

MINUTES

OF

THE SYNOD

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OF

NOVA SCOTIA.

HELD IN HALIFAX, JUNE—JULY, 1855.

HALIFAX, N. S.

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1855.

BOARDS, STANDING COMMITTEES, &c.

Board of Home Missions.—Rev. Professor Ross, Rev. Messrs. Patterson, Watson and Walker, together with the Presbytery Elders of Green Hill, West River, and Primitive Church. Rev. George Patterson, Secretary.

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

Seminary Board.—The Professors, ex officio. Rev. Messrs. McCulloch, Bayne, Christie, McGilvray, Watson, George Patterson, and Messrs. Daniel Cameron and J. McGregor. Mr. McCulloch, CONVENER. Rev. Mr. Watson, SECRETARY.

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

Committee of Correspondence with Evangelical Churches.—Rev. Messrs. E. Ross, Baxter and Wylie. Mr. Ross, CONVENER.

Committee for Friendly Conference with Committees of other Presbyterian Churches.—Rev. Messrs. Sedgewick, Bayne, Cameron, and McGregor, and Mr. C. Robson. Rev. Professor Ross, CONVENER.

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

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

Committee to Audit Accounts.—Rev. G. Walker and Messrs. Roderick McGregor, and Alexander Fraser, of New Glasgow. Rev. G. Walker, CONVENER.

Committee on Colportage.—Rev. John I. Baxter, and Messrs. Isaac P. Dickie, and Edward Blanchard, Junr.

*Agent for the Christian Instructor and
Magazine Register, Mr Charles Robson
Halifax*

MINUTES OF THE SYNOD
OF THE
Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia.
JUNE.....1855.

FIRST SEDERUNT.

AT HALIFAX AND WITHIN POPLAR GROVE CHURCH,
June 27, 1855, 7 o'clock, P. M.

Synod sermon. THE Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia met, after a Sermon by the Rev. George Patterson, in the absence of the Moderator, from Luke, chap. ii. v. 14. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men," and was constituted by the Rev. James Byers the previous Moderator.

Members present Present—The Rev. Messrs. John L. Murdoch, James Smith, David Roy, John I. Baxter, John Campbell, Peter G. McGregor, James Bayne, James Waddell, John Cameron, James Watson, Robert Sedgewick, Ebenezer Ross, George Patterson, Alexander L. Wyllie, Robert Blackwood, James Byers, George M. Clarke, and John McLeod, Ministers; and Messrs. Adam Johnson from the Congregation of Stewiacke, Kenneth Forbes from the Congregation of James' Church, John Dickson from the Congregation of Onslow, John McDonald from the Congregation of St. Mary's, Alex. Kent from the Congregation of Truro, Charles Robson from the Congregation of Halifax, George Grant from the Congregation of Pictou, Robert Stewart from the Congregation of West River, Samuel Archibald from the Congregation of Musquodoboit, Ebenezer McLeod from the Congregation of Salem Church, and David Fulton from the Congregation of Lower Londonderry, Ruling Elders.

Reports of presbyteries. The Presbytery of Truro reported that since last meeting of Synod they had ordained Mr. J. McG. McKay, Preacher to the Pastoral Charge of the Congregation of Parrsboro' and Maccan, and that his name had been added to the Roll of Presbytery.

The Presbytery of Pictou reported that since last meeting, it had pleased the Great Head of the Church to remove by death Rev. Thomas Trotter, and that his name had consequently been removed from the Roll of Presbytery, and that they had ordained Mr. James McLean to the Pastoral Charge of the Congregation of Mabou and Port Hood, and that his name had been added to their Roll.

The Presbytery of P. E. Island reported that since last meeting they had licensed Mr. William Keir and Mr. Allan Fraser to preach the everlasting Gospel, and that they had ordained Mr. Fraser to the Pastoral Charge of the Congregation of Casumpeque.

The Presbytery of Halifax reported that they had licensed Mr. George N. Gordon to preach the Gospel.

The Clerk was directed to make the requisite changes in the Roll and the names of those added being called, Messrs. McLean and McKay were present.

The Rev. John Cameron was unanimously chosen Moderator and took the Chair accordingly.

The Rev. Messrs. Clarke and Bayne, and Mr. Adam Johnson, Ruling Elder, were appointed a Committee to examine Presbytery minutes. Mr. Clarke, Convener.

The Rev. Messrs. Christie and Smith, and Mr. C. Robson, Ruling Elder, were appointed a Committee to receive and report upon Statistical Returns. Mr. Christie, Convener.

The Rev. Messrs. Watson and McLeod, and Mr. Robert Stewart, Ruling Elder, were appointed a Committee to receive and report upon Financial Returns. Mr. Watson, Convener.

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

Received and read the Report of the Committee on Bills and Overtures, setting forth the following List of the subjects to come before the Synod and the order in which they proposed that they should be taken up. The Report was as follows:

1. That the Synod after the 1st Sederunt shall meet daily at 10 o'clock, A. M. and adjourn at 1 P. M. Recommence at 3 o'clock, P. M. and adjourn at 6 P. M. Again, in the evening, to commence at half-past 7, and to adjourn ad libitum.
2. Devotional Exercises.
3. Report of Committee of Correspondence with Evangelical Churches.
4. Report of Committee on Colportage.
5. Rev. William McCulloch's motion on Baptism.
6. Rev. James Byers' Lecture.
7. Report of Home Mission Board.
8. Do. Foreign Do.
9. Do. Seminary Board.
10. Do. Educational Board.
11. Do. Com. on Pictou Academy Property.
12. Do. Do. Site of Seminary.
13. Do. Do. Theological Professorship Fund.
14. Do. Do. Rules of Procedure.
15. Complaint of Mr. J. McG. McKay.
16. Rev. D. Honeyman's motion on the use of the U. P. Hymn Book.

Moderator chosen. Committee on presbyterian minutes.

Committee on statistics.

Committee on fin. returns.

Devotional exercises.

Report of committee on bills.

- 17. Overture of Pictou Presbytery anent Periodicals.
- 18. Report of Committee on Statistical Questions.
- 19. Do. Do. Financial Returns.
- 20. Do. Do. Statistical Returns.
- 21. Do. Do. Presbytery Minutes.
- 22. Do. General Treasurer.
- 23. Synodical Expenditure.
- 24. Next Meeting of Synod.

Rev. James Byers to lecture on Thursday Evening, at half-past 7. Missionary Meeting to be held on Friday Evening, at the same hour, and the Report of the Home Mission to be first read.

Report received. The Report of the Committee was received and adopted, and their diligence approved, when the Synod adjourned till to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.
Concluded with Prayer.

SECOND SEDERUNT.

Same Place, June 28th, 10 o'clock, A. M.

2nd Sederunt. Devotional exercises. The Synod met and was constituted by the Moderator who was followed in prayer, by the Rev. Messrs. Campbell and McKay, with the reading of the Scriptures, and the singing of Psalms, during the intervals.

Present. The Roll being called, there were present as at last sederunt, except Rev. J. Byers; together with Rev. Messrs. William McCulloch, George Christie, George Walker, David Honeyman, Henry Crawford, and Allan Fraser, Ministers, and David Fraser, from the Congregation of Primitive Church, Thomas Fletcher, from the Congregation of Upper Londonderry, Ruling Elders.

Printed minutes. The minutes of last sederunt were read, when an opportunity was afforded for remark on the printed minutes of last year.

Notice. Mr. Walker gave notice of motion arising out of the removal of the Rev. Mr. Trotter's name from the Synod Roll.

Moderator's absence. Mr. Honeyman by request of Rev. A. McGilvray, former Moderator, stated that the cause of the Moderator's absence was personal and family affliction. The explanation was accepted.

Report of com. of correspondence. The Report of the Committee of Correspondence with Evangelical Churches, was read by the Convener, from which it appeared that no letters, had been written or received during the past year. The Committee at their own request were discharged, and

New committee. Rev. Messrs. E. Ross, Baxter and Wyllie, were appointed, and directed to carry out the directions formerly given by Synod, Mr. Ross, Convener.

Report of com. on colportage. Rev. John I. Baxter, next read the Report on Colportage from which it appeared that the same number of Colporteurs were engaged, that the work of circulation still continued in undiminished progress and that the happy effects were visible in a very large proportion of the families in our church, and in the country generally. The Report was received and the diligence of the Committee approved.

Objections. Objections being raised to the circulation of the Westminster Confession of faith, as it is published by the American Presbyterian Church, it was moved by the Rev. G. Christie, "That the Committee are not warranted in future to circulate any copies of the Confession of Faith different from those known as the subordinate demands of this church. The question being taken, there appeared in favour of the motion, 10. Against 17. Declined voting 12.

Motion. Lost. Synod adjourned, concluding with prayer.

THIRD SEDERUNT.

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

The Synod met and was constituted by the Moderator. Present as at last sederunt, with Mr. C. McDonald, Ruling Elder, from the Congregation of Shubenacadie. Minutes of last sederunt were read and approved. On motion it was agreed that Rev. Hugh Ross be invited to correspond.

Memorial on baptism. A memorial on the subject of Baptism, was read by the Rev. W. McCulloch praying that the Synod should adopt some decisive step for bringing the administration of the Church on this subject, into conformity with its standards, that is, that Baptism should be administered to the children of those parents only, who are members of the church, or one of whom is a member of the church. The memorialist having assigned reasons why the Synod should again affirm the principle and enjoin that it be adhered to, submitted the following resolution, which after discussion passed 33 to 2.

Resolution. "That this Synod enjoins that hereafter the ordinance of Baptism be dispensed in strict accordance with our Standards as contained in the answer to the question No. 95, of the Shorter Catechism, "To whom is Baptism to be administered?" Membership in the Church is said answer referring to those who, in accordance with order, have made a credible profession of their faith and obedience, and are endeavouring to walk in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless."

The Synod adjourned till to-morrow morning, affording time in the evening for the delivery of a lecture by the Rev. J. Byers, on "Mohammedanism."
Concluded with prayer.

FOURTH SEDERUNT.

Same Place, June 29th, 10 o'clock, A. M.

The Synod met and was constituted by the Moderator. Present as at last sederunt with Rev. Messrs. James Ross, James Byers, and James Thomson.

Committee to prepare memorial. Mr. Walker having submitted his resolution in reference to the loss the Synod had sustained in the death of Rev. T. Trotter, the Synod preferred to appoint a Committee to prepare a short memorial to be placed upon the minutes, and the Rev. Messrs. Walker, Christie and McGregor, were appointed accordingly. Mr. Walker, Convener.

After notice given the following motion submitted by the Rev. Robert Sedgewick, and seconded by the Rev. J. Campbell, passed.

Resolution of friendly conference. "That this Synod take immediate steps with a view to holding some brotherly intercourse with the Synod of the Free Church now in session in this city, and with the Synod of the Church of Scotland to meet next week, and that a committee be appointed to consider and report, as soon as possible, as to the means most likely to establish confidence between the Synods, and to secure and promote harmony of feeling and action." The Rev. Messrs. Sedgewick, J. Ross, Bayne, and Mr. C. Robson, were appointed a Committee for that purpose.

Absence. The Rev. Messrs. Cameron, Patterson, J. Ross, and Clarke had leave of absence to preach in neighbouring congregations. Rev. J. McLean was appointed to preach in Gay's River congregation, on Sabbath first.
Concluded with prayer.

FIFTH SEDERUNT.

Same day and place, 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Synod met and was constituted. Present as at last sederunt except Mr. J. McDonald, Ruling Elder for St. Mary's.

Report on home mission.

Minutes having been read and approved, the Rev. G. Patterson, Secy. of the Board of Home missions, read the Report of the Board for the past year. An appendix was read exhibiting a statement of the amounts received by Rev. Wm. McCulloch, and transmitted to Harvey to aid that congregation in building their church.

The Report was received, and the diligence of the Board was approved.

Report on foreign missions.

The Report of the Board of Foreign missions was then read by the Rev. J. Bayne, Secy. The Report was received and the diligence of the Board approved. Both of these documents were replete with interesting facts and details, and were ordered to be published.

Home mission.

Resuming Home mission business it was agreed, for the prevention of any future collision between the Board and Presbyteries, "that it belongs to the Board of Domestic missions to determine the length of time that Probationers shall be granted to Presbyteries, and that notice to Presbyteries be given at the time the transfer is made, and that when the Board recalls the Probationer he must obey the Board; and the Pby. if they feel themselves aggrieved may complain to Synod."

Powers of the board. Ordained missionary. Not appointed.

The Board having asked power to act upon the resolution of Synod of 1851, empowering them to procure the services of an ordained Missionary specially appointed to visit and cherish stations and destitute places, the Synod declined granting the power sought.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, leaving the evening to be occupied by the Synodical Missionary meeting. Closed with prayer.

SIXTH SEDERUNT.

Same place, June 30th, 10 o'clock, A.M.

The Synod met and was constituted by the Rev. J. Byers, in the absence of the Moderator. Present as formerly except the Moderator, the Rev. Messers J. Ross, Clarke, McLean, and Fraser, who were absent with leave, the latter being Mr. Patterson's substitute. Rev. D. Honeyman was also absent.

Home M. Board reappointed.

Mr. William Robertson, ruling elder from the congregation of Upper Settlement E. River, was present.

Renewed Home Mission business, when the Board was reappointed; after some conversation arising out of payment made by the Home Mission Board for ordination expenses, it was moved by the Rev. G. Patterson, "That hereafter Presbyteries bear the expenses of their members at ordinations and other Presbytery business." It was moved in amendment by the Rev. H. Crawford, "That the Home Mission Board be authorized to pay out of the Home mission fund the expenses which may be incurred by Presbyteries at ordination services, and other Presbyterial business connected with weak congregations and mission stations, when circumstances in their judgement seem to render it necessary;" when the question being taken, the amendment passed.

Rule.

The following preamble and resolution were then moved by Mr. Watson: "Rev. Mr. Campbell having stated that he considered the expenses charged by the members of the Pictou presbytery appointed to ordain

Rev. J. McLean at Mabou, extravagant, and that he had some facts to mention in reference to those expenses; and these members considering that such a statement involves an unjust reflection on their conduct and proceedings, moved—That Mr. Campbell proceed with his statement in reference to the Mabou mission."

The previous question being moved the Synod resolved to proceed with the Home mission business.

The minutes of the Board were then read and ordered to be countersigned by the Moderator.

Ordered that the balance due to Rev. Wm. McCulloch, for money paid to Harvey congregation and for postage, be refunded by the Board.

The Committee appointed by Synod to consider and report on the means most likely to establish confidence between this Synod and the Synods of the other Presbyterian churches, and to secure and promote harmony of feeling and action reported:

"That in their opinion, the best means of promoting such friendly intercourse with the Free Church now in Synodical session in this city would be the appointment of a deputation to convey the substance of the resolution of Synod on the subject; and that a message intimating this appointment be respectfully forwarded to the Free Church Synod without delay."

The report was received, and the recommendation adopted. On motion it was agreed that this communication be sent to the Synod of the Free Church, by the Synod's officer. It was farther agreed that the Committee who have been acting in this matter be the deputation.

Synod adjourned, closing with prayer.

SEVENTH SEDERUNT.

Same day and place, 3 o'clock, P. M.

The Synod met and was constituted by Rev. J. Byers, Moderator, pro tem. Present as at last sederunt except Rev. J. Walker, who left to preach the Gospel at some distance, accompanied by Mr. Fraser, elder.

Minutes being read, the clerk stated that a copy of the proceedings of Synod to bring about a friendly conference with the Free Church Synod, had been sent to the clerk of that body.

The Board of Home missions asked whether the Synod wished the supplementary fund to Yarmouth congregation should be continued. Agreed that the matter be referred to the Halifax Presbytery, to make all the inquiry necessary, and to lay the facts before the Board along with their application, for aid.

Resumed consideration of Foreign mission business. The suggestions of the Board were taken up. The first was an inquiry whether any further means can be adopted to obtain another Missionary, so that two may sail in the John Williams.

The Synod having ascertained that Mr. Bayne intended soon to visit the mother country authorized him to bring the matter under the notice of ministers and students of the United Presbyterian Church, and of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, through their Mission Boards or Periodicals, or in any other way which he considers best. It was farther agreed:

That the Board be authorized to make immediate inquiry, and if practicable obtain the services of a pious mechanic of as varied talents as possible, to accompany Mr. Gordon, and to be employed in the Foreign Mission Field.

Minutes read.

Balance to be paid.

Committee on conference.

Report.

Deputation appointed.

Present.

Inquiry Yarmouth congregation.

Foreign missions.

Another missionary.

Authority to Mr. Bayne.

Pious mechanic.

Female agency. The Board inquired whether the Synod would approve of the employment of female agency. After due consideration the following motion passed, "That in the opinion of this Synod it would be injudicious to send any unmarried female missionary until the missionaries inform the Board that this would be prudent, in which case the matter is left to the discretion of the Board.

Minutes read. The Secretary then read the minutes of the Board, which were ordered to be countersigned by the Moderator, with the understanding that the Board inform Mr. Geddie, that his salary is exclusive of the expense necessary for the keeping up of the boats, which will form a separate charge.

Mr. Geddie's salary. The Board was reappointed. Closed with prayer.

EIGHTH SEDERUNT.

Same Place, July 2nd, 1855, A. M.

The Synod met and was constituted by Rev. J. Byers, Moderator, pro tem. Present as formerly together with Rev. George Walker, Rev. D. Honeyman, and Mr. D. Fraser, Ruling Elder.

Mr. Thomson's demission. The Moderator of Truro Presbytery, informed the Synod that since last sederunt the Presbytery had accepted Rev. James Thomson's demission of his Pastoral charge of the congregation of Economy and Five Islands, previously laid upon their table, and that his name had been removed from the Roll of Presbytery. Ordered that his name be dropped from the Synod Roll.

Mr. Baxter gave notice of motion for reconsidering the decision of Synod on the employment of Female agency in Foreign missions.

Deputation To meet free Synod. The clerk read a communication from the Synod of the Free Church, in reply to the notice forwarded of the appointment of a deputation by the Synod to hold a friendly conference with our Brethren of the Free Church, stating that that Synod had "unanimously resolved to apportion a part of Monday from 12 o'clock, to the receiving of said deputation from the brethren of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, and instruct the clerk to forward this resolution to the Synod of the Presbyterian Church."

The Synod agreed to record their gratification at the receipt of this communication and direct the Committee, consisting of Rev. Messrs. Sedgewick, J. Ross, Bayne, and Mr. Charles Robson, Ruling Elder, to wait upon the Synod of the Free Church, as already appointed.

Report of Seminary board. The Report of the Seminary Board, was read and approved. The Synod approved of the appropriation made for apparatus and Library, and recommended the Board to make farther appropriations for the same objects.

Special effort. The subject of the SPECIAL EFFORT being taken up it was agreed that one minister of this church be appointed to visit the churches in Nova Scotia. Closed with prayer.

NINTH SEDERUNT.

Same Day and Place, 3 o'clock.

The Synod met and was constituted by Rev. J. Byers, Moderator. Present as at last sederunt.

Reappointment. Read the minutes of last sederunt. Reappointed the Seminary Board. The Deputation appointed to wait upon the Synod

of the Free Church, with a view to friendly intercourse and cooperation, reported that they had laid on the Free Synod table, the document committed to them, and on being introduced to the Moderator by the clerk, the several members had addressed the Synod, in accordance with the spirit of said document. The deputation stated that they had been cordially received, and that their sentiments had been very generally and pointedly responded to, and that a resolution was unanimously adopted, appointing a Deputation to visit this court of which official notice will be forwarded.

The Deputation was appointed to pursue the same course with reference to the Synod of the Church of Scotland. Professor Smith was appointed member of the Deputation and Convener, in place of Mr. Sedgewick, who wished to be relieved. The Dephtation consisting of Rev. Professor Smith, Rev. Professor Ross, Rev. J. Bayne, and Mr. Charles Robson, Ruling Elder, were directed to embrace the earliest opportunity of attending to the duties assigned to them.

After notice given, Mr. Baxter moved the reconsideration of the Synod's decision in reference to female agency in the foreign field, so that the Board on receiving satisfactory information, from any quarter, that female missionaries might be sent with propriety and benefit, may be at liberty to act upon this information.

Mr. McCulloch moved as an amendment, the order of the day. The question being taken, there appeared for the amendment, 10. Against it 10. The Moderator decided in favour of the motion.

Owing to the absence of many members of Synod, several subjects on the docket were of necessity passed.

The Report of the Committee of inquiry respecting the practicability of obtaining the use of the money funded under the head of Theological Professorship Fund was given in, stating that they had corresponded with the donors now living, who had cordially agreed that the interest should be used annually for the payment of the Theological Professors.

The Report was received, and the diligence of the Committee highly commended. Agreed that from the interest of this sum, the salary of the Professor of Systematic Theology be drawn.

The Report of the Committee on rules and forms of procedure was read, and being approved the Synod agreed to take the subject up in detail at the commencement of next sederunt.

Mr. Honeyman declined to press the motion on the use of the United Presbyterian Hymn Book, and it was passed over accordingly.

The Committee appointed to revise the Statistical and Financial Questions, so that the answers may be published in one table, submitted one Schedule, embracing nearly all the questions hitherto asked in both. Their Report was received and adopted. Five hundred copies ordered to be printed, and a sufficient number to be forwarded by the Synod clerk to the clerks of Presbyteries. Closed with prayer.

TENTH SEDERUNT.

Same Day and Place, 7 1/2 o'clock P. M.

The Synod met and was constituted by the Moderator. Present as at last sederunt, with the Moderator and Rev. Professor Ross. Entered in detail on the consideration of the proposed alterations in the rules of the United Presbyterian Church. The change proposed in ch. i., sec. 1., and paragraph 1st, was rejected, after lengthened discussion, and the definition of a ses-

MINUTES OF SYNOD.

sion laid down in rules of the U. P. Church retained. It being 9 o'clock, the Synod adjourned till to-morrow morning. Closed with prayer.

ELEVENTH SEDERUNT.

Same Place, July 3rd, 1855, 10 o'clock, A. M.

The Synod met and was constituted. Present as formerly, with Rev. J. McLean, and Rev. Allan Fraser. Read the minutes of last sederunt which were approved. Rev. D. McCurdy was invited to correspond.

On motion of Rev. J. Campbell, the Synod agreed to delay the consideration of the Rules of procedure, and to take up the subject of the site of the seminary. The minutes of the previous meetings of Synod at New Glasgow and Pictou, were read, and the report of the Committee of 1853. It was moved by Rev. James Smith, and seconded by Rev. James Watson, that the seminary be located at the West River. It was moved by Rev. George Christie, seconded by Rev. John L. Murdoch, that Truro be the site.

It was moved by Rev. David Roy, seconded by Rev. Dr. Honeyman, that New Glasgow be the site. Rev. George Patterson moved Pictou town, seconded by Rev. J. Byers. Moved by Rev. A. Wyllie, and seconded by Mr. Charles Robson, that Halifax be the site.

A deputation from the Free Synod consisting of Rev. professor King, Rev. Hugh McLeod, Rev. J. Stewart, Rev. Alex. Sutherland, Rev. William Duff, Synod clerk, and Mr. Newcomb, ruling elder, was then announced and a paper from the Free Synod read, informing this Synod that the same Brethren "were appointed a committee to hold conference with any committee which this Synod may appoint."

The members of the deputation present were Rev. Professor King, Rev. Wm. Duff, Rev. J. Stewart, and Mr. Newcomb, Rev. Mr. Muir, of Boston, was also present, and acted as a member of the Deputation.

The Synod was addressed in succession by the Rev. Professor King, Rev. Mr. Muir, Rev. Mr. Duff, and Rev. John Stewart, and by Mr. Newcomb, ruling elder, who all expressed the most kindly sentiments, and an earnest desire to cooperate with the Synod in practical measures for the defence and advancement of Evangelical truth. These sentiments were very warmly responded to on the part of the Synod, by Rev. Professor Ross, Rev. J. Bayne, Rev. D. Roy, and others, and the following resolution, unanimously agreed to, "that this Synod record their pleasure in beholding the esteemed Brethren of the Free Church deputation among us, and the delight with which they have listened to their statements; and cordially reciprocate the sentiments of friendship expressed by them, and appoint a committee to confer with the committee of the Free Church, on any practical measures in which the two bodies have a common interest.

The Moderator read this resolution to the brethren of the deputation.

Rev. Dr. Thomson, of New York, and connected with the American Presbyterian Church, (Old School) being present, was invited by the Moderator, to address the Synod, and cheerfully accepted the invitation, and addressed the Synod on the subject of Union among Presbyterians, and also on the state of Presbyterianism in the United States. The Synod heard his statements

with much satisfaction, when a vote of thanks was unanimously passed and conveyed to Mr. Thomson by the Moderator.

The usual hour of adjournment being past, the Synod adjourned till half-past 3 o'clock. Closed with prayer.

TWELFTH SEDERUNT.

Same Day and Place, 3 1/2 o'clock, P. M.

The Synod met and was constituted. Present as at last sederunt. Read the minutes of last sederunt.

The clerk read a communication from the clerk of the Synod of the church of Scotland, informing this Synod, that they had agreed to receive the deputation appointed, and had named half-past 7 o'clock this evening, as a suitable hour. The Synod heard this information with much satisfaction, and directed their deputation to proceed at that hour.

Resumed consideration of the site of the seminary, and after careful consideration and protracted discussion the vote was taken. On the first calling of the roll there appeared for West River 9, Truro 15, New Glasgow 8, Pictou 2, Halifax 3. The lowest two were then struck off, and the roll being again called there appeared, For West River 11, Truro 18, New Glasgow 7. The vote being then taken between West River and Truro, there were 18 for each.

The Moderator not feeling fully prepared to vote, it was unanimously agreed that in the present state of the vote it would be inexpedient at present to take any further action in the matter.

On motion of Rev. Professor Ross, it was unanimously agreed, that the thanks of this Synod be given to our friends in the United States, who have generously forwarded to us a number of valuable books, for the theological seminary in connection with this Synod, and transmitted through the Rev. James Waddell, on his last visit to this country. The Rev. James Waddell, was appointed to wait upon the Rev. Dr. Thomson, and request him to convey this expression of our gratitude to our generous friends in the United States."

Closed with prayer.

THIRTEENTH SEDERUNT.

Same Day and Place, 7 1/2 o'clock, P. M.

The Synod met and was constituted. The reading of the minutes was delayed for a little, owing to the Clerk's temporary absence, Rev. E. Ross, acting as clerk pro tem.

Leave of absence was granted to Mr. Kent, ruling elder, and Rev. H. Crawford, for remainder of session.

Rev. E. Ross, was appointed to lecture at next meeting of Synod. Agreed that the clerk's fee and bill for printing, and other expenses be paid, and one pound to the door-keeper.

The Committee on Presbytery minutes reported that the records were accurately kept, and business regularly conducted. The report was received and approved.

Rev. E. Ross, having stated that it was impossible for him to undertake the work of prosecuting the special effort, the Synod heard this with regret, and unanimously resolved that Mr. Patterson, be solicited to take the appointment, the Presbytery of Pictou to make provision for the supply of his pulpit. On motion it was agreed that the Rev.

Site of Seminary.

Motions.

Deputation from Free Church.

Addresses.

Response.

Rev. Dr. Thomson.

Letter from Ch. of Scotland.

Site of seminary.

No decision.

Thanks to American Presbyterians.

Minutes delayed.

Leave of absence.

Lecture.

Disbursements.

Report on Pby. Minutes.

Special effort. Mr. Ross declines Mr. Patterson appointed.

Supply of pulpit. Professor Ross, be appointed to visit the churches in P. E. Island.

Minutes read. Committee on Colportage. The clerk here read the minutes of last sederunt which were approved. The committee on colportage was reappointed.

Accommodation of classes. On motion it was agreed "That it be remitted to the Board of Superintendence of the Seminary to take all prudent steps to provide for the accommodation of the classes."

Mr. Baxter dissents. From this decision Mr. Baxter dissented for the following reasons.

1. On account of the indefinite and unlimited power given to the Board, and 2. Because it may in future be brought up as an argument for retaining the Institution at West River.

Complaint. Took up the complaint of Mr. James McG. McKay, preacher against the board of Home missions, to the effect that the Board through their Secretary had represented him as going to the United States, irregularly, and that said secretary had subsequently refused to correct the impression thus circulated to his injury. The complaint being read, Mr. McKay was heard, and the Secretary of the Board in reply when the Synod finding that the complaint arose from a misunderstanding between the Board and Halifax Presbytery agree to exonerate all parties from intentional wrong. Closed with prayer.

Decision.

FOURTEENTH SEDERUNT.

Same Day and Place, July 4th, 10 o'clock.

The Synod met and was constituted. Present as at last sederunt except Rev. H. Crawford, and Mr. Kent.

Dissent.

Minutes were read and approved. On reading the minutes, the following persons asked the privilege of joining in Mr. Baxter's dissent, and for his reasons, Rev. G. Christie, Rev. John L. Murdoch, Rev. A. L. Wyllie.

Report of Educational Board

The Report of the Educational Board was read. The report was received and the diligence of the Board was approved. The Board having chosen Rev. James Bayne, Chairman, Rev. James Ross, Secretary, and continued Abram Patterson, Esq., Treasurer, these appointments were confirmed by Synod.

Report of committee on Pictou Academy property.

The committee appointed by Synod to memorialize the Legislature, and to set forth the claims of the Synod to the Pictou Academy Property, submitted their report, from which it appeared that they had presented and prosecuted the claim before the Committee of education. The Committee stated that the educational committee declined to recommend the prayer of Petitioners but recommended a grant of £500 in consideration of "any equitable claims," which this body may have on the property, and that in pursuance of this recommendation the house had voted "five hundred pounds to the educational board of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, in full of their "equitable claims to the building apparatus and library of the Pictou Academy."

Report received.

The report of the committee was received and their diligence approved, whereupon it was moved by the Rev. Robert Sedgewick, and seconded by Rev. William McCulloch, "That this Synod respectfully decline the offer of the Legislature, of £500."

Adjournment.

While the discussion was going on, the hour of adjournment arrived, and the Synod adjourned, closing with prayer.

FIFTEENTH SEDERUNT.

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

The Synod met and was constituted. Present as at last sederunt, except Rev. D. Honeyman, who had leave of absence, and Mr. William Robertson, who also had leave.

Minutes having been read and approved, the discussion on the motion of Mr. Sedgewick, was resumed. Mr. Sedgewick, with the consent of Synod, and of the seconder, substituted the following motion: "That in the uncertainty as to whether this grant were given as a compensation for the rights of the Synod, and believing that the acceptance of it by this Synod, might tend to compromise this Synod in the eyes of the public, in reference to the question of government grants to religious bodies, the Synod would consider it inexpedient under present circumstances to accept it."

Moved in amendment by Rev. J. I. Baxter, and seconded: "Whereas the grant in question is distinctly specified in the records of the House of Assembly, as given in consideration of 'the equitable claims of this church, to the buildings, apparatus and library of the Pictou Academy,' the acceptance of the money involves no violation of our principles, or sanction of grants for denominational objects, and that it be accepted."

And the question being taken, there appeared for the motion 10. For the amendment 21.

Mr. McCulloch protested in his own name, and in the name of all who may unite with him.

The committee on Financial Returns submitted their report with the returns arranged in tabular form. The report was received and ordered to be published along with the table, and the diligence of the Committee was approved.

The committee on Statistical Returns, submitted the returns, arranged in a table. The report of committee was received and its diligence approved. The clerk was directed to supply to clerks of Presbyteries to correspond with such members as have not forwarded returns, so that the blanks may be filled up before publication.

The deputation appointed to wait upon the Synod of the Church of Scotland, reported, "that they had attended to this duty, and were happy to state that they were received with the utmost courtesy, cordiality, and affection. They stated that that Synod assured the deputation that they reciprocated very warmly the feelings of fraternal kindness of this Synod; and tho' in consequence of the early rising of this Synod, they had not appointed a deputation to visit us, they have entered upon their minutes, an expression of the kindly feelings which they entertain toward this body, and have appointed a committee to confer with our committee, in devising measures to promote increased harmony between the two bodies, and to cooperate in such measures as they may consider advisable, in which our mutual interests are concerned."

The original deputation was appointed a committee to confer with other churches on practical measures, for mutual cooperation, and the Synod clerk, and Rev. Mr. Cameron, were added to the Committee, Rev. Professor Ross was appointed convener.

The overture from Pictou Presbytery anent periodicals was read to the effect that Synod should appoint a Board of publication. The subject was remitted to

Motion

Amendment

Report on Financial Returns

Report on Statistical Returns

Report of Deputation to church of Scotland

Committee appointed

Overtures on Periodicals.

MINUTES OF SYNOD.

Rev. Messrs. Patterson, McGregor, Watson, and Mr. C. Robson, to report if possible at next sederunt. Concluded with prayer.

SIXTEENTH SEDERUNT.

Same Day and Place, 7½ o'clock, P. M.

Disbursements

The Synod met and was constituted. The minutes of last sederunt were read. Agreed that £30 be paid to the Professor of Biblical Literature, and one pound thirteen shillings to Rev. J. L. Murdoch, as expenses incurred in carrying out an appointment of Synod. Agreed that three pounds be paid to Rev. J. McLeod, as balance of travelling expenses incurred by going to Miramichi by Synodical appointment. Agreed that the Board of Home Missions be authorized to obtain such aid from other ministers as may be required for Mr. Patterson, in prosecuting the special effort.

Cooperation

Supply of Professors' pulpits

Appoint the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island, to supply Professor Keir's pulpit during the sitting of the Hall, and the Presbyteries of Halifax and Truro to supply Professor Smith's, the first two days to be supplied by Halifax Presbytery.

Mr. McCurdy
Sacrament

Mr. Watson was appointed to assist Rev. John McCurdy, in dispensing the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Committee on questions

On motion the Rev. Messrs. McCulloch, E. Ross, and Wyllie, were appointed a committee to revise the questions put at Presbyterial visitations, and to report next year.

Next meeting

Agreed that the next meeting of Synod be held in Primitive church, New Glasgow, on the 4th Tuesday of June, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The committee appointed at last sederunt on periodicals, reported that they were precluded by want of time from giving this subject the consideration to which it was entitled but had agreed to report: First. That from information sought and obtained, they were of opinion that an arrangement might be made with the proprietor of the Presbyterian Witness, of such a nature, that it might supply the wants of our people, and secure their confidence, and recommend that such arrangement be made.

Report of Com. on periodicals

The Committee farther agreed to recommend that the Missionary Register be enlarged by the addition of ecclesiastical intelligence and religious matter, and that so enlarged the price shall be increased to two shillings and six pence, leaving to parties however the option of having it at its present size, for its present price, if this be found practicable.

Recommendations

The recommendations of the committee were approved. Agreed that it be remitted to the same committee to carry out their views respecting the paper; and to the Board of Home missions to take into consideration, and to dispose of the whole matter of the publication of the Register.

Referred to com.

Agreed that the discussion of the details of the rules of procedure, be deferred till next Synod, and also that the committee appointed to prepare a brief memorial to be entered on the Synod minutes respecting Rev. T. Trotter, not having found time to attend to this duty, be allowed to report at next meeting of Synod.

Subjects deferred

The Synod then adjourned, after praise, prayer, and the apostolic benediction.

Halifax, July 4th, 1855.

PETER G. MCGREGOR,
Synod Clerk.

Motion

Amendment

Report on Financial Returns

Report of Statistical Returns

Report of Deputation to church of Scotland

Committee appointed

Overtures on Periodicals