

Synod of the Canada Presbyterian Church.—At the recent meeting of this body in Hamilton, several very important appeal cases, and reports from renmits to Presbyteries, were disposed of.

The appeal of the Rev. W. T. Murdoch, of Galt, against the decision of the Guelph Presbytery, with regard to the great revival movement within its bounds, occupied five entire sessions, and was finally decided by a resolution dismissing the appeal, but recommending the use of all proper caution as to the means employed in the promotion of such efforts. This resolution seems to have been construed by Mr. Murdoch as a gentle admonition of the pastor of Knox Church, Galt, and his co-labourers in the recent awakening, and was probably accepted as the best way out of a difficulty which neither party was very well able to solve. Hence it was carried *nem. con.* The verdict of the Court will probably do neither good nor harm, but the discussion, and the facts brought out by it, will undoubtedly do great good, and we therefore congratulate the friends of spiritual religion in Galt on the result.

The organ question was again hotly debated, on a reference from the Presbytery of Montreal, asking Synod to declare whether last year's resolutions, laying the papers on the table, really gave Kirk Sessions liberty to use instrumental music or not, pending a decision on the general question. Rev. Dr. Irvine made an eloquent defence of his congregation, reciting the history of the case; and warning the Synod of the probable consequences of further interference with their expressed wishes and determination. Such interference, he argued, would weaken their confidence in the justice of the Synod, inasmuch as there are now *six* organs or instruments in regular use on the Lord's Day within the bounds of the Synod, besides many others in Sabbath Schools; and it could hardly be wrong, he contended, to use it *upstairs*, if it were right to use it *downstairs*. And "I fear—I greatly fear,"—continued the Dr., "the consequences which will ensue from your attempt to silence that instrument in Knox Church. The people have borne and forborne; but there must be a limit even to patience. It ceases at a certain point to be a grace, and I implore of you not to overtax it. This Court may, by a majority, carry another severe measure; they may, with a rigorous hand, crush Knox Church out of existence; but if it should see fit to encounter such a responsibility, it will have plenty of such work to do. Before many years, others will assert their liberty, or retire from your communion."

Bold words these for a blue Presbyterian! Dr. Irvine is evidently fast coming to the conclusion that the Synod has a Divine right to do what it pleases, if it only pleases to do *right*.

His appeal, however, was in vain, for a motion by Principal Willis was carried, declaring in substance that the action of Synod in 1868 leaves the constitutional law as it was before; and that the Presbytery of Montreal was warranted in expecting of all sessions and congregations conformity to the existing order, until it should be modified or altered in due course. Nothing therefore is left for Knox Church but to obey or secede.

The questions concerning a new Hymn Book, and marriage with a deceased wife's sister, and some others, were, in consequence of the length of these discussions, left over till next year.

The Synod interchanged friendly greetings with that of the Kirk of Scotland, and the desire was expressed on both sides for a union of the two bodies, and a resolution was adopted, on motion of Rev. D. Inglis, looking toward the formation, ere long, of "a British American Presbyterian Church," embracing both branches of the Presbyterian family.

The Rev. Donald Fraser, of Inverness, formerly of Coté St. Church Montreal, was also present as a delegate from the Free Church of Scotland.

The Home Mission Report shows 77 mission fields, 170 preaching stations, and an average attendance of 19,613. Collections and donations for 1868-9 from all their congregations \$30,411, of which the Colleges received \$5683; Widows' Fund, \$2730; Home Missions, \$10,236; amount raised for all pur-