

while doing an injury to a pastor, and to a Session, and to a congregation, ignoring the ordinary rules of justice recognized by every civilized country in dividing a congregation in so light a manner as to loosen the spirit of Christ which makes for union, and to separate without adequate cause that bond of love whereby Christ has bound His people as one. The pastoral relation is founded on the feeling of one party to the other in the Lord. It is a worthy and holy relationship, the very blossom of the Church. No church court deserves to exist which does not prize as its highest and most glorious duty the cherishing of this relationship to the whole extent of its power. As we are forbidden on the one hand to overrule the conscience of a Christian flock by an enforced appointment of a pastor, so on the other hand are we warned that in no case is a Presbytery to countenance measures tending to sacrifice a minister to the unreasonable feelings of his Session or of a party in his congregation.

In the Presbytery of Quebec it would appear that we have a party who are ready to countenance conspirators outside of the congregation whose aim is to overthrow by violent means the pastoral relation, a party who are enraged when challenged, a party with such inflated notions of their powers and immunity from criticism and from the law itself, that they must be coddled, and toadied, and cringed to, and when the law interferes, their absurdities and madness are revealed, and, when challenged with the principles of constitutional government, make fools of themselves.