

intercourse, in the hope that hereafter all branches of the Presbyterian family in the Dominion of Canada shall be gathered into one General Assembly.

Mr. James Court, one of the deputation appointed by this Synod to visit the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces, gave a brief report of the discharge of the duty entrusted them by the Synod, and of the very cordial reception which they had received.

We may here mention that at a subsequent diet there was laid before the Synod an overture in favour of more intimate intercourse with other Presbyterian Churches. There was read also a letter from the United Presbyterian Church of North America and a communication from the Synod of the Evangelical Missionary Church of Belgium, at whose Synod Dr. Willis had been present last summer. The overture was approved of, and in accordance with its spirit, the Synod appointed deputations to other churches as follows: Rev. A. Topp, Moderator of Synod, and Rev. W. B. Clark to the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces; Rev. Dr. Ormiston and Rev. T. Wardrop to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, O.S.; Rev. A. Wilson to the United Presbyterian Church of North America; Rev. W. Gregg to the Dutch Reformed Church in the United States; Rev. Messrs. McVicar, Gibson, and Mr. J. Court to the French Evangelical Church of the Province of Quebec. The Moderator was authorized to designate a representative to the Congregational Union of Canada, and to the Synod of the Church of Scotland. The Moderator and joint clerks were appointed a committee to grant commissions to ministers who may be proceeding to Europe to represent this Church in the Free Church of Scotland; the United Presbyterian Church in Scotland; the Presbyterian Church of Ireland; the Presbyterian Church in England; the Free Church in France; the Waldenses, and the Belgian Missionary Church; and that in the event of no deputies being available for next year, they be authorized to send fraternal letters to these churches.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC.

On Friday evening the subject of instrumental music was introduced by the report of the Committee appointed to examine the returns of Presbyteries and Sessions to the overture sent down for consideration by last Synod. The report stated that returns had been received from all the Presbyteries; that of these, five recommended that the prayer of the overture be granted—two approving simpliciter, viz.: Ottawa and Kingston; and three approving with conditions, viz.: Brockville, Cobourg, and Paris; that of the remaining Presbyteries eight disapprove, viz.: Montreal, Ontario, Toronto, Guelph, London, Stratford, Huron and Grey; and one, viz. Hamilton, resolves that it would be inexpedient in present circumstances to pass any declaratory act on the subject, but that a due measure of liberty should be granted to congregations unanimously, or by very large majorities, desiring to introduce instrumental music as an aid in leading the praises of the congregation; that further, of the forty-three sessions making returns, thirty-four disapprove, eight approve, and one declines to give a deliverance.

A discussion ensued which was prolonged through several diets, in the course of which the following motions were brought forward with the view of disposing of the question:

1. 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, against the use of instrumental music in Public Worship, find that a majority of Presbyteries are, though on various grounds, opposed to the granting of the prayer of the said overture, and