

rendering into parody portions of the word of God, for the purpose of blackening the character of an opponent, are offences against ministerial propriety, sufficiently grave to be dealt with in the form of a libel.

3. The Laws of the Church do not sanction the trying of a minister of the gospel for any grave offence, when he persists in denying his guilt, otherwise than by libel. The Presbytery felt constrained to deal with the matters contained in this count as they had done; otherwise they would have been forced to allow grave offences which had been matters of public notoriety and scandal to pass unnoticed. For the alternative they chose, they cannot admit that their conduct justly merits the condemnation implied in the finding of the Commission.

II. (1) The Presbytery indicated their judgment in the circumstances, finding grave offences proven. The circumstances being unusual, they felt embarrassed as to the precise way in which their judgment could take effect, inasmuch as Mr. Lawson had been for years in the anomalous position of holding an office, without discharging the functions of that office, or having the church's sanction to his cessation from the performance of the functions of said office.

2. While it was competent for the presbytery to have proceeded a step further, had they seen their way to do so, they do not see that they were required to do so, in the circumstances in which they found themselves placed, or that their refraining from doing so necessarily renders void the action they did take.

3. The appeals taken would have prevented the Presbytery from giving effect to any more distinct or definite judgment—or indeed to any judgment whatever.

III.—Reasons of appeal against the final finding of the Commission.

1. Rebuke at the bar of the Commission without regard to the character, terms, or circumstances of said rebuke, would be a sentence utterly inadequate, in view of the offences of which even by the findings of the Commission, and by Mr. Lawson's own admissions, he has been found guilty.

2. Such rebuke would be wholly inadequate as an expression of the church's disapprobation of the offences committed—some of them having been committed under circumstances which add greatly to their gravity, having caused a scandal which so light a sentence would fail to wipe out.

3. There is no provision for a profession of repentance, or promise of amendment in the matters complained of, and for which he was put on his trial, on Mr. Lawson's part; and thus no adequate security against the commission of like offences in the future, whereby the peace of the church and the honor of religion would continue to be injured through the unworthy conduct of a Christian Minister.

4. The Commission have failed to take into account all the facts presented to them, and to find proven the various offences charged, to the extent which said facts would warrant, and therefore their judgment and sentence are inadequate.

5. The Commission fail to provide for carrying out any sentence, otherwise than by placing it on record, or by formally announcing their