

down to Presbyteries and Sessions, for their consideration, and that Presbyteries report to the next Synod.

It was moved in amendment by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Ross, that the consideration of this subject be postponed till next year.

On a division the motion of Mr. Inglis was carried by a large majority.

REFERENCE FROM PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON, ANENT A CONGREGATION AT ST. CATHERINES.

A reference from the Presbytery of Hamilton, anent an application from the First Presbytery Congregation of St. Catherines was brought before the Synod, inquiring whether or not their use of an organ in conducting public worship would be a bar to their admission into this Church, and submitting the question for the action of the Church.

Extracts were read from the Minutes of the Presbytery of Hamilton, and Dr. Ormiston and Mr. McColl were heard in connexion with the reference.

The following motions were brought forward on the subject.

1. It was moved by Mr. Lowry, seconded by Mr. Wilson as follows :—The Synod do not find that in the reference from the Presbytery of Hamilton there is a positive application from the First Presbyterian Congregation of St. Catherines for reception into communion with this Church, neither is there any statement in that reference to the effect that the standards of the Church were approved of by that congregation ; and that the Presbytery of Hamilton be instructed to give such reply to the application.

2. It was moved by Mr. Middlemiss, seconded by Mr. D. Gordon, that the Synod remit the case to the Presbytery of Hamilton to be dealt with in accordance with the rules of the Church.

3. It was moved by Mr. Cross, seconded by Dr. Edmondson,—Sustain the reference and declare that inasmuch as the use of instrumental music is not a term of communion in this Church, the Synod authorizes the Presbytery of Hamilton to take the usual steps for the reception of the First Presbyterian Church of St. Catherines into the fellowship of this Church.

On a division, the amendment of Mr. Middlemiss was carried by a large majority.

MARRIAGE WITH THE SISTER OF A DECEASED WIFE.

At the meeting of the Synod in 1867, an overture transmitted through the Presbytery of Paris was brought before the Synod, the object of which was to have it declared by the Synod that the marriage of a man with the sister of his deceased wife is not contrary to the Word of God. The overture was left over for consideration at the Synod in 1868. It was accordingly brought forward ; but on a question as to the competency of the overture in the particular form in which it was presented, it was ruled that it was not competent to entertain it. The same subject was brought up anew by an overture signed by a number of members of Synod, and was discussed at great length, and we may add, with great ability.

Three motions were proposed for the disposal of this overture.

1. It was moved by Mr. McMullen, seconded by Dr. Edmondson,—Whereas, marriage with a deceased wife's sister has hitherto been forbidden by the church, and treated as incestuous, and whereas in the opinion of many learned and eminent biblical scholars in the Presbyterian and other churches, such marriage is not forbidden in the word of God ; therefore resolved, that Presbyteries be instructed to consider this subject and report to next meeting of Synod as to whether the law of the church on this matter should not be so altered as that the church courts may be