

In 1833 and subsequent years, grants were made by Government to the Synod as representing the Church of Scotland, in aid of building churches. A memorial was that year sent by the Synod to the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that Ministers drawing their allowance should no longer require certificates from their respective Elders, but, instead, certificates from the Presbyteries of the bounds; and instead of requiring that these certificates be received each time that allowances are drawn, that His Excellency would be pleased to consider Ministers once certified to be pastors of certain churches as still continuing to be so until intimation is given to His Excellency, in the same manner, that the connection is dissolved,—the Synod engaging that such occurrence shall immediately on its taking place be notified to His Excellency.

In October, 1834, His Excellency acceded to this and officially communicated the same to the Synod. Other extracts might be given, but it is not necessary to multiply them.

All these, it will be observed, are of dates prior to the passing of the Act of Independence in 1844. That Act, however, even were there no further evidence, would show that no change in the connection was wrought by its declaration. It was a purely declaratory Act. It declares that "This Synod has always, from its first establishment, possessed a perfectly full and supreme jurisdiction over all the congregations and ministers in connection therewith," that is, the unfettered management of its internal affairs, but on account of misrepresentations it was thought desirable to declare exactly the connection with the Church of Scotland. We might rest our case there, but to prevent all cavil we shall show the declarations made subsequent to 1844 so that all doubt may be removed.

In 1851, on the 4th of July, an Overture was presented from the Presbytery of Montreal, respecting the renewal of the agitation against the Clergy Reserves, praying the Synod "with the view of defining our position as a Church, and of defending the rights that we have acquired, to issue such a declaration of the principles we hold touching the obligations of Christian rulers to promote true religion, and the duty that is laid upon ourselves to defend the advantages which have been solemnly granted to us by national treaties and legislation, as shall manifest before the world that, in the course we pursue, we seek no personal or temporary advantage, but the general and permanent good of the people committed to our charge." A committee was appointed to draft a paper in conformity with the Overture, which consisted of Mr. McGill, Dr. Cook, Dr. Mathieson, Dr. Machar, Mr. Urquhart, Mr. Muir (Georgetown), Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Spence and Mr. Macnee. Copies of the report when prepared were put into the hands of each member for consideration before the discussion took place. On the 8th of July the resolutions were considered, "when, after lengthened discussion and various amendments were made, they were adopted." We would willingly publish the whole had we space. The following extracts must suffice :

"It is Resolved and Declared :

"1. That the Church of Scotland of which this Synod is a branch, has