

elucidating the scriptural basis of said law, and showing, as far as may be, to parties aggrieved by our rules of discipline, that these do not rest on slight or arbitrary grounds, and to report to next Assembly. The Committee was appointed as follows: Mr. Gregg, Convener; Dr. Topp, Messrs. D. Inglis, W. McLaren, J. Ross, Prof. Caven.

APPEALS, &c.

It is pleasing to have to state that the Assembly had fewer cases of appeal, &c., than have been brought before the Supreme Court on some former occasions.

The first case engaging the attention of the Assembly was a protest and appeal of Mr. W. C. Windell, of Cartwright, against action of the Presbytery of Ontario, with assessors appointed by the Synod of Toronto, in granting supply of preaching to Williamsburg, a station within the bounds of the congregation of Cartwright. The case was referred to a committee, and, in accordance with the report of the committee submitted at a subsequent sederunt, the Assembly agreed to dismiss the protest and appeal.

A reference from the Presbytery of Paris, transmitted by the Synod of Hamilton, anent the removal of the sentence of deposition passed some time ago on Mr. John Gillespie, formerly minister at Blenheim, was brought before the Assembly. Mr. Cochrane was heard at length on the subject of the reference. Mr. McDiarmid, of Woodstock, was also heard in explanation of his position in relation to the reference. The subject was referred to a committee, who reported at a subsequent sederunt. After full discussion of the subject, and after several motions had been submitted, the Assembly agreed to remit the matter to the Presbytery of Paris to deal with the case according to the laws of the Church, and dispose of it if they see fit, appointing the following commissioners to sit with the Presbytery as assessors, viz.:—Dr. Topp, Messrs. J. Scott, D. McKenzie, W. McLaren, Prof. Caven, Dr. Thornton, Mr. J. Wardrope, Mr. John Smith, Mr. W. Reid, ministers; Hon. J. McMurrich, Mr. D. Cameron, Mr. J. Brown, elders.

There was also brought before the Assembly a Protest and Appeal of Mr. John Scott, of Napanee, from a decision of the Synod of Montreal in the matter of the employment of an instrument of music, in conducting the service of praise in the church at Napanee. It was found that one important paper had not been forwarded, and that others had no official attestation, and the Assembly accordingly agreed to stay further proceedings in the matter.

RETURNS OF PRESBYTERIES TO REMITS OF LAST YEAR.

Returns were received from several Presbyteries on remits of last year on the subjects of the Act for reception of ministers and a Board of Examiners.

On the subject of the Reception Act it appeared that six Presbyteries approved *simpliciter*, while four approved with slight alterations, two disapproved, suggesting several changes. The Assembly remitted the Act to a small committee, with a view to have it amended and again sent down to Presbyteries.

With reference to Boards of Examiners it appeared that three Presbyteries approved of the Act *simpliciter*; four approved with alterations, and five disapproved, one recommending that the Act be remitted to a special committee for careful revisal.