

The Presbytery again met in the afternoon, and proceeded to consider Mr. McRuer's resignation of Knox Church, Ayr. Parties having been heard, and Mr. McRuer having intimated continued adherence to his resignation, the Presbytery loosed him from his charge in the following terms:—

"The Presbytery having heard the commissioners from the congregation of Knox Church, Ayr, in reference to the resignation of their pastor, the Rev. D. McRuer, and also Mr. McRuer for himself, who intimated his continued adherence to his resignation for the reasons formerly stated, the Presbytery agree, as they hereby do, to accept of said resignation, and dissolve the pastoral relation now existing between Mr. McRuer and the congregation of Knox Church, Ayr, said dissolution to take effect on and after the 26th day of February, 1871. The Presbytery also appoint Mr. Wm. Robertson, of Chesterfield, to preach the church vacant on the first Sabbath of March, and Mr. James Robertson, of Paris, to act as Moderator of Kirk Session during the vacancy.

"The Presbytery, in agreeing reluctantly to such a course, feel called upon to record their high appreciation of Mr. McRuer's services in this Presbytery, and his unwearied labours for a space of 20 years in Ayr and other charges in the neighbourhood, in preaching a sound Gospel and upholding the principles of the Presbyterian Church; they also gratefully record the large measure of success which has attended his labours in connection with his present charge, and the strong bond of attachment which has ever existed between pastor and people; and now, in parting from a brother so beloved, they follow him and his family to their distant home with earnest prayers; they fondly hope that in the land of his adoption, and in the Sister Presbyterian Church of the United States, he may enjoy a large measure of spiritual prosperity, and be greatly blessed in establishing and confirming the churches of our common faith in the district where he may reside, and that finally called to give in his account, he may have many seals of his ministry gathered out of the different congregations in which he has successfully laboured."

The pastoral relations existing between the Rev. Mr. Richardson, of the united charge of Culloden and Tilsonburgh, were also dissolved, after hearing parties in the case. The dissolution of the pastoral tie in this case does not take effect until the last Sabbath of April. The following minute was also adopted: "The Presbytery, in parting from Mr. Richardson, desire to record their sense of Mr. Richardson's unwearied labours and zeal in his present charge for the past eight years. They follow him with their earnest prayers for the restoration of his health, and their fond hope that a wide and effectual door of usefulness may speedily be opened up to him."

Minutes of a congregational meeting of Willis Church, Blenheim, were read to the effect that said congregation had decided by a majority to ask Presbyter to divide the present congregation of Willis church into two congregations, to worship for the future in the recently erected churches of Drumbo and Princeton. There was also read a memorial signed by 69 members of Willis Church (the entire membership was stated at 180) praying the Presbytery not to take the step indicated by the majority. After hearing parties and papers fully, the Presbytery agreed by a majority to the following deliverance:—

"The Presbytery, having heard papers and parties for and against the division of Willis Church, Blenheim, into two congregations at Princeton and Drumbo, and taking into account the interests of Presbyterianism at large in that locality, and the fact that new churches have been recently erected at the places mentioned, feel constrained to approve of the action of the majority which seeks a division of Willis Church into the two congregations of Drumbo and Princeton, and accordingly, in view of all the circumstances of the case, sanction the proposed division, and leave it to the Kirk Session of Willis Church, Blenheim, to carry out the above decision and arrange the communion roll accordingly.

"The Presbytery desire also to express their pleasure at the excellent spirit manifested by the Commissioners for and against the proposed division, and feel assured that the same harmony and brotherly love that has characterized the