

finding, inasmuch as they merely *authorize* their convenor to take certain action thereon, but do not require or appoint him to do so.

6. The vague nature of Mr. Lawson's relation to the church, as one of its ministers, makes admonition, censure or rebuke to be in his case a trifling matter, as compared with the case of a minister engaged in the church's active work.

For the above and other reasons the Presbytery hold the findings of the Commission unsatisfactory, and claim that they be set aside.

Signed on behalf of the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island, (as on this and preceding pages).

K. MACLENNAN,

*One of the Representatives of the Presbytery in the case.*

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.,

SEPTEMBER 5TH, 1881.

#### ANSWERS TO REASONS OF APPEAL.

I. The following considerations seem sufficient answers to reasons of appeal against the Commission's finding on the Third Count of the Libel:

(a.) The Commission had a right, if they saw cause, to fail to adjudicate on the particular matter brought under their review and to find as they did—*See Rules and Forms, par. 130.*

(b.) The Presbytery appear to mistake the meaning of the Commission's judgment, which has no bearing upon the relevancy of this part of the Libel, but simply upon the Presbytery's wisdom in taking this method of dealing with Mr. Lawson in reference to the matters therein alleged against him. Any offence whatever may be dealt with by way of libel, but the wisdom of dealing with any particular offence or offences in this way is another matter. It is the *wisdom* of the Presbytery in dealing with Mr. Lawson for these alleged offences by way of libel that the Commission, after full consideration of the evidence adduced, have ventured to call in question.

(c.) Whether in taking this view the Commission were right or wrong is for the Assembly to decide.

(d.) The Commission would only observe further that the Presbytery's allegation, as to the profane parodying of Scripture by Mr. Lawson, was not in evidence.

II. The contention of the Commission is that the Presbytery having found grave moral offences proven against Mr. Lawson, were bound to have proceeded forthwith to the judicial infliction of adequate censure.—*See Rules, 315.* Instead of doing so, the Presbytery simply expressed an opinion that Mr. Lawson should be removed from the ministry of the Church. Now the expression of an opinion that a thing should be done is not doing that thing. Besides the Assembly will observe that the opinion itself is in the circumstances meaningless. For the Presbytery informed the Commission (Minutes, page 9) that by removal from the Ministry of the Church they did not necessarily mean deposition. If then their sentence did not necessarily mean deposition, it is plain

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