

Session of Windsor have acted in violation of the law of the Church, as laid down in the Confession of Faith; but, inasmuch, as some members of Presbytery have considerable sympathy with the reasons urged by the Session in defence of their action, and others had been led to entertain grave doubts as to whether the doctrine of the Confession on this point is fully borne out by the Word of God, the Presbytery resolve to sist procedure in the meantime, and refer to Synod for their advice and decision on two points, viz.: 1. Whether the discretion allowed to Sessions in administering the laws of the Church may not be so far extended as to permit the admission to membership of parties living in marriage within the prohibited degrees of affinity when the marriage took place many years ago, when the parties do not believe that there is anything improper in the connexion, and when public attention is not particularly directed to the case, so that it cannot be said to create scandal: and 2. Whether there may not be reason for the Synod to reconsider the question of prohibited degrees of affinity, with a view to re-affirming or altering the present law of the Church as they may see cause."

Professor McKnight's resolution was carried by a majority of twelve to seven. The matter will accordingly go to Synod. The Presbytery adjourned to meet in Popular Grove Church, on the second Tuesday of February, at 2 p. m.

Presbyterial Visitation at Florenceville and Glassville.

The Presbytery of St. John at a late meeting appointed a deputation to visit this remote congregation which is under the pastoral care of the Rev. Samuel Bernard. The visitation at Florenceville was held on Wednesday the 16th November, both deputies of Presbytery being present. After a sermon by Mr. Burgess, the questions put were answered as follows:

The pastor says that he endeavors to preach the Gospel faithfully; he visits the congregation ministerially once a year; he visits the afflicted as attentively as possible; he attends Church courts as far as his circumstances admit. He preaches in this section on alternate Sabbaths, in the morning in their own Church at Greenfield, and in the evening in the Congregational Church at Florenceville; the average attendance is forty or fifty; only four communicants in this section,—two were added since his settlement; there are some two or three others whom he expected to join the Church and to whom he has spoken personally on the matter, but they have not yet; tried to keep up a Sabbath School, but its continuance has been very irregular

as no superintendent could be had when he was absent; want of will is the cause of this rather than the want of ability; there is no prayer meeting,—no one in this section will engage in public prayer; a few families keep family worship, but his conviction is that it is irregularly kept up; about twelve families are in this section; parents do not take much pains in the religious training of their children; only one copy of the *Record* is taken here; three or four were taken, but the parents said their families took no interest in it, and so the subscription dropped; but a few dollars were given to missions last year; very few of the people bring Bibles or prayer-books to public worship; there was a deficient supply of Bibles, which he endeavored to meet as far as the demand went, and even beyond the demand; \$146 was promised towards his support annually, cannot tell how much was paid or how much is due, kept no regular account; all that are real Presbyterians have paid what they promised most punctually.

Hugh McCain, one of the collectors, being present was interrogated as to the financial state of the congregation.

He does not know how much is collected for the pastor; subscriptions are understood to be paid half yearly, but they are paid very irregularly, owing partly to inability and partly to indifference; only one subscription as high as \$10 per annum; a good many are in arrears, some have not paid since the commencement; still keep to the original list, some on that list dead, and some gone away, some new families, but they have never been called upon for anything; few young men, independent of heads of families, can pay anything.

The deputies then addressed the congregation. The advantage of keeping up a prayer meeting and Sabbath school in this section was dwelt upon, especially the holding a prayer-meeting on the Sabbaths the pastor is absent; the improvement of psalmody, and the duty of all to sing, were urged; the systematic support of the Lord's cause in a liberal manner was put before them as plainly and as forcibly as the deputies knew how; the necessity of better organization in financial affairs was commented on and some directions were given as to how that could be remedied; and finally the deputies recommended that then and there a Committee of Management should be appointed. This last recommendation was at once carried out, four men including the collector that was present were named, and all four stood up and promised to act.

Florenceville is a field that presented peculiar difficulties. Until the last few years Presbyterianism was entirely unknown in the place. It may surprise some