

having assembled, sent to the Complainant's house and required the attendance of himself and wife. The latter came and withdrew the charge she had made, asserting, on the faith of her husband's assurance, her belief in his innocence.

The Complainant then appeared, stated that no person could charge him with anything improper, but added that his character was injured by the reports, and leaving with them a paper, of which this is a copy, withdrew:

LIVERPOOL., October 16th, 1847.

To the Officers and Members of the Congregational Church of Liverpool, N. S.

Dear Brethren in Christ, I do hereby, in the name and fear of the Lord, agreeably to the advice of the Deacons and the Rev. Mr. Gallaway, ask my dismissal from this Church, and pray that the Lord may send you a pastor that may prove a blessing to this Church.

Your affectionate pastor,

(Signed) JAMES MELVIN.

The assemblage immediately and (with the exception of one) unanimously accepted this as a resignation of the Complainant's charge, and declared the pastoral relation between him and the church at an end. The resolution for this purpose was verbal, there was no record made of the proceedings, and none were reduced to writing. No specific charge was preferred, nor was any other business transacted at the meeting. The persons, of which it was composed, were church members, resident in and about Liverpool, and did not comprise those of the other districts.

Some time in the next month, (November) a larger meeting of the members of the Church and congregation took place, at which it was resolved, that the proceedings of the first meeting were illegal, and that the Complainant should remain Pastor as before.

I have not been able to ascertain accurately the numbers present at this meeting, nor is it important, as there must have been more than twice as many as those who first assembled, the majority for retaining Complainant being fourteen at least, and at this time there were between seventy and eighty male members of the Church and congregation, who contributed to his support.

One of the conditions on which he was to be retained, was that he should take back his wife, who was not then living with him. He did this, and she was living with him at the time of the next meeting, which took place February, 1848, and which, for the sake of

distinction, I shall call the council meeting.

No public notice was given of this November meeting, but information, that it was to be held, was given "by one person telling another."

From this period until February, 1848, the Complainant continued in the performance of his duties as usual.

In this month the meeting house in Liverpool was locked up, and thereafter until the time of filing his bill, he has in Liverpool preached in the Mission house there, in which he still continued to reside, and in the other stations as he had always before done.

Early in February and before the council meeting took place, the Rev. Mr. Tomkins, then Minister of the Congregational Church at Yarmouth, arrived at Liverpool, accompanied by James Hilton, one of the Deacons of that Church. Hilton gives this account of his own presence there:

"My visit was entirely *accidental*. I am not aware that Mr. Tomkins came here having any specific object in view. I think I staid in Liverpool four or five days. I was requested while there to attend a meeting of the Church. I attended it at the meeting house in Liverpool. The meeting was called for the purpose of adjusting difficulties between Complainant and Church at Liverpool. When I went to the meeting it was with the understanding that the Rev. Mr. Tomkins, Rev. Mr. Sterling, Deacon David Freeman, and myself, were to act as a council or *arbitrators*, to try to adjust the existing difficulties. I saw Complainant before the meeting was held. I cannot recollect what took place before. Compt. knew Council was to be held."

At the same time the Rev. Mr. Sterling, Congregational Minister at Pleasant River, appeared in Liverpool, with the David Freeman just named, who was a Deacon of the Pleasant River Church; and he says:

"I knew of the council before I came into Liverpool, but I did not know, until I got word, that Mr. Sterling received a letter to attend this council, the evening before we left home, and he showed me the letter."

Mr. Tomkins came to Liverpool uninvited. Wm. Freeman says: "No person, to my knowledge, sent for Mr. Tomkins to come to Liverpool; after he came *he suggested* that a council should be called." He goes on to say: "About this council I knew nothing until I had a conversation with Mr. Tomkins and Mr. Hilton. No person but myself recommended the council, Mr. Tomkins and I talked it over together, and Mr. Sterling and Mr. David Freeman were sent for by me, about two days before the meeting. No person but myself recommended the