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1830

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OBINSON. Speaker.

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the Committee had asked leave to sit ordingly.

30th January, 1830.—Pursuant to the Order of the Day, the House was again put into a Committee of the Whole on the Bill intituled: "An Act to Incorporate the Trustees of the Grantham Academy." The Honourable Joseph Wolls took the chair.

After some time the House resumed, and the Chairman reported, that the Committee had taken the said Bill into consideration, had made some amendments thereto, and recommended the same to the adoption of the House. Ordered, that the Report be received.

The said amendment was then read by the Clerk as follows:

Press 2, line 29.—After "appoint" insert "5. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no person not a natural born subject of His Majesty, or a subject naturalized by Act of the British Parliament, or by an Act of the Legislature of this Province, shall be capable of being chosen or appointed, after the passing of this Act, to be a Teacher in the said Academy."

The said amendment being read a second time, and the question of concurrence being put, it was agreed to by the House, and it was ordered, that the amendment be engrossed, and the Bill, as amended, be read a third time on Monday next.

1st February. 1830.—Pursuant to the Order of the Day, the Bill intituled: "An Act to Incorporate the Trustees of the Grantham Academy," was, as amended, read a third time, and the question being put, whether this Bill as amended should pass, it was carried in the affirmative; whereupon the Speaker signed the amendments, and it was ordered that the Master-in-Chancery do go down to the Assembly, and acquaint that House that the Legislative Council have passed this Bill with amendments, to which they desire the concurrence of the Assembly.

9th February, 1830 .- On motion made and seconded, it was ordered, that the Petition of the United Presbytery of Upper Canada, praying that the Education of the Presbyterian youth in the said Province may be provided for, be referred to a Select Committee, with power to send for persons and papers, and to report upon the allegations set forth in the said Petition. Ordered that the Honourable Messieurs William Dickson and George Crookshank be appointed a Committee for that purpose.

19th February, 1830.—The Honourable William Dickson, from the Select Committee appointed to consider and report upon the Petition of the United Presbytery of Upper Canada* presonted their Report. Ordered that the Report be received. The same was then read and is as follows :

To the Honourable Speaker of the Legislative Council:

The Select Committee appointed to examine into and report upon the subject matter of a Petition from the United Presbytery of Upper Canada have made enquiry into the allegations contained in the said Petition, and beg leave to report:

2. That the Petition sets forth:

2. That the Fermion sets forth:

"That from the manner in which your Petitioners stand connected, in their Ministerial capacity, with a very large portion of His Majesty's subjects in this Province, they have the means of knowing, and it is with deep regret they are compelled to say, that the state of Education is in general in a deplarable condition. Although for many years a liberal provision has been made for the education of youth in this Province, yet the benevolent designs of the Legislature have failed in effecting the object they had in view. "The appointment of Trustees from one communion alone has occasioned a jealousy in the minds of the people, and destroyed that confidence which should ever be placed in the Public Institutions of our country. It might have been expected that as all classes of the community, and all denominations of Christians have to bear the expenses of these Institutions, that the interests of all would have been consulted, and that persons of intelligence and education of all denominations, would have been allowed to participate in their superintendence. Your Petitioners, with deep regret find that this is not the case."

3. For these allegations your Committee, after the minutest enquiry, have discovered that there is not the slightest foundation; and they think it a matter much to be regretted, that a body of men acting under so respectable a name as the "United Presbytery of Upper Canada," should have advanced statements so entirely unsupported by facts, especially as these statements are of a nature calculated to excite jealousies and discontent, where none ought in justice to exist.

4. The Act of 1807, under which the District (Grammar) Schools were established, has nothing exclusive in any of its provisions. It authorizes the Government to appoint not less than five fit and discreet persons in each District to be Trustees of the District (Grammar) School; these Trustees in each District are to nominate a fit and discreet person to be the Teacher, and to examine into his moral character, learning and capacity; and the Govornor may affirm or disaffirm their nomination. It will thus be seen that the law exacts no conformity to any particular creed or worship, either in the Trustees or Teacher. Fitness, discretion, moral character, learning and capacity, are the only qualifications the Statute speaks of.

^{*}A copy of this Petition will be found on page 298. The proceedings of the Presbytery on this subject, and its raply to the Report of the Legislative Council on the Petition will be found at the end of the Legislative Council proceedings, page 315.