

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE MEETING**  
**OF THE**  
**UNITED PRESBYTERY,**  
**OF**  
**UPPER CANADA.**  
**HELD AT BROCKVILLE,**  
*ON THE*  
FIRST SECOND AND THIRD DAYS OF JUNE,  
**1830.**



**BROCKVILLE, U. C.**  
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**1830.**



## MEETING OF PRESBYTERY.

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ON Tuesday evening, the 1st of June, 1830, the United Presbytery of Upper Canada assembled in the Presbyterian Church, Brockville, and after a Discourse delivered by the Rev. Robert Lyle, A. M. the Presbytery being constituted by prayer, by the Rev. William Smart, Moderator, they proceeded to business, and continued their deliberations on the two succeeding days, during which matters of great interest and importance came under consideration.

Among other subjects, a paper, purporting to be a Report of a Committee of the Legislative Council of Upper Canada upon a Petition from this Presbytery upon the subject of Education, was laid before them. After an animated and interesting discussion on the subject of Education, it was

Resolved,—That a Committee be appointed to take the same into consideration, and report without delay.

The Rev W. Smart, having presented the Prospectus of a Religious Newspaper, to be called "THE CANADIAN WATCHMAN," the Presbytery took the subject into their serious consideration, and having long desired to see such a publication in the Province, in connexion with the Presbyterian Church, it was unanimously

Resolved,—1. That this Presbytery view the circulation of religious and moral sentiments, through the medium of periodical publications, as a subject of great importance to the prosperity of the Churches under their care, and the increase of religion in the Province.

2. That the Presbytery agree to support "The Canadian Watchman," and to recommend to all their friends, to give it every encouragement in their power, on the condition, that it advocates the received principles of the Presbytery, as expressed in the Westminster Confession of Faith—in the hope that it will prove useful, in promoting the interests of religion in general and that of the Presbyterian Church in particular.

The Presbytery then took up the subject of Missions. They deeply regret, that, notwithstanding the numerous pressing applications for preaching, they have so few labourers at their disposal. They are unable fully to supply the wants of the people, but to afford every assistance in their power, it was

Resolved,—That two or more of the ministers of this Presbytery, be employed as Missionaries for a limited period, during this summer; and that the Members of this Presbytery, be enjoined to make provision, by taking up collections or otherwise, for defraying the expences of the past and present missions.

to supply the many congregations, that have put themselves under their care—it was,

*Resolved*,—That the Rev'd Messrs. McDowall, Smart, and A. Bell, be a Committee to prepare an address, to the religious public of Great Britain, directing their attention to Upper Canada, as a very important field for Missionary labours, and requesting their aid and co-operation in the views and objects of this Presbytery and especially in sending some able and devoted Missionaries.

The following Address was prepared by the committee, presented to and adopted by the Presbytery.

*To the Christian Public of Great Britain and Ireland.*

CHRISTIAN FRIENDS,—

Allow the United Presbytery of Upper Canada to address you on the subject of the moral and religious state of this Province.—We have often most deeply lamented the wide spread desolations that here present themselves to view in the Church of God, and we have felt our own insufficiency, from want of funds and of Ministers, to occupy the vast fields of Missionary labour in this country. We have hitherto been unable from our own resources, to supply the increasing and destitute settlements in the Province, with the administration of the ordinances of religion; and we are induced from want of ability ourselves to make this appeal to our fellow Christians and friends of religion, in the land of our fathers.—While we most heartily rejoice in the exertions of Bible and Missionary Societies for the conversion of the Heathens, and give glory to God for the signal success attending their efforts, we have mingled tears with our joy, when amidst the numerous objects embraced by Christian philanthropy, the British Colony of Upper Canada has been so much overlooked. We are the only Presbytery in the Province, and have at present fifteen Ministers belonging to our body, each of whom preaches to from two to six or eight congregations, not only on the Sabbath but through the week. We have originally belonged to different denominations of Presbyterians in the mother Country and though we are not in actual communion with the Church of Scotland, we have always maintained the same doctrines, discipline, Church government, and manner of worship. Our labours of love are extended from the Ottawa on the eastern shore to Lake St. Clair and Huron on the western extremity of the Province, over a distance of upwards of five hundred miles. We can truly say the harvest is great, but the labourers are few. We feel that in the world of retribution it will be made to appear that it was our duty not only to pray, but to use every Christian exertion to obtain good and faithful labourers for this extensive field. And Christian fathers and brethren, to whom are we to look, but to you, who are bone of our bone, and flesh of our flesh? We beseech you to call to remembrance your own kindred & neighbours, who in crossing the ocean, travelling some hundred miles, & supporting their families till they have cleared away the vast forest, and prepared the land for cultivation, have exhausted their earthly treasure, and

consequently are not only in difficulty with regard to their outward circumstances, but destitute of the means of grace. Shall thousands of those who once rejoiced in that cultivated garden of God and drank from the wells of salvation, in their native land, but are now sitting by the rivers of Canada and weeping when they recollect Zion, be left with their children to perish in a barren wilderness? Could you in imagination, transport yourselves into the vast forests of Canada, and see the struggling multitude of your countrymen to obtain a subsistence for themselves and families, destitute of a house of God, and of a Shepherd to lead them to the blood of atonement for the remission of sin; and the danger of the rising generation being dispersed with every wind of delusion; your hearts would melt with commiseration for the gloom which darkens their prospects, and cause you to say, what can we do to ameliorate the condition, and brighten the future prospects of these our brethren? Thousands of our settlers can well say as David once did in similar circumstances. "My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, where is thy God? When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me; for I had gone with the multitude; I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept the holy day."

According to our limited means, we are doing all that we can in the way of missions among these wide spread desolations; and have in contemplation to erect a Seminary for educating pious, active and devoted young men to supply our destitute settlements. As we are unable to raise funds sufficient to carry these our wishes into effect, we call on you brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who submitted himself to the depth of poverty, to enrich countless multitudes of wretched beings sunk in helpless misery and woe, seriously to consider our wants—to have pity on our condition—and to endeavour to assist us in forwarding the work of God in this extensive region.

O brethren, think, we beseech you, seriously think, upon the thousands in this land, imperceptibly, yet certainly carried along on the tide of time into the world of retribution, without a shepherd to feed them with the bread of life; and who, if they perish for lack of knowledge, will have no longer any opportunity of hearing offers of mercy in the regions of dark despair and hopelessness. Could you not then assist us with a few evangelical, pious young men, who in imitation of the great Apostle of the Gentiles, would be willing to make great sacrifices for the glory of God in the salvation of men;—and if it was possible, some pecuniary aid also, to assist us in forwarding the work of God?

The great head of the Church pitied our pagan and afterwards popish ancestors, and sent them heralds of salvation. Those valiant soldiers of Jesus Christ ventured their lives to liberate our forefathers and us from worse than Egyptian bondage—and blessed be God, he has thus given us the enjoyment of the Gospel, and that in its utmost purity since the reformation, a goodly heritage, a broad

land of rest to be known. We hath not dealt so *beautifully* with any nation, and so it behooves us to communicate this most valuable treasure, which we have received from our fathers, to their distant generations? You brethren feel the indispensable obligation which binds us to do what we can for ourselves, and to receive from our Mother Church, in maintaining amongst our countrymen in this Province, and in handing down to posterity, pure and unsullied that Faith which was once delivered to the saints, and the truth of which our brave and pious Presbyterian ancestors sealed with their blood.

If these wide, spread wastes were once well cultivated—adorned with temples of God's grace—and had pious, zealous and faithful pastors to feed the Church-going flocks, there would be a foundation for supplying with the bread of life, the many thousands of our countrymen yet to be wafted over the wide Atlantic and settled in the dreary wilderness.—This thought of building up the desolations of Zion, and of lengthening her cords and strengthening her stakes, even amongst generations yet unborn, stimulates us to exertion in our own personal labours, and to solicit assistance from others.

A Literary and Theological Seminary, to train up for the Ministry young men of piety and talents, acquainted with the habits and wants of the country, and inured to hardships, is indispensably necessary for the successful propagation of the Gospel in this country.—Large funds in money, books &c. will be required for this purpose. And, brethren, where shall we look for this assistance? Is it not to be expected that children should look to their parents for help in time of need? On you therefore our eyes are fixed.

Finally, if you have any preachers of the Gospel—active, pious young men,—who are ready to leave friends and country for the sake of Christ, and willing to spend and be spent in his cause, we earnestly beseech them to “come over and help us.”—They must not, and cannot expect a large remuneration for their labours *here*; although, in some congregations yet vacant, they would be supplied with the necessaries of life—but right will be their crown in the eternal world.

WILLIAM SMART, Moderator.  
ROBERT LYLE, Secretary.

The next meeting of the Presbytery will be held at York, on Monday, the 30th of August next. The public service to commence in the Presbyterian Church, at half past six o'clock in the evening.

It is expected that the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be dispensed in the Church of the Rev. J. Harris, York; and likewise in that of the Rev. A. Bell, Streetsville, Toronto, on the previous Sabbath, the 29th of August.

WILLIAM SMART, Moderator.  
ROBERT LYLE, Secretary.