

every paper for years, and the people knew what was involved. They knew that any congregation that did not vote would be held as assenting to the well understood mind of the Synod on the subject. As a matter of fact, it was understood that those congregations that did not vote were in favour of union. Those congregations came into the union, and are in to this day. What, then, was the result of appealing to the congregations? Why, a greater degree of unanimity than could have been anticipated; vastly greater, certainly, than you ever expect to get in Parliament. Out of 150 congregations only 10 voted nay, and in almost every one of those ten, minorities were favourable to union. Was it possible ever to get a larger popular majority than that on this planet? Having thus got our Synod and all our lower Courts in favour, and having seen what the general mind of the Church was, what did we do? Unite? No; not yet. We said: "We are an independent Church, no doubt of that."* The Act was read to you yesterday; that Act of Independence was assented to by Mr. Lang; it had to be assented to by every minister of our Church; they could not have been inducted as ministers otherwise; an Act declaring in the strongest way that as a Church we were independent.

MR. MACMASTER.—Only ecclesiastically.

PRINCIPAL GRANT.—Ecclesiastically and spiritually. We do not pretend to be more than that now. We went to the proper Courts for temporal legislation.

MR. MACMASTER.—And lost there.

PRINCIPAL GRANT.—No; we never went to law; we went to the law making power; and we now come to headquarters for our law. This is a legislature, that is, a law making body. I say, then, gentlemen, that we were an independent Synod. Mr. Macmaster anticipated, but anticipated erroneously, what I was going to say on this point. He should have had patience, as he will see when he hears my next sentence. I say that we considered that, while independent as a Church, we were gentlemen, and it became us to remember the claims of courtesy.

MR. MACMASTER.—You did not care about the Courts.

PRINCIPAL GRANT.—What we did before the Legislatures will be brought before you fully in the proper place. Is it not better to take things in order?

THE CHAIRMAN.—Yesterday the speaker was allowed to proceed without interruptions, unless to correct a statement on a matter of fact. The speaker ought not to be interrupted.

* See Appendix for proof that the Canadian Church was independent.