

utes be allowed to a speaker from either side, to make reply.

Mr. Robertson, on the side of the Petitioners, then spoke in defence of the position assumed by himself and the Petitioners. Mr. P. McF. McLeod also spoke in behalf of himself and those who adhered to him.

Parties were then removed from the bar.

After some remarks, Dr. Campbell moved, seconded by Mr. Young,—That the Synod having heard the case *re* St. Andrews Congregation, brought before it by the petition of Mr. J. R. Robertson and others, regret that difficulties have arisen which brought discord into the congregation, and congratulate the Petitioners and Respondents on the calm and lucid manner in which the case was submitted to the Court, and the Christian spirit manifested by all who spoke; and having a desire to reconcile parties and preserve the unity of the Congregation in the bonds of peace; and believing that this is more likely to be accomplished by a Commission than in any other way, hereby appoint Messrs. Scouler, Young, McLaren, D. A. Macrae, (Ministers) and Messrs. Thornton Fell and Shaw, (Elders), a Synodical Commission to meet at as early a date as desirable the Petitioners, the Respondents, and the Congregation of St. Andrews Church, and take any steps they may deem best to remove the cause of the present discord, and bring about peace and harmony; said Commission to have power to issue the case and report to the next meeting of the Synod.

The hour of adjournment having arrived, Mr. Langill moved, seconded by Mr. Maxwell, and agreed,—That an extension of half an hour be given to consider the question.

Mr. McLaren then moved, seconded by Mr. A. Fraser, to the following effect:—The Synod having heard at great length the parties in the case, and thereby to all intents and purposes made the investigation asked for, would strongly urge the Petitioners to accept the offer of reconciliation made by Mr. McLeod, and entreat all parties to work together in the spirit of Christian brotherhood; but if unfortunately they refuse to act upon this recommendation, the Synod recommend them to ask the Presbytery to organize them into a new congregation.

Some delay having taken place, it was finally agreed on motion by Mr. McLaren, seconded by Mr. J. M. McLeod,—That the discussion be adjourned till tomorrow.

The Synod then adjourned to meet tomorrow morning at ten o'clock in the

forenoon and this sederunt was closed with the benediction.

FIFTH SEDERUNT.

At Victoria and within First Presbyterian Church there, the third day of March one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, at ten o'clock in the forenoon: the Synod of British Columbia met, and after praise and reading of the Word, was constituted with prayer, Mr. Langill leading.

The minutes of the former sederunt were read and sustained.

The discussion adjourned from yesterday was resumed. Mr. McLaren expressed a wish to withdraw, with the consent of his seconder, his amendment, as he had no wish to divide the Synod in the matter. His wish was granted. He then moved, seconded by Mr. J. M. McLeod and agreed,—That a Committee consisting of Messrs. J. C. Herdman, *Convener*, Dr. Robertson, Dr. Campbell, A. Young and the Mover, (Ministers), and Messrs. A. Shaw and A. Bethune, (Elders) to be appointed to draw up a finding in the case; said finding to be submitted to the Synod at the opening of the afternoon sederunt.

There was presented and read by the Clerk a reference from the Kirk Session, of St. Andrews Church, Victoria, asking the judgment of the Synod:—

First—Whether it is in the power of a congregation to repudiate the written agreement entered into with the Minister at the time of his induction, in which he is guaranteed his stipend, as long as he continues to be the Minister of the Congregation.

Second—Has the Presbytery power to cancel said agreement without the Minister's consent.

After considerable discussion, it was moved by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Langill, as follows:—Sustain the reference and decide, *first*—That it is not within the power of a congregation to repudiate the written agreement entered into with the Minister at the time of his induction, in which he is guaranteed his stipend as long as he continues to be Minister. *Second*—That the Presbytery has no power to cancel said agreement without the concurrence of the Minister.

There was presented and read an overture from the Presbytery of Vancouver Island anent the relation of Missionaries laboring under General Assembly's Committee for Foreign Missions, praying that the Synod overture the General Assembly at its next meeting in June, at Brantford, to so change the constitution of the Foreign

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