

started for King Williams Town to attend the Meeting of Presbytery. On my return to Pirie I took more extensive notes & these will come in their own place

Meeting of Presbyteries of Free & U. P. Churches in King Williams Town
4th Jan 1885.

Mr. Stuart & I drove to the Central Hotel where we stayed during the meetings. There many of the ministers met.

Shortly after we went to St Andrews Church where Mr. Don is Minister.

There I met Dr. Stewart, Mr. Moir, Mr. Laren, Young, Ross, Mzimba & Makivane.

Isols Chumba Mission was much discussed & a strong minute sent to the Foreign Missions Committee not to remove Mr. Stuart from Burnhill.

The Union between the churches was then taken up & a conference arranged for. This conference took place. Minutes of former meeting was read over by Mr. Auld Clerk of U. P. Presbytery.

Mr. P. Davidson then led by a paper

of some length. Its chief points were pleading for union because of the benefits to brethren & the field generally.

He showed that the U. P. Pres- here is not a constituent part of the home church because it sends no representative to the Synod. The Free Ch is so & sends its representatives or finds them. The Missionaries have all the rights of home ministers.

The union would certainly cut off this because ~~it~~ ^{the new church} will have a new name & jurisdiction. It will have a right of appeal home for advice. In this way it will have a visible identity. The financial position will remain the same. All the support at present given is promised for an indefinite period.

A letter was then read from Mr. Templeton. Thinks that circumstances may arise that will make the young church painfully feel that she is separate from the home church.

Mr. Chalmers said that the Dutch

Reformed had the best right to be called
the Presbyterian Church of S. Africa.
Then a union should embrace all
the Presbyterian Churches which it
does not.

Mr. Bryce Ross. We can be separate & yet
not independent. Appeals to home Church
are final Financial difficulty in the
way. When you unite, you cannot
appear at the Courts of this Country
as trustees of the home Church.

Mr. Davidson said the U.P. Pres. is
separate yet not independent. She has
a right of appeal & connected finan-
cially; but she has also a right of
action in herself.

Mr. Bearley, representing the Graham-
town Congregation said ~~that~~ They
wish union for the benefit of work
By calling ourselves the Presbyterian
Ch of S Africa we show we are
independent. Those at home at present
will understand this & support us;
but what of those who come after.
Will not the future generation tire

of the financial connection. How near can we say we are to independence financially? A change will take place in the Mission Boards & large deductions may take place.

Mr. Mc. Laren showed that the Free Ch brethren had really something to lose in being cut off from corporate connection with the home church.

The U P brethren were in the same position after union as before & so ~~is~~ the Grahamstown Congregation.

Mr. Murray says a church on the basis proposed has in it the elements of disruption. Until the time comes that the church has full power ~~for~~ her spiritual jurisdiction & over her temporalities, it will bring trouble to itself when disputes arise.

Mr. Merimba showed that as churches became self-supporting the Mission Boards withdraw support. They will likely do so even more when we unite.

The Evening Sederunt brought the Union apparently no nearer. A deput

ation was to be sent to Grahamstown to try to remove difficulties & report.

It was a great pleasure to meet the most of the brethren in the field & a great surprise to see sitting opposite me at dinner Mr. Welsh once a fellow student in Calderwood's class & Mr. Stirling Missionary in Rose Street.

Here I again met Mr. A. Murray & heard him address a meeting of workers in the afternoon of 8th Jan & a meeting in the evening ~~when he preached~~

On my return to King Williams Town I saw more of it & will then speak of it more particularly.

Erugwali

Mr. & Mrs. Stirling very kindly invited me to accompany them home & remain for a few days. On Friday morning Mr. Cumming, Mr. & Mrs. Stirling, Mr. Sidwood & Mr. Welsh & I started for Dohne by train. At Blaney we changed carriages, the main train going to E. London