

us and them. Nor can we afford to dispense with their effective services in supplementing the provision of divine ordinances for the rapidly increasing masses of our population, whose spiritual destitution, even with all the help which they are able to give, we cannot fully supply. Wherefore, let us walk with them, and work with them, as brethren. Let us think less of those minute points on which they differ from us, and much more of those incomparably greater and more numerous points on which we are agreed. Let all the asperities of past conflicts be forgotten; let all the diversities of sentiment that still subsist be candidly viewed and charitably borne with, and let our only striving be a generous rivalry in zeal for the cause and kingdom of our common Lord, and in labors of love for the welfare of our fellow-creatures.

CRIEFF ORGAN CASE.

Procurator Cook submitted the following motion to the House:

"The General Assembly having heard the reference stated at the bar by members of Presbytery, find that there is sufficient evidence in the papers before the Assembly that the introduction of instrumental music in the performance of public worship in the Church of Crieff would be a cause of division in that church and congregation; and the Assembly therefore remit the case to the Presbytery of Auchterarder, with instructions to disallow any proposal that may be made to them with that purpose, and to see to the due observance of Worship in the Church of Crieff, according to the ordinary practices of the Church."

Dr. Pirie said he rose very much in consequence of the speech of his learned friend, Mr. Swinton, who always spoke with apparently enormous power, but when they came to consider what he actually said, there was not much in it after all. (Laughter.) He acknowledged that the proceedings in this case in the Lower Courts had driven the Synod, the Presbytery, the kirk-session a little out of their minds, and produced the same effect on the Congregation, and what his learned friend proposed was that they should return to the riding commission of former days, and send down members to enquire into the case. If such was to be the effect of the measures which had been taken in Crieff, he wished to ask what would be the effect in all the parishes? (Applause.) He wished them to remember what had been overlooked in this discussion—viz., that in deciding this case they were actually deciding for the Church at large. (applause.) They should remember that they had been discussing organs. (A laugh.) They could only be procured where the congregation was wealthy—generally in towns—and suitable persons required to be obtained to perform upon them. (Applause and hisses.) But they were now to have harmoniums, and for

ought he knew, pianos, and all sorts of things in the Church, and these could be easily procured in the humble parishes of the country where there was a single gentleman of influence connected with them, and where persons who had been six months at boarding-school might desire to exhibit their capabilities ("Oh, oh," Applause and hisses.) He would not say anything disrespectful of any one, but he was speaking serious practical facts—facts which ought to weigh with every gentleman present; for he believed that they would yet be far more extensively realized. The question was, were they to introduce an element of discord and confusion not only in the parish of Crieff, but in almost all the parishes of Scotland? Sometimes indeed it might arise from the minister, sometimes it might arise from the elders, but in many cases it might arise by possibility from the people, and there was no means by which it could be prevented. They had to determine what were the relative numbers under which they were to grant the use of these musical instruments in one case, and decline it in another. His learned friend suggested a poll in every place, and one gentleman said a majority was to decide. Were they to call a public meeting of the parishoners, that they might determine whether an organ or musical instrument was to be introduced? His learned friend said a certain number of the people—a respectable minority as he called it—was to decide the matter. But what was the respectable minority he would be inclined to give away to? Was it to be ten, twenty, or what number was it to be? His learned friend said there were 105; but a member of Synod said that number had been diminished, apparently by the disgust of the people. No doubt, the number of dissentients would greatly diminish, but it would be by diminishing the number in the Parish Churches, as the people would leave the church. For his own part, he had no sympathy with the introduction of these instruments, and he believed their introduction was inconsistent with the constitution of the Church, and inconsistent with the laws of the Church. (Hear, hear, and applause.) He really conceived these organs to be of inferior importance, though his honest impression was that, where a man required organs and other instrumental music in order that his love for God and his desire to praise God might be elevated by sentimental means, if he might so express it, it was not the very best sign of spiritual improvement either in a parish or individual. (Hisses, "oh," and "Quite right.") But, feeling that was a matter of comparatively less importance, in a parish perfectly harmonious he should be prepared at once to say to the Presbytery "Let them go on; it can do no harm." But if, in such a case the usage of the Church, which had prevailed for 200 years, was to be overthrown, and if they were to allow changes