

equally clear that other elders than those who sat in the original Synod at Ottawa, from 2nd to 11th June, 1874, might be entitled to seats in the adjourned meeting at Toronto. The polity of the Church provided that the Roll of the Presbytery could be revised at any meeting, *pro re nata* or otherwise, during the year (Minutes, 1869, p. 40); and especially that the representative elder might resign, if he could not attend the meeting of Synod, and another be appointed by the Kirk-Session in his place, (Minutes, 1869, p. 40). In these circumstances, all the changes that were actually made in the Roll at the adjourned meeting, might have been effected consistently with the ordinary notion of an adjourned meeting. But these changes could only have been made after the Roll used at Ottawa was called. If there had been no precedent to interfere with the carrying out of this latter plan of action, matters might easily have been adjusted. But in September, 1844, the same procedure took place, as was followed in November, 1874, (Minutes, adjourned meeting, 1844, p. 3); and the question for the members in the latter case was, whether to follow the only precedent they had to go by, or to take the course that a consideration of what is ordinarily implied in an adjournment, would naturally have suggested. The decision was in favour of following precedent rather than speculation. (*Toronto Mail*, November 5, 1874.) It was well known that members of Synod, who were opposed to Union, were prepared to protest against whichever of the courses might be adopted; so that, so far as the probability of having their opposition, could influence the Synod in coming to a decision, there was little to choose between the two methods of procedure that were proposed. But whatever view may be taken of the technical regularity or irregularity of the Synod's finding from which Mr. Burnet dissented, no one denies that those who were admitted to compose that adjourned meeting at the start, might have been admitted immediately after the Roll was made up, before any other business was gone into; so that the Synod was virtually the same in either case. And what is more to the purpose, constituted regularly or irregularly, it was a better representation of the then existing sentiment in the Church, on the great question at issue before the Ecclesiastical Courts, than it would have been if it were made up of the Elders who were present at the meeting at Ottawa; because the Elders were more recently elected as representatives, and consequently might be sup-

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