

M E E T I N G

OF

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH CONGREGATION.

A MEETING of the Congregation will be held in this Church To-morrow EVENING (Monday, 13th inst.), at HALF-PAST SEVEN o'clock, to take into consideration the present position of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, as regards its connection with the Churches in Scotland.

It is earnestly requested that *every individual* connected with the Church will make a point of attending.

The following RESOLUTIONS will then be submitted to the congregation for consideration:—

1. That this congregation has watched with deep interest the progress of the struggle, for several years past, agitated in the Church of Scotland, in which were involved principles essential to the spiritual independence of all Christian Churches, and to the maintenance of that religious liberty which is the birthright of every British subject.

2. That when the decisions of the Courts of Law, and the refusal of redress by Parliament had left no resource to those who maintained the freedom of the Church but secession, this Congregation rejoices that grace and strength were bestowed on so many Members of the Established Church of Scotland, to withdraw from her communion, and particularly that so many able and faithful Ministers gave up all their means of support for the sake of a good conscience.

3. That in the Free Church of Scotland this congregation recognizes the Church of their Fathers, and their cause as that of divine truth, and that it has a right to the warmest sympathy and support of all evangelic bodies in Christendom, and more particularly of all Presbyterian Churches.

4. That this congregation is fully satisfied that the Free Church has nobly maintained the great truth that Christ is the sole Head of his Church, and that the present Established Church of Scotland, in submitting to the decisions of Courts of Law and to Acts of Parliament in relation to spiritual matters, has departed from that fundamental doctrine, which is clearly revealed in the word of God and embodied in the standards of the Church.

5. That the Presbyterian Church of Canada has from her first formation considered herself in close connexion with the Church of Scotland, from a list of her Ministers and Members having been originally in her communion, and from both Churches holding the same standards. But doubts have arisen as to the legal effect of this connexion, especially since the General Assembly in 1831 refused to receive the Synod into direct union; that for the foregoing and other reasons

this Congregation is of opinion that there is now come for putting an end to that connexion what its nature may be, and that the Synod should drop the word "in connexion with the Church of Scotland" and retain the title of the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

6. That by the declaration of her entire independence, the Canadian Presbyterian Church will renounce none of the doctrines and none of the spirit which animated the Church of Scotland in her best days; on the contrary such a course can alone be dictated by an anxious desire to adhere more closely to them, and to maintain the great Presbyterian principle of spiritual independence, which has been in practice renounced by the Established part of the Church of Scotland.

7. That this Congregation considers that whatever the value of the pecuniary assistance hitherto received from the Public funds by the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and of the increase expected from the Clergy Reserves, the change now recommended ought not to affect the claims of the Church to retain that assistance, and all other property belonging to her. But such matters should not be suffered to influence the Synod in determining a question of such vital importance as that which is soon to be submitted to them.

8. That if the Synod adopts the course now recommended, this congregation has no doubt that such regulations will be adopted as will prevent any Ministers or Probationers from being received into her communion as do not hold the principle of the independence of every branch of the Church of Christ in all spiritual matters.

9. That this congregation takes the present opportunity of repeating its protest against the Temporalities Bill, which they view as an indirect attempt to connect the Synod with the Established part of the Church of Scotland, against the well-known wishes of the great majority of the Presbyterian Body in Canada, whose earnest desire is to preserve its entire independence.

TORONTO. 11th May, 1844.

amended