

92 Minutes of the United Presbyterian Synod in Canada

VI. SEDERUNT.—2 o'clock, p. m.

The Synod of the United Presbyterian Church in Canada met, and was constituted by the Rev. Mr. Coultts, Moderator.

Mrs. Clarke's case resumed.

Resumed consideration of Mrs. Clarke's case.

It was moved by Mr. Jennings and seconded by Mr. Fraser, That having heard the statement of Mrs. Clarke as to the grounds of her complaint against Mr. Ritchie, and having heard Mr. Ritchie's statement, find, that Mrs. Clarke acted in the case under misinformation or misapprehension of what was stated by Mr. Ritchie in the rebuke of Mary Anderson, and therefore, that Mrs. Clarke had no sufficient grounds of complaint. That Mr. Ritchie, in characterizing the offence, should not be restricted or limited to any precise form or set of words. And it appearing that Mr. Ritchie had no intention in what he stated in said rebuke, of injuring the character of James Clarke, or wounding the feelings of his mother, Mrs. Clarke should now feel satisfied to cease from any further complaints. And as she declares that she absented herself from public worship because of imputing a wrong design to Mr. Ritchie in making such statement, recommend her to go to Mr. Ritchie and the Session of West Dumfries, and allow that she is now satisfied with Mr. Ritchie's explanations, and if she shall do so, leave the Session of West Dumfries to replace her in her membership if they shall see cause.

It was moved in amendment by Mr. Henderson, and seconded by Mr. Lawrence, That the Synod having heard both Mrs. Clarke's and Mr. Ritchie's statement of the original ground of Mrs. Clarke's complaint against Mr. Ritchie, find, That Mr. Ritchie did use James Clarke's name in connexion with the case; That Mr. Ritchie did not say that James Clarke was guilty of a crime worse than the most atrocious murder; That Mrs. Clarke had received an erroneous impression of Mr. Ritchie's language and design; That the form used by Mr. Ritchie has been frequently practised in the church:—and therefore Mr. Ritchie cannot be blamed, and therefore dismiss the complaint as groundless. At the same time, the Synod recommend to the