

A letter was read from Dr. Ferrier, of date 9th instant, assigning reasons for non-attendance.—The letter was ordered to be kept in *retentis*, and it was agreed to mark in the minutes the opinion of all the Commissioners, that neither its statements nor its tone tended to smooth the way to an edifying or harmonious adjustment of differences betwixt the writer of it, and the Synod of which he is a member.

The minutes of the meeting at Caledonia, on the 9th July, were read and approved. The several documents therein referred to, were on the table, and the special attention of Mr. McMurray, who had not been present at the former meeting, directed to them. An additional letter from two of Dr. Ferrier's elders, indicated affectionate attachment on their part, to their pastor, but did not bring out any facts in addition to those already before the Commission. There was given in and read, and ordered to be recorded, the following extracts from the minutes of the Presbytery of Hamilton, in relation to the admission of Dr. Ferrier into the Presbyterian Church of Canada:

"On the 8th day of October, 1845, an application was given in from the Rev. Andrew Ferrier, D.D. to be received as a minister into connection with the Presbyterian Church of Canada. Satisfactory certificates of his personal and ministerial character and standing, were presented, and the Presbytery appointed a conference to be held with him on the following day, in regard to his views.

"At Hamilton, the 9th day of October, 1845, the Presbytery of Hamilton being met and constituted—*inter alia*,

"The Presbytery proceeded to hold a conference with Dr. Ferrier, in reference to his application to be received as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Canada; when after a long interview and minute enquiry as to his principles and sentiments, it was moved by Mr. Bayne, and agreed to, that the Presbytery record their full satisfaction with the theological views of Dr. Ferrier, and that although differing somewhat as to the duty of nations and governments, in regard to the support of the gospel, there is nothing in his opinions which should prevent his being admitted as a minister of this Church, and they therefore instruct their clerk to report the case, in conformity with the act of Synod, and in the meantime they refer Dr. Ferrier to the Home Mission Committee for instructions."

"At a *pro re nata* meeting of Presbytery, held at Hamilton, on the 13th April, 1846, a call from Caledonia, &c., in favor of Dr. Ferrier, was considered and sustained, and the induction of Dr. Ferrier to the charge was appointed to take place on the 23rd inst.

"At Hamilton, the 13th day of May, 1846, the Presbytery of Hamilton being met and constituted—*inter alia*,

"Mr. Stark reported, that in pursuance of the appointment made at the meeting of Presbytery on the 13th day of April last, Mr. Gale and himself had gone to Caledonia; that there were no other members of Presbytery present.—Mr. Cheyne, who had been appointed to preach and preside on the occasion, having been unable to attend—that they had, however, under the circumstances of the case, felt themselves warranted in proceeding with the induction; that Mr. Stark preached on the occasion, and that the usual steps having been gone through, and no objections offered, and satisfactory answers obtained from Dr. Ferrier, Mr. Gale did, by prayer, solemnly set apart Dr. Ferrier to the pastoral charge of the congregations at Caledonia and the stations connected with it, and that thereafter Mr. Gale addressed Dr. Ferrier, and Mr. Stark the people, when Dr. Ferrier received the right hand of fellowship from the members of Presbytery and the congregation. The Presbytery on hearing this report, agreed to sustain the proceedings, and ordered that Dr. Ferrier's name be added to the Roll of the Presbytery."

The Chairman stated, that in consequence of repeated allusion having been made by Dr. Ferrier at the former meeting of the Commissioners, to the terms of his reception into this Church, he (the Chairman,) had requested Mr. McLellan to procure from Mr. Stark, Presbytery Clerk, a duly attested copy of the whole minutes regarding that matter. The Commissioners approved of this, and agreed to record their entire concurrence in the opinion expressed by the Synod, on June 27, 1849, "that any exception taken by Dr. F., to the usual formula at his induction, and which, it appears, so far as conceded by the Presbytery, was understood by them to respect only the legal or compulsory maintenance of a gospel ministry, cannot be allowed to cover the latitude he claims, in impugning the great principle of national duty and responsibility, in its other momentous bearings."—(*Minutes of Synod, 1849, p. 20.*)

After some conversation in reference to the whole matter in question, it was agreed to adjourn the meeting until the evening, in order to give an opportunity to absent members of the Commission to be forward; when all the papers connected with the case would be again read, and the whole subject maturely considered.

Minutes of Third Meeting.

KNOX'S CHURCH VESTRY, same Evening, Seven o'clock.

The Commission again met, and was constituted as before, no other members having come forward.

The different documents were considered anew, and among others the letter of Dr. Ferrier, of 9th inst., referred to in the preceding minute. The Commissioners resolved to mark in their minutes, in addition to what was previously noticed, their judgment regarding it, that while it gives no good reason for his absence, it confirms the Commissioners in the opinion, that Dr. Ferrier's views remain unchanged, and convinces them that his spirit, as indicated in the letter, is that of defiance of all Presbyterian order and control.

The Commissioners having calmly reviewed the whole proceedings, did unanimously, and by virtue of the authority given them by the Synod, adopt the following resolutions:—

First. They find it altogether unnecessary to refer the case back to the Presbytery, to be proceeded with by libel, seeing that Dr. Ferrier's sentiments are matter of publication, and are duly acknowledged by him.

Secondly. That the sentiments in question are, in the opinion of the Commissioners, directly contrary to the word of God, and to the standards of this Church; and highly pernicious in their character and tendency.

Thirdly. That Dr. Ferrier, in avowedly holding these sentiments, cannot be considered as adhering to the standards of that Church to which he has sworn allegiance.

Wherefore, the Commission did, and hereby do declare, that Dr. Ferrier is no longer a minister in communion with the Presbyterian Church of Canada, and they, by this minute, exclude him from the rights and privileges connected with relationship to that Church, and appoint a notice of this finding to be sent to the Presbytery of Hamilton, that they may adopt the steps usual in such cases as the present.

The Commissioners further recommend to the Presbytery, if they shall see cause, to adopt measures for opening the new Church at Caledonia, next Lord's day, in connexion with the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

They farther appoint a copy of these minutes and instructions to be sent to Dr. Ferrier, duly subscribed by the Chairman and Clerk, in name of the whole Commissioners.

The meeting was thereafter closed with prayer.

ROBT. BURNS, Chairman.
JAMES OSBORNE, Clerk.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND.

The case of the Rev. J. Hazlett, of Castlereagh, accused of intemperance, created much interest. Dr. Cooke and the minority maintained that only such evidence should be received as would be valid, in a civil or criminal court, and that Church Courts should not search after proofs.—Dr. Edgar and the majority were of a different opinion, and suspended Mr. Hazlett.

Afterwards, Mr. H. made an admission that he had not been sufficiently attentive to the ministerial character—that he had given grounds for the charges preferred against him—and that he sincerely deplored and confessed his past errors. On his profession of penitence, the suspension was withdrawn.

"It is gratifying to report, that this was the only case of the kind,—that such cases, whether of minister or people, are even before Presbyteries, of rare occurrence,—that no instance has arisen of alleged defection from the truth of the Gospel;—and that abroad and at home there is doctrinal harmony; that to Jews, Mahometans, and Pagans,—at Damascus, in Hindoostan, and in Canada, as well as in Connaught, the trumpet gives forth the same certain sound."

"The second class of Home matters is more general; referring either to the Report on the state of Religion. And here it is to be deplored, that ministers and people have not been able to furnish instances of revival. The universal complaint is deadness, want of spirituality,—few instances of conversion to God, and awfully prevalent lifeless formalism among professed believers. The Assembly recommended humiliation and special prayer. Another branch of more general Home affairs was more satisfactory; the reports regarding the colleges and candidates for the ministry, evince a high degree of literary and theological acquirements. There was much discussion regarding the bequest of the late Mrs. Mager for a college; partly regarding its site, the Trustees favoring Derry, while leading and influential men in the Assembly prefer Belfast, and partly regarding the powers of the Trustees and the Assembly respectively, in its management, superintendence, and direction. However, the will of the Testatrix is now before the Master in Chancery; and in October, it is expected, the Chancellor will define it precise purport.

"But the third branch of Home Affairs is that which can be contemplated with the greatest satisfaction: that is

THE HOME MISSION.

"One branch of the Mission is superintending and aiding congregations that have been formed and that, from their position in Roman Catholic districts, cannot at once be self-supported: but as soon as placed on the endowed list, no further aid is given. Thirty-four have been aided; the sum of £1,700 expended on this object, and the ministers and missionaries in their neighborhoods.

"Another branch is the Mission to Roman Catholics, conducted by the schoolmaster, the Scripture-reader and the Minister. Before congregations are formed, it will give a specimen of the proceeding of such men to mention, that one Scripture-reader, during the year held 400 meetings, and made 2000 visits to private houses for teaching, reading the Word, and prayer. In one district, all the teachers of the Irish schools have abandoned Romanism; and attend public worship at the missionary stations. In all the districts there is free access to the Roman Catholic. 'They,' says the Report, 'and their neighbors express their sincere gratitude for Bibles of the American grant to Dr. Dill distributed among them, some of them having never before seen a copy of the whole Bible.'