

3. Because, there is injustice committed against Mr. Ure, for the important explanations which he is said to have made are not made public, and therefore both he and the Court are deprived of the benefit of them.

3. Because this decision involves a culpable loosening of the bonds of discipline, likely exert a pernicious influence not only in the Congregation of Toronto, but throughout the Church. It is well known that this Congregation has been involved in trouble and contention for more than a year, and now this Court has brought the whole case abruptly to a close, without having the faithfulness to say where the blame lies, or addressing any word of admonition or reproof to either party.

(Signed) Wm. TAYLOR, D. D.,  
W. ATKIN,  
ALEXANDER HENDERSON,  
JOHN McCLURE,  
Wm. FRASER.

Agreed that the foregoing reasons of dissent from the final decision on the case of Mr. Ure, be inserted in the minutes; and that Dr. Ferrier, Messrs. Drummond, Torrance, Thomson and Skinner, be appointed a committee to answer them. To report to-morrow forenoon. Dr. Ferrier, Convener.

Mr. Jennings, for himself and the Session of Toronto congregation, gave in, in addition to the above, reasons of dissent of the following tenor, viz:

1. Because the Synod have refused to enter upon the moral merits of the case.

2. Because the Synod have resolved to give Mr. Ure a certificate of church membership, notwithstanding that he was accused of making five statements before this Court, all of which could be proved to be untrue, by evidence offered by the Session and produced in Court.

3. Because the decision of Synod subverts the ordinary principles of morality held even by irreligious men—not to speak of the high obligations of our holy faith.

(Signed) JOHN JENNINGS,  
Moderator of Session.

These reasons were received, and the same Committee appointed to answer the reasons of dissent of Dr. W. Taylor and others, were appointed to answer them.

The Committee to whom was referred the reasons of dissent of Dr. William Taylor and others, against the decision of Synod in the case of the Session of Toronto congregation and Mr. Ure; as also the reasons of dissent from the same decision by Mr. Jennings and the Session, gave in answers to the said reasons of the following tenor:

*Answers to reasons of Dissent by Dr. William Taylor and others.*

1. The Committee beg leave to remark, that the Synod, by appointing a Select Committee to retire with the parties, by no means intended to proceed with a private investigation, but were only desirous to prepare for, and facilitate, a subsequent public investigation.

2. The Committee have only to state, that the "important explanations" were made public before the Court in the Report of the Select Committee, which will be published in the minutes.

3. The whole conduct of this Synod secures it against being justly characterized as being disposed, either directly or indirectly, to "loosen the bonds of discipline;" inasmuch as that, whilst it uniformly attributes the highest importance to this ordinance, it at the same time protects the rights of members, Sessions and Presbyteries.

But your Committee cannot see that there is any "loosening of the bonds of discipline" involved in the decision of Synod; for it has merely declared the incompetency of the Session to institute proceedings against Mr. Ure for expressions employed before this Court last year, which passed unchallenged at the time; and therefore we cannot perceive how any pernicious consequences will follow in the congregation of Toronto, or in any other; and even if there should be, the Synod is not responsible. This Court has not brought the matter abruptly to a close, nor refrained from saying where the blame lies; for by affirming the decision of the Presbytery of Toronto, they declared that the Session was in blame for taking up the case. Nor is it consistent with fact, "that no word of admonition was addressed to either party;" and as for reproof, it was felt to be uncalled for in the circumstances.

The same committee gave in at the same time, answers to the reasons of dissent from the decision of Synod in the case given by the Moderator and Session of the Toronto congregation, as follows:—

*Answers to Reasons of Dissent by the Session of Toronto congregation.*

1. That in as far as this case was before the Court, neither its moral nor ecclesiastical merits were overlooked.

2. Certain accusations against Mr. Ure's veracity were, it is true, forced on the Court; but were met to their satisfaction by Mr. Ure's explanations, which showed that the allegations of the Session referred to a period subsequent to the Synod of 1852, the transactions of which he does not impugn; whereas his language had reference to a time anterior to that period—thus appearing to be merely a misunderstanding between the parties, and involving no moral delinquency. The Synod, therefore, in giving Mr. Ure a certificate of membership, do no more than justice to him; as it simply places him in the position in which he was

left by them in 1852, from which the Session, by proceedings for which they were incompetent, were attempting to displace him.

3. This reason is so gross in itself, that it carries its own refutation with it; and is so insulting to the Court, that your Committee submit that it should be allowed to remain without further notice.

The answers to reasons of dissent, in both instances, were adopted by the Synod, and ordered to be engrossed in the minutes.

On the motion of Mr. Duff, seconded by Mr. Kennedy,

That the Protest and Appeal of Cameron and others against a decision of the Presbytery of Toronto, refusing to organize them into a congregation of the United Presbyterian Church in Toronto, be taken up.

Received a memorial from the Managers of the Congregation of Toronto, in reference to the case of Appeal, Cameron and others against the decision of the Toronto Presbytery, the memorial being transmitted by the Presbytery.

Took up the case of Protest and Appeal, Cameron and others against a decision of the Presbytery of Toronto, refusing to grant the prayer of a petition for the erection of a new Congregation of the United Presbyterian Church in the City of Toronto.

Read the report of the Presbytery of Toronto, transmitting the case. Read the decision of the Presbytery appealed from; also, the reasons of protest and appeal by the Appellants. Read also the Report of the Presbytery's Deputy to examine into the state and prospects of the Petitioners; also, the petition first presented to the Presbytery, and signed by twenty persons; also the resolutions originating the petition; also, another petition signed by eighteen persons, and which was brought before the Presbytery by its Deputy. Heard Mr. Cameron in support of the Appeal. Heard Messrs. Dick and Fraser in defence of the decision of Presbytery.

Heard Mr. Jennings on behalf of himself and the Session and congregation. Heard Mr. Cameron in reply. Heard Mr. Jennings in explanation. Questions were then asked the Commissioner, Mr. Cameron, which were answered. The parties were then removed.

After reasoning, it was moved by Mr. Henderson, seconded by Mr. Hogg,

That this Synod do not think that there is, at present, a Call in Providence to attempt the formation of a new congregation, in this city, in connexion with the United Presbyterian Church; therefore dismiss the Protest and Appeal, and affirm the decision of the Presbytery.

It was moved in amendment by Mr. Kennedy, and seconded by Mr. McNaughton, Ekler,

Sustain the Protest and Appeal, set aside the decision of the Presbytery; and grant the prayer of the petition.

The amendment being first put, was carried; and the Synod did and do decide and resolve in terms thereof.

The Rev. Messrs. Kennedy and McClure were appointed to reply to the Deputation of the Congregational Union, on behalf of the Synod.

Read and received a petition from the Rev. Messrs. Caw, Drummond and Rodgers, members of the Presbytery of Flamboro', on behalf of themselves and certain Sessions and Congregations therein enumerated, praying to be disjoined from the said Presbytery, and to be erected into a new Presbytery.

Also, read and received a petition from the Rev. Mr. Murray, and the Session of the congregation of Blenheim, Burford and Woodstock, within the bounds of the Presbytery of London, praying to be connected with the new Presbytery when formed.

On motion, it was agreed

That the prayer of both these petitions be granted. And that the Ministers, Sessions, and Congregations of Brantford, Maudsland, Glenmorris, Mount Pleasant, Norwich, Paris, Blenheim, Burford and Woodstock, be disjoined from the Presbyteries of Flamboro' and London, respectively; and be erected into a new Presbytery, under the name of the Presbytery of Brant: Mr. Drummond to be Moderator. And that the first meeting be held in this place to-morrow, the 21st instant, at twelve o'clock, noon.

The Rev. Professor Taylor, and Mr. Duff, were appointed to deliver Addresses on Missions at the meeting of Synod next year.

On motion, it was resolved that the Committee of Missions of last year be reappointed, with the addition of Messrs. Barrie, Dunbar, Ministers, and Messrs. McNaughton and Fotheringham, Elders.

The Committee, as thus reconstructed, will then stand as follows—namely: The Rev. Professor Taylor, Dr. Ferrier, the Rev. Messrs. Jennings, Torrance, Hogg, Barrie, Dunbar, and Thomas Christie (Treasurer, *ex officio*); together with Robert Christie (the Synod's Treasurer, *ex officio*), Thomas Armstrong, and Thomas Fotheringham, Esq. Mr. Torrance, Convener.

The Rev. Professor Taylor, Dr. Ferrier, and Mr. Thomson, Ministers; and Messrs. McNaughton, Roy, and Henderson, Elders, were appointed a Committee on Public Questions, with especial reference to the questions of Slavery, of Sectarian Schools, and the Right of Public Discussion; with instructions to report.