

The *British Banner*, of a late date, contains a letter from the Rev. Dr. Medhurst, English missionary in China, corroborating the letter of Mr. Happer in respect to the progress of the rebellion, and insisting on his belief in the anti-Christian character of the movement. It appears from this letter that Dr. Medhurst is of the opinion that the rebellion is a political one. He speaks of it as an attempt to overthrow the throne, and although he does not wish to go so far as to say that it is a religious one, he mentions features of other political revolutions which he thinks are to be seen in it. He is certain—the movement has taken the form of a rebellion, but that it is, to the very base, and may be, by its political character, the opening of a whole era in the history of the East. He also says that the rebellion, throughout, exhibits the same character as that of the late George III's Christian Union, in conformity with which practice he has throughout complied. He says that the rebellion is a political one, and that when speaking of the true Christian mission to take place.

On this subject the *Hong Kone Friend* of three days ago has all along been full of a species of fanaticism—an opinion of the nature and burning of images—namely, that the use of the same being. (Shanghai) but this fanaticism we believe to be confined to a small portion of the insurgent army.

MEETING OF SYNOD—ABSTRACT OF MINUTES.

The Synod of the United Presbyterian Church in Canada, met, and, after sermon by the Rev. Andrew Fether, D. D., Moderator, from Matt. xxv. 21, was constituted.

On making up the roll it was reported that the following had demitted their pastoral charges: in London Presbytery, Revs. Messrs. Howden and McKenzie; in Durham Presbytery, Revs. Messrs. McCurdy and Ormiston; that the following had been ordained: in London Presbytery, Rev. Wm. Cavan; in 'Lamboro', Rev. J. P. A. S. Fayntie received, and Rev. John Dunbar ordained; in Toronto Presbytery, Rev. John Taylor, D. D. had been received—Rev. Wm. Dickson ordained: and that the following probationers had been received or licensed—Messrs. Sinclair, McGregor, Dunbar, Tweedie, Carruthers.

Took up for consideration the question as to Professor Taylor being a member of the Synod, and of the Presbytery in whose bounds he resides.

On motion of Mr. Aitken, seconded by Mr. Barrie, it was agreed, by a large majority,

That in conformity with the common practice of other Presbyterian Churches, and the course adopted by our parent Church in the only instance in which a case similar to the present has occurred, our Professor of Theology be recognized *ex officio*, a member of this Synod, and the action of the Presbytery of Toronto in receiving the Professor as a member of that Presbytery, be sustained.

The Synod now proceeded to the choice of a Moderator, when the Rev. James Dick of Richmond Hill, and the Rev. William Barrie, of Etanosa, were respectively nominated and seconded.

The first nomination being fallen from, and the vote being taken, Mr. Barrie was unanimously elected, and thereupon took the Chair and addressed the Synod.

The Rev. Mr. McColl, of Lewiston, being introduced by Mr. Wm. M. Christie, was invited by the Moderator to correspond, and take his seat in Synod.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Mr. Duff, and an address on Missions was delivered by Mr. Skinner.

The thanks of Synod were unanimously and cordially given to Mr. Skinner for his address.

The Clerk informed the Synod that the Congregational Union of Canada West, had appointed the Rev. Professor Lillie and the Rev. Mr. Wickson, a Deputation to wait upon this Synod.

It was agreed to invite the attendance of the Deputation at ten o'clock, to-morrow, on Tuesday next.

It was moved by Mr. Duff, and seconded by Mr. Waddell, That we proceed with the order of business as recommended by the Committee of Bills and Overtures.

It was moved in amendment by Mr. Lawrence, and seconded by Dr. Ferrier,

That the Synod suspend all business under the first head of the Report of the Committee of Bills and Overtures, and proceed with the business under the second head.

The motions being put by the Moderator, the amendment was carried, and the Synod resolved to proceed with the business under the second head of the Report of the Committee of Bills and Overtures.

Took up the protest and appeal of the session of Toronto congregation against a decision of the Toronto Presbytery, in a case between the said session and George Penman Ure.

Read the minutes of the Toronto Presbytery, transmitting the case to Synod; also, an extract of the minutes of session transmitting the case to Presbytery; also, the minutes of the Toronto Presbytery, of date August 4, 1852; also the protest and appeal of George Penman Ure against the decision of the session cutting

him off from the membership of the Church—said protest and appeal containing a copy of an extract of the decision of session; also, extracts of the minutes of the Presbytery of Toronto, in the case, of date 14th September; also, minutes of the Toronto Presbytery, of date 9th November, embodying the Report of the Committee of Presbytery to attempt to accommodate the matters at issue between the parties; also, the decision of the Toronto Presbytery in the case.

Read the reasons of Protest and Appeal of the Session of Toronto Congregation against the decision of the Toronto Presbytery in the case. Also, the Presbytery's answers to the reasons of Protest and Appeal. Also, the minutes of the Session of Toronto Congregation in the case of Mr. Ure. Heard Mr. Jennings and Mr. Bell on behalf of the Session.

Heard the Rev. Dr. John Taylor in defence of the decision of the Presbytery of Toronto in the case.

Heard also the Rev. Mr. Coatts in defence of the said decision.

Heard Mr. Ure, as a party interested in the case.

The Session of the Toronto congregation were heard in reply, by the Rev. Mr. Jennings, and Mr. Bell, Elder.

Questions were put to Mr. Ure by the Synod, and were answered. Questions were also put to Mr. Jennings, and answered.

The parties were then removed.

The Rev. Messrs. Thornton, Aitken, Henderson, Proudfoot, Dr. Ferrier, and Dr. W. Taylor, were appointed a Committee to mature this case for the decision of Synod; and report at the first Sederunt on Tuesday afternoon. Mr. Aitken to be Convener.

The Committee appointed in the case of the Session of Toronto Congregation, Appellants, and the Presbytery of Toronto, Respondents, gave in their Report, as follows:—

To the Moderator and Members of the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church:—

The Committee appointed in the case of the Session of Toronto Congregation, Appellants, and the Presbytery of Toronto, Respondents, beg to present their report, and to submit the following findings for the adoption of this Court.

1. That inasmuch as the expressions complained of by the Session of Toronto were uttered by Mr. Ure in the presence of this Synod, at its meeting in June, 1852, it belongs to this Synod alone to review them, and pronounce any judgment upon them which would affect Mr. Ure's standing as a member of this Church.

2. That, therefore, the conduct of the Session of Toronto was irregular in instituting proceedings against Mr. Ure, on the strength of these expressions for while it was competent to them to come before this Court with a complaint against Mr. Ure for having uttered them, it was in their case *alta pars* to bring the matter to an issue by expelling him from the Church.

3. That, therefore, said sentence ought to be rescinded, and Mr. Ure placed on the same footing which he occupied at the close of the meeting of Synod above referred to.

4. That while we cannot approve in all points of the course which the Session of Toronto took, in their dealings with Mr. Ure, subsequent to last meeting of Synod, yet the spirit which he manifested, in refusing to make any explanations with the view of establishing a better understanding between him and the Session, merits the strong disapprobation of this Court. (From this finding, two members of Committee dissented.)

5. That the sentence of the Presbytery should also be set aside; for though there is less irregularity on their part than on the part of the Session, yet the ground on which they rest their judgment is one which cannot be sustained, viz. that the expressions complained of by the Session had been under the consideration of the Synod, and a deliverance given upon them. (From this finding, the two members of Committee referred to in the last finding dissented.)

6. That the strong language employed by the Presbytery in certain parts of their answers to the Session's Reasons of Protest and Appeal, merits the particular notice and the disapprobation of the Synod.

7. The Committee recommend that the Synod vindicate their authority in this matter, by taking the whole case into their own hands, and proceeding, if they see cause, to summon Mr. Ure and the Session to their bar, and there to deal with them as truth and justice may require.

8. That this case ought not to be decided by this Court merely upon the ground of ecclesiastical forms of procedure, but on the high ground of Christian principle, and under a sincere desire to do all in our power as we shall be answerable to Christ, to restore peace to the Congregation of Toronto.

(Signed) WILLIAM AITKEN, Convener.

The Report was received, and it was agreed to proceed to its consideration.

The first, second, and third articles of the Report were adopted without opposition.

It was moved by Mr. Drummond, seconded by Mr. Terrance, That article IV. of the Report be not adopted.

It was moved in amendment by Mr. Proudfoot, seconded by Mr. Hogg,

That article IV. of the Report be adopted.