

and their eloquence powerless, in working conviction? It had been better that they had employed their time, and turned their energies on some more hopeful subject. How deeply rooted is prejudice! How much more powerful is it than reason itself! And how dogmatically persevering! These veterans of the Establishment Principle would compass sea and land to make one proselyte.

From what has occurred we are almost forced to conclude that the principles of Christian forbearance are unknown in the Presbyterian Church, "Forbearing one another in love." This one short precept, universally obeyed, would set all right, and reduce all to order. It would not at once reconcile all minds, but it would harmonise all hearts. It would not amalgamate all Churches into an external uniformity, but it would combine them all in the unity of the Spirit, and the bond of peace. It might not hush the voice of controversy, but it would take from it the harsh dissonance of human passion, and cause it to speak in the mellifluous tones of divine charity.\*

On Sabbath, the 18th of August, when the deliverance of the Commission was known, although not formally announced, a meeting of the Session of Caledonia and vicinities was called, to be held on Thursday the 22nd current, and thereafter a meeting of the Congregation at Caledonia, meetings at the other stations were also arranged.

The following minute of recommendations was drawn up by the Session to be submitted to the different stations.

"Being cast out with our Minister† from the Presbyterian Church of Canada, by a decision of this Commission, appearing to us to be arbitrary, unjust, and tyrannical in the extreme, and the grounds of which shall be afterwards more particularly noticed, we consider it our duty as a Session, watching for the spiritual interests of the flock committed to us, to recommend to the Congregation, in its several stations, the following things:—

1.—To regard the procedure of the Commission of Synod as null and void; but at the same time to decline all further connexion with that denomination.

2.—To vindicate themselves by a public exposure and condemnation of the Commission's procedures.

3.—To seek connexion, as soon as possible, with another denomination, that we may enjoy their protection and fostering care.

4.—To consider how far it might be expedient to apply for admission into the United Presbyterian Church.

And, 5.—To appoint a Committee to carry out the views of the Congregation, and reduce them to practice.

The various Stations having met, they all unanimously agreed to adopt the foregoing recommendations, and a Committee was appointed of persons from all the Stations, to carry out the views of the Congregation.

This Committee consisted of seventeen persons. Twelve of these, on the 24th September, 1850, appeared at the Bar of the Presbytery of Hamilton, in connexion with the United Presbyterian Church, and in the name, and by the appointment of three Congregations, and two Stations, included in the general Congregation of Caledonia and vicinities, presented a respectful petition to be received as Minister and people into fellowship with that Church.

The Presbytery, with much wisdom and kindness, considered the application—heard with patience all the Commissioners—put various questions to them, to which suitable answers were returned, and then expressed their own sentiments. After weighing the whole case with seriousness and deliberation, the Presbytery unanimously and cordially agreed to receive Dr. Ferrier and his Congregation into fellowship with their Church. They then gave the right hand of Christian fellowship to the Minister and the representatives of the Congregation, and finally appointed two Ministers, one for the first, and the other for the second Sabbath, to announce their deliverance at the different Congregations and Stations, and to declare them received into the United Presbyterian Church.

\* The Rev. John Angell James' Essay on Union.

† Such was the view taken of the Commission's deliverance by the people themselves. It was the only ingredient of lenity in the procedures of this Commission. "We respect," says Dr. Burns, announcing the result to us, "as it becomes us, the attachment of your office-bearers and members to you, as their beloved and faithful Pastor, and we have done nothing that may interfere with the ties which unite them and you together." This, however, cannot well be reconciled with zealous endeavours, afterwards put forth, to divide those settlements where there is not scope for two opposing stations.

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