

to Knox's Church. In the circumstances, I adopted the course which our constitutional law has pointed out. When the legal number for a Session does not exist, the Moderator is required to bring the matter in the way of information before the Presbytery, that they may adopt one or other of two courses : Either they at once name Assessors to act with the Minister in order to form a Session ; or they take the matter into their own hands, and meet with the congregation and the Minister, that measures may be adopted to fill up the vacancy. This last was adopted, and I think wisely ; for the circumstances which led to the production of the vacancy were not of the ordinary kind, and plainly demanded Presbyterian enquiry. Within this limit, however, was the matter confined, and all beyond, is a gratuitous invasion of constitutional rights.

Our Session met on the 23d October to hear objections, if any, to the ordination of two elders. Nine protests had been handed in, signed by a very large proportion of communicants on the roll. These had been read ; observations in the way of reply had been made on them by the Elders elect ; and the Court was about to judge of the whole matter, when, to my utter amazement, Messrs. McMurrich and Shaw read a long and carefully studied narrative of Sessional, Presbyterian and Synodical proceedings ; and on these, associated with *their* views of the Moderator's conduct, based reasons for their deed of resignation. In strong language they give it as a matter of opinion and of feeling that they had "ceased to have confidence in the prudence, sincerity, or honesty of purpose" of their Pastor and Moderator. To this they give the name of an *opinion*, not a *charge*—a groundless distinction. It *involves* a charge, and a charge of grave magnitude, which ought to be well sustained. And how is it borne out ? By the strange averment that I had called myself Minister of Canada ; and by the fact that I had gone on a mission to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

It may have been wrong in the Church to appoint me to such multiplicity of labours as awaited me in Canada, and it may have been presumptuous in me to undertake them. But certain it is, that such was the arrangement made, and I am not conscious of having violated or overdone it. Among many documents to which an appeal may be made, I select the following. The "Reasons of Translation" given in by the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland in January, 1845, to the Presbytery of Paisley are these :—