

select a Minister, the privilege of having several candidates for the charge was afforded them, in order that they might have the opportunity of choosing the one who might prove the most acceptable to the Congregation. We feel therefore that the arrangements which have been made by you practically exclude us from hearing any Minister who might feel disposed to offer himself as a candidate.

"We must also express our surprise that, although the Church was declared vacant on the 22nd day of January last, no public intimation has been given of the fact, nor to our knowledge has any Minister but one, been nominated by you to the candidature of said vacant charge.

"We appeal therefore to you, as the guardians of our rights in this important question, and ask that you will not force us into the position of having to vote for or against the only party you have nominated, without giving us the opportunity of hearing other Ministers, and thereby enabling us the better to make a selection.

"In our movement in this matter, we desire to assure you that we are solely actuated by a sincere wish to preserve the harmony of the Congregation and to prevent its possible disruption should the election be forced upon us at the very early day you have named.

"We therefore trust that you will carefully consider the very important interests involved, and we most earnestly request that you will defer the election of a Minister to supply the place of our late esteemed Pastor, for such a period as the law governing these matters permits.

"In the interim, we hope you will cause the vacancy to be known in the Synods of our Church in Scotland as well as in the Dominion, as we believe the income which Saint Andrew's Church can offer is such as will secure a Clergyman of the highest talent. Your Petitioners therefore earnestly request that the Rev. Mr. Cameron have liberty to retire from the temporary charge of the Congregation, in order that the way may be perfectly open to receive and hear other candidates."

A meeting of the Elders and Trustees was held on the 28th March to consider this Petition. Mr. Murdoch requested the minutes of the meeting of 4th February to be read. He called attention to the important omission which had been made in the Resolution then passed with regard to notifying the vacancy in the Church; and he stated that had he been present on 9th February, the minutes in that shape would not have been con-