

Cromwell. Mr. James Allan, who said that he had not taken any part either for or against the use of instrumental music, then addressed the Commission. Mr. Burns also made a statement with reference to the history and position of the question in the congregation. The Commission adjourned to meet to-morrow at ten o'clock a.m.

In the same place, Friday the 20th day of August, 1880, the Commission again met and was constituted. Sederunt as before.

An opportunity was given to any who had not previously made any statement to do so now, but no one came forward.

The Commission then agreed that each party in the congregation should select five of their number to confer with the Commission with the view of arriving at a settlement that might be satisfactory to all. Five members were accordingly selected by each party, and a conference was held by the Commission with these parties so appointed. Thereafter the Commission unanimously adopted the following deliverance:—

The Commission having met with the congregation of Knox Church, Perth, and the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew, and heard lengthened statements from all the parties interested, finds:

1. That in reference to the cause of the strifes and troubles at present prevailing in Knox Church, Perth, while there appears to have been imprudence in urging the introduction of instrumental music in public worship, in the divided state of feeling upon that question existing in the congregation, the troubles have assumed a form in which the abandonment of instrumental music as an aid in the service of praise would not restore harmony to the congregation.

2. That the present unhappy state of matters in the congregation does not appear to be due to any acts or courses of conduct on the part either of the minister or of the office-bearers of the church, which should have occasioned the existing state of feeling, but is largely due to an apparent tendency to give heed to idle rumours, and to magnify into grave offences trivial mistakes and omissions, which proper church feeling would have passed over as unworthy of serious regard.

3. That the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew is instructed to proceed as early as practicable to hold an election of elders in Knox Church, Perth, but that in view of the present circumstances of the congregation the Commission directs that no person shall be held as elected unless he has a majority of three-fourths of the votes cast, and in conducting the election the Presbytery is instructed to follow the ordinary usage of the Presbyterian Church, and not the rules laid down in the constitution of Knox Church; and further, that the number of elders to be elected in the meantime shall not be more than five in addition to the one already in office.

4. That whereas there is nothing which has been brought to light of such a nature as should prevent the restoration of the harmony between the different sections of the congregation and the pastor and people; the Commission would therefore earnestly counsel them to cultivate a spirit of brotherly kindness and Christian forbearance, and to avoid everything which may tend to revive past alienations.

The meeting of Commission was then closed with prayer.

W. McLAREN, *Moderator*.

W. REID, *Clerk*.

Mr. Crombie craved extracts on behalf of the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew, which were granted.

MINUTES OF COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY IN BROOKSDALE CASE.

At Stratford, and within Knox Church there, on the 7th day of July, 1880, the Commission appointed by the General Assembly for the purpose of determining the question as to how the Presbytery of Stratford should deal with the parties claiming to belong to the Presbyterian church of Zorra, formerly in connection with the Church of Scotland, met and was constituted. Sederunt: Dr. Caven, Moderator, Dr. Wardrope, Mr. J. C. Smith, Mr. R. Torrance, Mr. D. J. Macdonnell, and Mr. C. Davidson. Dr. Reid, one of the Clerks of Assembly, was present and acted as Clerk.

The minute of Assembly appointing this Commission was read. Parties were called and appeared. All parties connected with the case were fully heard. Thereupon the Commission resolved as follows:—

1. The parties claiming to belong to the Presbyterian church of Zorra formerly in connection with the Church of Scotland, to whom supply of service has been given for some time by the Presbytery of Stratford, are recognized, though imperfectly organized, as the congregation of Zorra, which was reported by the Presbytery of London in connection with the Church of Scotland, at the time of the union of the Churches.

2. In the opinion of the Commission it is desirable that services should continue to be held at Brooksdale.

3. The Presbytery of Stratford is instructed to make such arrangements for supply of service at Brooksdale as shall not imperil the interests of the congregation of Harrington.

The meeting of Commission was then closed.