

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC.

Moved by REV. MR. MIDDLEMISS seconded by REV. JOHN FRASER,

That the Synod having heard and considered the returns to the overture from Knox Church, Montreal, ament the use of Instrumental Music in Public Worship, find that a majority of Presbyteries, are on various grounds opposed to the granting of the prayer of the said overture, and therefore refuse to grant the same; and after full consideration of the subject, declare that the use of Instrumental Music in public worship is contrary to the principles and immemorial practice of this Church and is not to be permitted in any congregation connected therewith: And further the Synod cannot refrain from expressing regret that, notwithstanding repeated recommendations, so little interest is taken generally with a view to the improvement of the service of praise in public worship; and again urge on Kirk sessions and Congregations to consider their responsibility in the matter and to be at pains and expense with a view to the improvement of this important part of public worship.

In seconding the above motion MR. FRASER spoke as follows:—

MODERATOR,—

Nothing is more out of place than the reflections which are cast on the Gaelic adherents of our Church. Dislike of these innovations is not a peculiarity of the Highlanders; and even if it were, is there a heart in the Free Church of Scotland that does not beat in unison with their feelings? They feel strongly. It would be a wonder—perhaps an unhappy indication—if they did not. It would be, to me at least, the sign of an altered—a declining loyalty to the Church of their fathers—of a declining piety. They love their Church; they love her with an intense, a chivalrous affection. The very rocks and waterfalls of their native glens are holy for her sake. Cradled in their northern hills, where Presbyterianism has had for ages the whole field to itself, they knew no church but one; and sad and untimely is the legislation that would sorely aggrive and alienate the hearts of that faithful and ardent people by the engraftment, in the face of their conscientious protests, of a foreign element on the service of our Sanctuaries, against which the Presbyterian sentiment of Scotland is so strong as to be proverbial.