

APPENDIX.

INDEPENDENCE OF THE CANADIAN KIRK DECLARED WITHOUT RESERVE IN 1844 AND IN 1833.

In 1844 the Synod of the Canadian Church passed, without a dissenting voice, the following Act, *which was made a fundamental and essential part of its constitution, to which every Minister had to assent, and to which Mr. Lang assented, before he could be inducted in Canada.*

"Whereas this Synod has always, from its first establishment, possessed a perfectly free and supreme jurisdiction over all the Congregations and Ministers in connection therewith; and although the independence and freedom of this Synod, in regard to all things spiritual, cannot be called in question, but has been repeatedly and in most explicit terms affirmed, not only by itself, but by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, yet, as in present circumstances it is expedient that this independence be asserted and declared by a special Act:

"It is hereby declared, That this Synod has always claimed and possessed, does now possess, and ought always in all time coming to have and exercise a perfectly free, full, final, supreme and uncontrolled power of jurisdiction, discipline and government, in regard to all matters, ecclesiastical and spiritual, over all the Ministers, Elders, Church Members and Congregations under its care, without the right of review, appeal, complaint or reference by or to any other Court or Courts whatsoever, in any form or under any pretence; and that in all cases that may come before it for judgment the decisions and deliverances of this Synod shall be final. And this Synod further declares that, if any encroachment on this supreme power and authority shall be attempted or threatened by any person or persons, Court or Courts whatsoever, then the Synod; and each and every member thereof, shall, to the utmost of their power, resist and oppose the same. And whereas the words in the designation of the Synod "*in connection with the Church of Scotland,*" have been misunderstood or misrepresented by many persons, it is hereby declared that the said words imply no right of jurisdiction or control, in any form whatsoever, by the Church of Scotland over this Synod, but denote merely the connection of origin, identity of standards,