

**Marriage Annuity.**

This is a subject which was postponed from last year. The discussion commenced on Thursday morning, and was concluded late on Friday night. One intermediate session was devoted to other subjects.

The discussion was opened by Rev. Dr. Macleod, who moved as follows—seconded by Rev. E. Ross :

**DR. MACLEOD'S MOTION.**

"This Synod having carefully considered the question of marriage in all its bearings, resolve to abide by the Doctrine of the Confession of Faith as being in perfect accordance with the Word of God:" *[and instruct all inferior courts to deal with all parties living within the prohibited degrees according to the laws of the Church.]*

Professor Macknight followed Dr. Macleod, and moved as follows—the motion being the same as was proposed by Rev. Mr. Bennet last year. It was seconded by H. B. Webster, Esq. :

**PROFESSOR MACKNIGHT'S MOTION.**

"That this Synod while discouraging marriage with a deceased wife's sister, yet feeling that there is some reason for doubt whether Scripture pronounces such marriages illegal, advises Presbyteries and Sessions that they are not required to enforce exclusion from the membership of the Church of such persons as may have entered into this relationship."

The following resolution was proposed by Rev. J. K. Smith and seconded by Rev. John Forrest :

**REV. J. K. SMITH'S MOTION.**

"This Synod while believing that the teaching of our standards on the subject of marriage with a deceased wife's sister, is in harmony with the doctrine of Scripture, and further, that a departure from existing practice according to our law would be not an enlargement but a curtailment of the proper freedom of the family circle,—yet, inasmuch as there is a well-known diversity of view among eminent and excellent ministers and scholars of the Presbyterian Church on this point,—and especially as this cannot be deemed a matter of such vital importance as to affect the doctrine or life of the Church,—Resolve that the Sessions of the Church be allowed a discretionary power to deal with existing cases of said marriage, or any that may emerge in such a way as may in their judgment best subserve the interests of truth and righteousness."

Still another motion was proposed by

Rev. J. B. Logan, seconded by Rev. John Cameron :

**MOTION OF REV. J. B. LOGAN.**

"Resolve to adhere to the standards of the Church and enjoin Presbyteries to deal with existing cases as may be deemed best for the interests of truth and righteousness."

Rev. Dr. McLeod who closed the discussion, withdrew by leave of Synod the concluding portion of his resolution—(printed above in italics.)

The question was taken first between Mr. Smith's and Mr. Logan's resolutions when the latter was preferred by a vote of 78 to 30. The next trial was between Mr. Logan's and Professor Macknight's, when the former was preferred by a vote of 87 to 22. The final vote was between Mr. Logan's and Dr. McLeod's motion, when the latter was carried by 92 to 41.

**Deputation from the United States.**

The Rev. Dr. Miller, of Ogdensburg, and Dr. Thompson, of Chicago, a Deputation from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States, were introduced; and, being very cordially welcomed, addressed the Synod, expressing the deep interest which they, and the body represented by them, felt in the church and people of these Provinces, as having a common ancestry, holding the same faith, and engaged in the same glorious work. They gave, in eloquent addresses, an account of the great work of Evangelization in which their church was earnestly engaged, and of the agencies and resources by which they were striving to possess the land for Christ, giving special prominence to the progress of union among American Presbyterians, and exhorting us in these Provinces to present a united front to the enemies of our common Christianity.

The brethren concluded by presenting the fraternal greetings of their body, and wishing us success in our aspirations after Presbyterian and Christian Union.

These remarks being responded to by members of Synod, the 133rd Psalm was sung, and the following motion adopted by acclamation :—

"This Synod hails with intense delight the presence among us of honoured and