

relieved of the responsibility of casting out of church fellowship on grounds so much disputed, those who are so married.

2. It was moved by Principal Willis, seconded by Rev. W. Gregg :— That having regard to the importance of the subject brought before the Synod, one on which the Confession of Faith gives no uncertain sound, declaring (chap. 24, sec. 4), on scriptural grounds there referred to, that marriages within certain degrees of affinity, including the relationship of a man to the sister of his deceased wife are forbidden by the divine law, and can never be made lawful by any law of man, or consent of parties, the Synod sees no sufficient ground for modifying the existing ecclesiastical rule of its communion, in this particular which is also in harmony with the civil law of Great Britain. But willing to treat with respect the difficulties of some among whom questions have arisen as to the relevancy or sufficiency of the scripture grounds on which the prohibition of marriage with the specific degree of affinity brought under notice is held to rest, agree to appoint a committee to give its consideration to the subject, with the view of elucidating the scriptural basis of said law, and showing, as far as may be, to parties aggrieved by our rules of discipline, that these do not rest on slight or arbitrary grounds.

3. It was moved by Mr. D. Inglis, seconded by Mr. Andrew Wilson— That the prayer of the Overture be not granted ; and that the Synod affirm the continued adherence to the declaration of the Westminster Confession on the subject to which the Overture refers.

After very full discussion a division took place, when the amendment by Mr. D. Inglis was carried by a majority over that of Principal Willis, and over the motion of Mr. McMullen by a vote of 49 to 37. On the yeas and nays being called for, 52 voted yea and 37 nay.

DAY OF THANKSGIVING.

In accordance with an overture presented by Principal Willis and other members, the Synod, recognizing the remarkable goodness of God in the season of the year, recommended to all their congregations the observance of the divine dispensation whether of mercy or of judgment ; and authorized the Moderator, as he shall see fit, to appoint a day of thanksgiving, or call the congregations to this exercise, either at a time that may be appointed by the Civil authority, or may appear likely to be concurred in by other churches.

CASES OF APPEAL, &c.

Although happily there were fewer appeals before the Synod than on previous occasions, still no small portion of the time of the Synod was taken up in this way. The principal case was one of appeal from a decision of the Presbytery of Ottawa, in reference to a matter which had originated in the Session of Ramsay.

The case, in which Miss Baird was the applicant, was first put into the hands of a committee, and was afterwards at length considered by the Synod itself. The parties were all fully heard, and all the documents in the case were read. The case was disposed of by the appointment of a small commission of Synod to proceed to Ramsay, with power to hear and finally to issue the case. This motion was carried against a motion to discuss the appeal, and against another to dismiss it as frivolous and vexatious.

Two references were brought before the Synod by the Presbytery of Cobourg. One of them was anent the refusal of Mr. F. Andrews to lay before the Session of Keene and Westwood a proposal from the Presbytery to the effect that the labours of Mr. Andrews be confined to Keene, and that Westwood should be associated with Warsaw to form a distinct charge.