

Mr. McLEAN.—I don't know that I have any right to say anything now, but yesterday the speech of Rev. Mr. Lang, who sits beside me, was continuously interrupted. Certainly as much freedom ought to be allowed on the present occasion.

THE CHAIRMAN.—I think we had better go on without interruptions.

Mr. MACMASTER.—I stand corrected.

PRINCIPAL GRANT.—I say that, though an independent Church, we remembered the claims of courtesy. We felt, therefore, that we should consult the Mother Church and ask if she approved of the step we were about to take. And, Mr. Chairman, though we were absolutely independent, though our relations with the Mother Church were only those of sympathy, friendship and assistance from her, still, if that venerable Court had said: We disapprove of the step you propose to take; your basis of union does not satisfy us—if she had given one such hint, why then the union would have stopped there and then. We owed the same courtesy to the parent Church that I have already said we would have shown to Mr. Lang and his friends had they at the outset declared themselves opposed to union. What, then, did the Mother Church say? Not only did she declare emphatically, as was read yesterday, her approval; not only did the General Assembly state that there was nothing whatever in the terms of union that prevented her approving or wishing us "God speed"; but the year following, when Dr. Jenkins and myself were delegates, and mentioned that the union had taken place, but that some dissenters in Canada considered that our action savoured of disloyalty to the parent Church, the answer was emphatically to the contrary. The motion that was to be submitted to the Assembly was read to us beforehand, and we were allowed to add what is now the last sentence in it. I will read the sentence:—

"The General Assembly, having learned from the deputies that an impression exists in Canada that the Church of Scotland regards the action of those connected with her in Canada in forming the union now consummated as an indication of disloyalty to the parent Church, assure the deputies that they entertain no such idea; but, on the contrary, give full credit to the representations which they have received from the brethren on that subject."

Mr. MACMASTER.—Will you read a sentence before page 282. I do not like half a statement going to the Committee.

PRINCIPAL GRANT.—I will read the whole of the deliverance:—

"The Assembly have heard with much interest that the union of Presbyterians in the Dominion of Canada has at length taken place. The terms on