada West, comprehend a very considerable portion of the population, and which, keeping pace with the rapid filling up of this important dependency of the British Empire, is continually increasing. We feel it to be our duty to provide, to the utmost of our ability, for the religious instruction and pastoral superintendence of all who crave the ministrations of religion at our hands. Unfeignedly grateful for the assistance we derive from the Fund which has been specially set apart for the maintenance of religion, we offer up our earnest daily prayer that we may be honored with a more abundant usefulness. We have been long struggling with one grand difficulty—that of finding a sufficient supply of men duly qualified for the sacred office in this land. While we seek and occasionally obtain relief from our Mother Church, and other affiliated Churches, our attention is now mainly turned to the raising up of a native Ministry. Through the instrumentality of Queen's College, some progress has been made in this work;—and, in this present Synod, measures have been devised, which, we trust, will have the effect of greatly increasing the number of Candidates for the Holy Ministry, to mitigate the spiritual destitution which now so widely prevails around us.

We are fully persuaded that we need not again repeat our assurances, to your Excellency, that we devote ourselves to that peculiar work assigned to us, as the Ministers of Religion. We inculcate the doctrines of holiness and peace;—and, in our defences of Truth, we would not be forgetful of the claims of Charity. In a community, so divided, as ours, on the subject of religion, we ask for ourselves no privilege which we are not willing to concede to others on the same terms;—and, as a Christian Church, our endeavour will always be to dwell in peace and charity with our fellow citizens, aspiring after no higher honor than to be the instruments, in the hand of God, of raising Truth into the ascendancy, and maintaining that Charity which is the bond of perfectness. As Ministers of the Christian faith, we must, in all our efforts, be guided by the principle that we are best made good citizens by being made religious men.

May the Father of lights, the Giver of every good and perfect gift, enrich Your Excellency with all temporal good, and finally conduct you to the inheritance of everlasting life.

Signed at Williamstown, this Twelfth Day of July, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Two Years:—In Name, in Presence, and by Appointment of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, by

JOHN McMORINE, *Moderator.*

The several Presbyteries were, and hereby are, enjoined, without delay, to take such steps for securing the public property of the Church, within their bounds, as may be considered necessary,—either by the appointment of efficient Committees of Lay Members of the Church to

take action in this matter, or otherwise as may be deemed best for the speedy attainment of this object,—and to report to next meeting of Synod.

The Synod appointed Mr. John McMorine, *Moderator*, and Mr. Andrew Bell, *Clerk of Synod*;—and from the *Presbytery of Bathurst*, Mr. Alex. Mann, Mr. William Bain, Mr. Alexander Spence, Mr. John Whyte, *Ministers*; Mr. John Ferguson, Mr. Malcolm McPherson, Mr. Robert Bell, Hon. Thomas McKay, *Elders*:—*From the Presbytery of Kingston*, Dr. John Machar, Mr. Robert Neill, Mr. James Williamson, Mr. John M. Smith, *Ministers*; Mr. John Mowat, Mr. Robert Cleugh, *Elders*:—*From the Presbytery of Toronto*, Mr. Peter Ferguson, Mr. Jas. George, Mr. John Tawse, Mr. John Barclay, *Ministers*; Mr. James A. Thomson, Hon. Judge McLean, Mr. Donald Cameron, *Elders*:—*From the Presbytery of Montreal*, Dr. Alexander Mathieson, Mr. James C. Muir, Dr. John Cook, Mr. William Simpson, Mr. Robert McGill, *Ministers*; Mr. John Smith, Mr. John Thompson, Mr. George McKenzie, *Elders*:—*From the Presbytery of Glengary*, Mr. John McKenzie, Mr. Hugh Urquhart, Mr. John McLaurin, Mr. Thomas McPherson, *Ministers*; Hon. John McGillivray, Mr. Alexander McMartin, Mr. Angus Catanach, Mr. Charles P. Treadwell, *Elders*:—*And from the Presbytery of Hamilton*, Mr. William King, Dr. Hugh Mair, Mr. George Bell, Mr. John B. Mowat, Mr. Daniel McNee, *Ministers*; Mr. Timothy Cooper, Mr. Alexander D. Fordyce, and Mr. Duncan McDougall, *Elders*:—To BE COMMISSIONERS of this Synod, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the said Commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any Five of the said Commissioners, whereof Three are always to be Ministers, to meet in St. Andrew's Church, at Toronto, on Wednesday, the Twenty-Second Day of September, at Twelve o'clock, Noon: and in St. Andrew's Church, at Montreal, on Thursday, the Fifth Day of May next, at Twelve o'clock, Noon: being the day after the May meeting of the Montreal Presbytery; and oftener, when and where they shall think fit and convenient,—the Moderator being specially empowered, should it be found necessary to have a meeting at the usual time in winter, to call the said meeting at Kingston—and the Synod fully empower their said Commissioners, or their quorum above-mentioned, to transact all business referred to them by this Synod, and to determine in the same as they shall see cause,—also to attend to such emergent cases as may require immediate action on the part of the Church,—and to watch over the general interests of the Church, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent: Further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any References and Appeals that shall be made to them from Presbyteries, and ripen such affairs for next Synod,—and to give all needful advice to Presbyteries, upon application to them for that end: And in all their actings, they shall proceed

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MINUTES OF SYNOD, WILLIAMSTOWN, MONDAY, JULY 12, 1852. 31

according to the Laws of the Church, and they shall be accountable for the same to next meeting of Synod. And this Commission is to continue until the next meeting of Synod; and members are required to attend the Diets of the said Commission: And such members of the Presbytery within whose bounds the Commission meets, as are on the Commission, are required, all of them, to attend,—and other Presbyteries are to take care that at least Two of their Members, who are named on the Commission, shall attend.

It was unanimously agreed that the thanks of the Synod be given to the Ministers, Members, and friends of the Church in Williamstown, Lancaster, and Martintown, for the hospitality extended to the Members of the Synod on this occasion.

Mr. McKenzie and Mr. McGill, were appointed a Committee, in conjunction with the Clerk, to revise the Minutes of the present session.

The Synod appointed their next meeting to be held in St. Andrew's Church, in the City of KINGSTON, on the SECOND WEDNESDAY IN JULY, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-Three Years, at Seven o'clock in the Evening.

The Moderator then addressed the Synod: when, after prayer, and singing the last half of the 122nd Psalm, the Synod was closed with the Apostolic Benediction.

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ADDRESS
OF THE
Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada
IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,
TO THE MEMBERS OF THAT CHURCH,
ON
PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY.

Prepared by the REV. JOHN McMORINE, Ramsay, at the request of the Synod, and published
by their order, after having been examined and approved by the
Commission of Synod.

BELoved BRETHREN:—

The Synod of our Church, while, under God, it trusts mainly to the labours of its Ministers, in their respective localities, for awakening and strengthening in you a sense of religious obligation, binding to all Christian duties, and to your duties as Parents among others, yet resolved, at its last meeting, to address you directly on your responsibility as Parents. Though parental duty be of the utmost importance, experience proves that there is a strong temptation to neglect it. It is, in fact, neglected to a woeful extent in this Province. We do not see a common fixedness of purpose and aim manifesting itself everywhere, in parental care and diligence, and issuing in one glorious result, the enlightenment and practical guidance of the rising generation. There is an amount of injury done, and of guilt contracted, in this respect, which no language can express. In one family children are carefully instructed; in the next formally and superficially; in the next they are totally neglected; in the next they are educated to guilt and crime. What a lamentable mixture! what a miserable derangement and confusion! Who would not pity the poor, the helpless victims of so imperfect a system? They are the sufferers; they have no voice in the matter. They cannot change their circumstances; they cannot change their parents. They grow up more ignorant of religion than their fathers; they grow up without any solid convictions, or settled

opinions, or religious habits. They stand loose to the Church of Christ. They are carried a wide step downwards in the scale of religious degeneracy, and make way for a still lower descent, in those who follow them. But will professing Christians, will Members of the Church of Christ, taking their places at a communion table, be accessory to these evils? Will *they* give ground for the charge, that *they* neglect their children? It cannot be denied, that those, who make a fair profession in other respects, often miserably fail here; and even the best might be more careful than they are. There is great need for a special communication on the subject; and, may the Lord carry this one home to the minds of you all, and give it practical effect.

The duties of parents are plain, and require only to be named, to recommend themselves to the conscience of every one, who looks at them, with candour and intelligence. They consist of family instruction, family devotion, and family government. These are means obviously conducive to one great end—the end which parents should have in view,—the eternal salvation of their children. It is for the performance of these duties, that parents are responsible. And that word *responsible* may well have a solemn sound in their ears. Responsibility carries us forward to the great day of judgment, when all our conduct, and all its effects are completed, and the whole becomes a subject of trial and decision before God and an assembled universe. And how will you stand that account if you neglect your children? Most parents have an awe upon their spirits, when they hear of their responsibility. But they frequently shut their ears that they will not hear. They despair of fulfilling their duty, and therefore avoid the full sense of their obligation. But this is the way to shift duty, not to perform it. The more proper course is to call in the aid of every consideration, that may tell upon the practice. And it is hoped you will thus act, as we proceed to show the greatness of your responsibility.

And the first consideration we shall urge, is the interest at stake. As professing Christians, you are prepared to take a proper view of these interests. You know that a child is, at once, born immortal, and a lost sinner. These facts are but dimly seen through the feebleness and helplessness of infancy. They are utterly unknown to the little subject himself. But they are not the less true, and ought not the less to be realised by parents. That tender babe has a soul of incalculable value—a soul that shall, one day, shine in all the beauties of holiness, or wear the horrid characters of matured and full grown corruption; that will, one day, rival angels in glory, or devils in degradation; that will, one day, take its flight to the mansions of eternal light and joy, or descend to the regions of utter darkness and despair. For such souls, a Saviour

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bled ; towards such, an ocean of divine love is directed ; for such, eternal blessings are provided. This is as true of the feeble infant, that lies, passive and scarcely capable of motion, in its mother's bosom, as of the mother herself. And is that mother startled by its faintest cry ? Does she spring to its assistance, on the least alarm of danger ? And will she refuse to hear the cry of its immortal spirit ? Will she refuse to move at the dangers that threaten its better life ? Will not the precious burden, which she carries, rise to dignity in her eyes, and draw forth a deeper affection, and a more anxious care, when she remembers that she folds in her arms, a germ of immortality ? The child will make no solicitation for its own soul ; it will not remind her of her obligations ; no remonstrance, no appeal to a parent's pity or love will ever come from its lips. Even when it is older there will be a woeful concurrence with her neglect ; its lost, its corrupt nature will sanction and second all her carelessness ; it will rival her utmost indifference. But ought not its silence, its innocence, to be a more moving call in the ear of affection, than its lowest importunity, its deepest anxiety ? Who does not feel all the more pity for the unconscious lamb, when he sees it going, dumb and unresisting, to the slaughter ?

The next consideration, we would instance, is the degree, in which the eternal interests of your children are committed to you. God has laid an awful extent of responsibility upon you, by putting your children so completely into your hands. If you are a parent, if you have a living child capable of being influenced by your conduct, these very circumstances bring a weight of obligation upon you, from which you can no more escape than you can cease to be a parent. It lies upon you every moment. Can you deny that the duty of religiously educating your children is laid upon you, and not upon another ? Are not your children a charge ? Are they not a charge committed to *you* ? They are yours ; they are in your possession ; they are under your influence, continually, unavoidably. It is the will of God that they should be so. He has singled you out and laid the burden of their education for heaven on you, as plainly as if he had named you individually, and pronounced in your ears the most positive injunctions. We see that spring is the proper seed time, from its own nature ; and youth proclaims equally, from its own nature, that it is the proper season for sowing the seed of religious instruction and forming religious habits. It is evident that the whole circumstances of a child's first entrance into the world, and of his early condition in it, are modified by God, in subserviency to the acquisition of knowledge, and the formation of character. God has formed the family relation, the family constitution, and, through it all, he has wrought for the advantage of parents. He has tied you to your children

by a natural affection, which you cannot resist. He has bound them to you by an instinct almost equally strong. He has provided in you what the child wants in himself. He has made you his superior in knowledge, wisdom, energy, resolution, and strength. He puts the child into your hands, the moment it is born; he gives you the lead of all other influences; he gives you the mind of the child entirely empty that you may fill it—he has made its simplicity, its confidence, its reverence, its love, and its whole nature, to open up facilities for your success. He has made it weak in body and mind, to favour your authority and government. He has made it dependent,—consciously dependent on you, for support and protection, to render it still more at your command. He has placed it in the same house with you, often in your presence; almost always accessible, and habitually under your inspection. Its fate, its character, its habits, are linked to you, in a manner inseparable. Your neglect is its certain loss—your care, its certain gain. It is actually learning from you every day. Its character is moulding on yours. The world of parents are giving shape moral and religious to the world of children, in spite of themselves. They may prevent the shape from being a good one, but they cannot prevent it from being given, in one way or other. God has made children peculiarly open to impressions, and he has made these impressions peculiarly ineffaceable. They strike deep into the young heart, especially when they are hallowed and strengthened by every tie of endearment, that binds a child to a parent. They are laid at the foundation; they are laid, as it were, under ground, and are not easily reached by the hand of the destroyer. It is as if nature itself were partly forming in early youth; as if the image derived from the parent were not complete until the stamp of his domestic influence was communicated. What a call then do a parent's obligations, as manifested by his opportunities and advantages, and the degree in which the eternal interests of his children are suspended on his conduct, make upon him, to consult these interests in his whole deportment.

But you are not left to infer your duties from your circumstances, however clearly and certainly you may do so. There is laid before you all the responsibility involved in bringing the subjects of an express command of God. The Lord himself hath spoken, and all reasoning, excuses and objections, however plausible, must yield before his sovereign mandate. If you are Christians indeed, you will need nothing more than the explicit declaration of God's will. That will is signified to us by injunctions and examples, by God's approval of those who attend to the duties of family religion, and denunciation of those who neglect them, &c. Space will not allow us to quote; but we refer you to the following

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passages. For Family Instruction, see Deut. iv. 9 and vi. 6, 7; 1 Chron. xxviii. 9; Ps. lxxviii. 5-7; Prov. xxii. 6; Eph. vi. 4. For Family Devotion, see Gen. xxviii. 1-4., and xlviii. 15, 16; Job i. 5; 2 Sam. vi. 20; Jer. x. 25; Zech. xii. 10-14. For Family Government, Discipline, Example, see Gen. xviii. 19, and xlix. 33; 1 Sam. iii. 11-14; 1 Tim. iii. 4; Prov. xix. 18, and xxii. 15, and xxix. 15-17; Col. iii. 21; Ps. ci. 2.

No language can enforce diligence, perseverance, and laborious zeal, in the work of religious education, more strongly than the word of God. He has laid a stress on it, which evidently shows, that youth is especially his own season for working. He calls upon parents to work, because he intends to work along with them. Why otherwise should he be so urgent? Why should he promise success? Why should he bind children so strictly in obedience to their parents. Why should his blessing be declared to flow down from pious parents to thousands of generations? It is a well known fact that he does work chiefly in youth. Instances of early piety are by far the most numerous; and even late conversions can very often be traced to impressions received under a parent's roof. There are few men of celebrity in the religious world, who have not acknowledged their obligations to the pious care of their parents. On the other hand, there is not a plainer case, in which God visits the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, than in that of a neglected religious education. All means used to reclaim such children, afterwards, are often unavailing. They plunge into an element of ungodliness, out of which they never emerge, but sink deeper and deeper till death seals them over to unchangeable woe. But Christian parents are responsible, not only because God has made them so, but also by a positive act of their own. This, at least, is the case with you. On the baptism of your children, you acknowledged, you assumed all the responsibility of which we have been speaking. Your own vows and engagements constitute a new and distinct obligation, which, though many reduce it to a mere form, stands out in all its innate strength and sanctity in the judgment of God. This, you will find, when you come to answer to him for the manner in which you have fulfilled your engagements. Beware lest your own vows witness against you on the last day.

But you are responsible, not only to God, but to all whose rights and interests are affected by your conduct. You are responsible to your own conscience, which will condemn you and destroy your peace, if you live in neglect of so plain and so great a duty as that which we recommend. A heavy condemnation from your own consciences will fall upon you now; heavier when your children grow up, regardless of God and dis-

respectful to yourselves, and pass into a life of profligacy and crime; heaviest of all, when they are lost for eternity. You are responsible to other parents and children. You and your children come in, as deleterious ingredients, to poison the good effects wrought by others. You are responsible to future generations, on whom you are entailing irreligion and vice. Your evil influences may be propagated through thousands of years. You are responsible to the Church, whom you rob of her members and office-bearers. Pious families are the nurseries of the Church. With no family religion, no early seriousness, whence is the Church to get her members? Whence is she to obtain her Ministers? It is when young men are about to leave the parental roof that they usually choose a profession. With piety generally prevailing in families, a goodly proportion would be inclined to the high calling of winning souls to Christ. Our Church at this moment looks mainly to you for an increase of labourers. She regards her present want of Ministers as a sad proof of parental delinquency. The Church is languishing, Congregations are starving through the want of family religion. The young are brought up with tastes and habits altogether alien to the sacred profession, or even to common membership in the Church of Christ. You are responsible to society at large. The alienation of parents from their children, seen in the general neglect of religious obligations, paves the way for the most blasting curse, with which God visits the nations. A nation may thrive and enjoy many of the blessings of civilized life, that has never heard of Christianity. But when it has once been Christianized, and has got the mental stimulus and enlargement, which Christianity imparts, and afterwards renounces the faith, no language can describe the dreadful results. Because they like not to *retain* God in their knowledge, he gives them over to vile affections. Their unbridled passions are excited to fury and frenzy. The whole community is convulsed, and becomes a scene of riot, anarchy, and blood. Now, if parents neglect their duty to their children, religion will infallibly lose hold of the public mind; and its absence will give rise to these terrible consequences.

Upon the whole, then, it is plain that your responsibility is of the most grave and solemn kind; and it is emphatically so in this country. Here, there is a special necessity that the principles of your children should be well established in youth. Here, there is such a mixture of right principle and wrong principle producing a general laxity and indifference, that even those who were nursed in the bosom of pious families at home, and had long lived under the restraints of religion, are seen to give way and draw back unto perdition. What then can be expected of the young, who grow up untaught and uncared for, in the midst of the

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unhappy influences? Fearful results will yet come out of the neglect of family religion in this Province. Saints will weep, and devils will triumph, over these results. The Church, the State, will yet have to grapple with them. Parents themselves will encounter them. Yea they are encountering some of them already. They often find themselves despised and cruelly abandoned by their own offspring; and they should receive such treatment as a just punishment for their sin, in not bringing their children under the chastening and subduing influence of religion. But, it is also to be remarked, that there are hundreds of localities in this country, that are, in a great measure, deprived of public ordinances; and how is Christianity to maintain itself there in the absence of family religion? The instructions, the devotions, the discipline and government of the family may be kept up *everywhere*; and if they are kept up they form a grand reserve, upon which religion may fall back and be upheld in remote settlements. But with no religion in the family, the consequence must be, the virtual extinction of Christianity altogether, if not immediately, yet in a very short time. We cannot, however, enlarge. But we beseech you, for conscience sake, for your children's sake, for the Church's sake, for your own sake, for God's sake, listen to these your responsibilities. If you have never begun before, begin now all your parental duties,—instruction, devotion, government. Omit none of them. Make no excuses, raise no objections. The duty is imperative; it is one of the greatest duties that lies upon you. Set the end to be attained properly before you. Seek steadfastly to reach it. Act upon a system. Be deeply in earnest—seek all needful preparation,—more knowledge, more personal religion, to fit you for the duty; think of the glorious results. And now, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all,—Amen.
