

He did not, in origin, belong to the Synod of the Church of Scotland in Canada, and we very naturally asked : For whom do you speak ? And the inquiry was made, either by these gentlemen or for them, whether such proposals as had been spoken of in conversation would be entertained by those who were really in the forefront of the party, and the answer was unequivocally returned that they could only speak for themselves, and could not guarantee that those who were in the forefront would agree to proposals that might be made. I think that, in common fairness, the matter should be put in the right form. There was no breaking off of negotiations on the subject, none whatever. Sir Hugh Allan can bear out this statement. I say it boldly at the bar of this Committee, there was no bar put on the subject ; the bar was distinctly because those who were not in the forefront of this movement could not come forward and authorize these gentlemen to speak for them.

PRINCIPAL GRANT.—I am generally supposed to have "common fairness," and, if this Committee think I exaggerate in one point, it is I who shall suffer. I fully understand my position. Since the matter has been brought up in this way, then, I may say something further. No summary of mine, it seems, can satisfy these gentlemen. As already stated, I did think two or three weeks ago that if we could get together and come to some arrangement, all this contest might be avoided. I did hope and pray that it might be avoided ; and so, when Mr. Fleming brought Sir Hugh Allan to see me, I asked if he had any details to submit. He said he did not know the details, but that as their body was small it would be easy to get details from them, whereas our body was large and it would not be so easy. My answer was : "I know that ; I can only speak for myself ; but I will tell you what I will do. If I think your proposals reasonable, I will go before the Committee and advocate them. If it is worth your while to acquaint me with such proposals, I will tell you in a moment whether I consider them reasonable or not." Acting on that, when these gentlemen came up we had a little talk together, and a division of the Temporalities Fund was suggested. I think that Mr. Macmaster referred to a division as possible, when he handed me a copy of the *Montreal Gazette* containing the report of his address to Sir John A. Macdonald in introducing a deputation, saying to me that the address embodied his views. I saw, when I read his address, that he suggested that, while they claimed the whole Fund, it would be a generous thing on their part to give us about a third.

MR. MACMASTER.—Are you quoting entirely ?

PRINCIPAL GRANT.—Am I not stating it correctly ?

MR. MACMASTER.—I wish to keep you correct.