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### RELIGIOUS COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

FOR THE CHRISTIAN EXAMINER.

#### REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERY OF KINGSTON ON THE CONSTITUTION OF CHURCHES.

[The following document is the result of the deliberations of the Presbytery of Kingston on the subject referred to. It has been sent to us for publication, as the best means of referring it to the examination of the different Presbyteries—who are “instructed to report their observations on this subject to next meeting of Synod.” It will be seen that this report contains very little additional to that which was formerly prepared by Mr. Gordon, and published in the Examiner, October, 1837, except the draft of a constitution. No allusion is made in the report to the necessity of an act of incorporation by the legislature, to enable the proposed “Court of deacons,”\* or the trustees of congregations, to hold and manage the property that may be entrusted to them. This subject is a very simple one, and has already been sufficiently discussed. All that is now wanted, is the diligence of the commission to procure from the legislature the requisite enactment. It appears to us that the several articles in this draft are susceptible of a better arrangement.]—Ed, Ex.

\* We prefer this designation to that of session of deacons, to avoid the risk of confounding them with the session of elders. Dr. Chalmers, when he revived this order of officers in St. John's parish, Glasgow, designated them collectively “the Court of deacons.”

On the subject of “the constitution of churches,” the Synod, at their last meeting, gave these instructions: “the committee on calls and constitutions is discharged, and the Presbytery of Kingston is instructed to prepare a draft of a constitution suitable for congregations to adopt, and to send a copy of the same to the other Presbyteries of the church, that they may consider it, and report upon it at the next ordinary session of the Synod.”

First of all let it be observed, that instead of encumbering the draft constitution with such matter of an explanatory kind as seemed necessary, it has been thrown into an appendix.

It will be in the recollection of Presbyteries, that this subject has been for some time past under the consideration of the church. In particular these questions, 1. What is the proper course to be pursued in the election of a minister? 2. What the best mode of electing elders? and 3. What the best manner of managing the temporal affairs of the church? Queries were issued by the Synod of 1835, directed to these points, and requesting information on certain matters of fact bearing upon them; such as the proportion of communicants to the other classes of the congregation, and the number of organized congregations within the different Presbyteries.