

ing that he appeared for certain members of the church who objected to the settlement of Mr. Blackwood; and Mr. John Wallace of Banboath produced and read a long statement of objections to Mr. Blackwood, in which he detailed many of the statements made by Mr. Blackwood, in the four sermons he preached in Scoonie Church during the incumbency of Mr. Brown, and the other two he recently preached as a candidate for the vacancy, and produced Scripture passages in abundance to prove the character of the doctrines put forth on these occasions by Mr. Blackwood. Mr. Wallace also gave in five specific objections to Mr. Blackwood signed by twenty objectors. The objections urged were—that his expositions of Scripture doctrines were calculated to lead to doubts and perplexities; that his style of preaching was fitted more to gratify the fancy than affect the heart; that the whole character of his preaching was little calculated to edify and instruct in things pertaining to salvation; that he entirely ignored in his preaching the subjects of repentance and remission of sins; that his prayers were brief, formal, and defective; and that his settlement in the parish would be the means of alienating the hearts of many from the Church.

A great deal of excitement prevailed in the church, the Presbytery threatening to adjourn to the vestry unless the people refrained from giving expression to their feelings. The proceedings, however, were brought to a close by the Moderator intimating that the Presbytery would meet on Friday week to receive additional objections, if any.

As the congregation was dismissing, Mr. P. Oliphant came and got from the clerk, in presence of the other members of Presbytery the documents lodged by Mr. Wallace, saying they would produce them again at next meeting if they thought fit.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

The Rev. Colin McKenzie, D. D., of Inverary, has been nominated as Moderator of the next General Assembly of the Established Church of Scotland.

The Rev. Dr. Candlish has been nominated, and will probably be appointed Moderator of the next General Assembly of the Free Church with acclamation. Dr. Candlish's abilities are of the highest order, his zeal and influence are very great, but we question whether by temper or judgment he is exactly the best person to pilot his Church through her present troubles.

Dr. Lockhart, parish minister of Inchinnan, has resigned his charge, amidst the regret not only of his own congregation but of the whole Church. Perhaps no man was ever more universally beloved, for his genial and generous nature. The son of Dr. Lockhart of

the College Church, Glasgow, and brother of the distinguished author, he was not more remarkable for his high social position than for his great accomplishments, his urbanity and kindness of heart. He was particularly the friend of the student and young preacher. His house, his table, his library, and when necessary, his purse, his advice and influence, were ever at their service, and in the most delicate and unostentatious manner. He was idolized by his parishioners and warmly beloved by all his brethren in the Presbytery, who urged him to accept an assistant and retain his charge, but he refused, alleging as a reason, that his people were entitled to the services of as good a man as could be procured, that age and ill health incapacitated him from further active labor, and he considered that it would be better for the parish to possess an able and experienced minister than an assistant, who could not be expected to labor with the same effect among them. All honor to this veteran servant of the cross, and may his future years be unclouded and happy.

The Cardross Case has advanced a stage, and a most important one. Lord Jervis-woode has declared that Dissenting Churches possess, and can possess, no civil jurisdiction; that if they make a contract with a party, and that party complains that they have violated it, the law must step in and judge between them: in short, that they are amenable to the civil courts, in everything *quoad civilia*. Of course the decision has been appealed from, and will come in due course before the whole bench of fifteen judges, who will each give his opinion. Should these opinions be adverse, as they probably will, it will then go to the House of Lords, whose decision will be final. This case has already been before the public a considerable time, and is now creating intense excitement among the Free Church body. The guilt or innocence of the man Macmillan is now not the question at all. It is a great constitutional principle that has to be discussed and decided; that principle in effect being: Shall a Church Court be at once the framer, the interpreter, and dispenser of her own laws, no matter what may be the consequences, pecuniary or otherwise, to the subject? No matter whether just or unjust, are they to be above review by any civil judicatory? This is the question to be decided, and how it will be decided there can be little doubt. We fear that such a version of Spiritual Independence cannot be sustained in any state. It could not be maintained here by any Ecclesiastical denomination.

We observe from our excellent contemporary, the *Canada Presbyterian*, that a meeting of the Committee on Union was to be held on the 27th ult. in Toronto, Dr. George Convener. We cannot pretend to understand this. We received a communication from a gentleman of great experience and influence