

this Mr. Ryan objected, as that would carry his trial beyond the General Conference, now just at hand: and thereby deprive him of an appeal to that Conference, should he be brought under censure. He would rather his case should now be examined. A Committee was therefore appointed to examine the subject and to report to the Conference. The Committee sat, and the subject was laid before them in the following words:—"W. Cess complains that Brother Ryan has been concerned in the circulation of a certain Circular, signed "A lover of truth," by which means excitements and commotions have been created, injurious to the cause of religion, and wounding to the feelings of our people." The Committee reported that as Mr. Ryan was willing to submit to the trial, they recommended the Conference to receive the charge.

In the process of the trial, a lengthy examination of evidences took place, in which it appeared that these papers, published about January, 1827, were highly charged with language of abuse against the two preceding Conferences, falsely stating their proceedings; and publicly impeaching, by name, individual members of those Conferences—that great numbers of these papers had been forwarded to different parts of the Province, some by mail, enclosing the former Circular, and to persons neither members of our church nor professors of religion—that in several places these inflammatory papers were injurious in their effects in neighbourhoods and families. They promoted angry feelings, and excited even threats against the Conference and its members. It further appeared that quantities of these papers were scattered along the settlements at the time Mr. Ryan passed down the country through the Cobourg and Hallowell circuits,—that the excitements were the most where most of these Circulars were spread, and where Mr. Ryan spent the most of his time,—that in the Niagara circuit, these papers were found scattered along the road where Mr. Ryan had just past,—that in several places they were found in the door yards in the morning, after Mr. Ryan had passed in the evening. It furthermore appeared, that Mr. Ryan had those papers with him in his journeys,—that he read them, and handed them to sundry persons,—that in one instance he attempted to read one of these papers to a family, but was requested by the pious females not to do it, as the master of the house made no profession of religion,—that persisting in his design to read it, they again forbid it, when he desisted; but in a few days one of the same papers came by mail, addressed to the master of this family. It also further appeared, that Mr. Ryan having handed one of these papers to a person, he proceeded to justify its contents.

Several of those letters were produced, which had been directed to different persons, and which were stated as the "opinion" of the evidences, that they were Mr. Ryan's writing, some in his natural

* See p. 9 of this letter.

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