

Presbyterian Meeting at Cobourg,

NEWCASTLE DISTRICT.

Pursuant to a requisition numerously signed, notice of which was published in the Cobourg Star and Port Hope Gazette, a meeting of Presbyterians in this District was held at the North American Hotel, Cobourg, on Tuesday last the 28th. Feb'y. for the purpose of taking into consideration the late proceedings in the House of Assembly regarding the endowment of Rectories in this Province, together with the unwarrantable aspersions made on the Scottish Clergy and people on that occasion, of about 300 persons, principally from the Townships of Hamilton and Haldimand, together with deputations from Otonabee, Peterboro', Monaghan, and Cavan, but in consequence of want of room the meeting was adjourned to the Common School House, when John Steele, Esq. of Colborne, having been called to the Chair & Donald McDonald, Esq. of Cobourg, appointed Secretary, the following sixteen Resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Mr. A. Jeffrey, seconded by Mr. Francis Burnett, Senr., moves that it be Resolved—

1. That this Meeting heard with astonishment and alarm the proceedings of the House of Assembly on the evening of the 9th of this month, when the Report of the Select Committee on the subject of the recently endowed Rectories was laid before the House.

Mr. S. C. Johnstone, seconded by Mr. John Munro, moves that it be Resolved—

2. That this meeting learned with no less indignation than surprise, that on the evening referred to, Christopher Alexander Hagerman, Esquire, the Solicitor General of this Province, delivered a violent and intemperate speech, wherein he has most unwarrantably aspersed the character of the Scottish Clergy and people, and attributed to them motives and views, which are totally at variance with the truth.

Mr. Robert Hudspeth, seconded by Mr. William Glover, moves that it be Resolved—

3. That this meeting cannot but deplore the circumstance that His Majesty's Solicitor General for Upper Canada, should so far forget the dignity due to the Government, in which he holds so high an official situation, as to indulge in such reckless and intemperate language as cannot fail to lower its dignity in the estimation of all classes of His Majesty's subjects,—and therefore they deem it unsafe to the just interests of their church and religion that a person who has expressed such an inveterate and himself disgraceful raucous against them should be allowed to continue to wield the immense legal power which he *ex-officio* possesses.

Mr. K. Mackenzie, (Cobourg,) seconded by Mr. Asaph Stewart, moves that it be Resolved—

4. That this meeting feel assured they are expressing sentiments which will be responded to by all the Presbyterian brethren throughout the Province, when they disclaim in their own behalf as well as in that of their beloved church, any desire to assume power, pre-eminence or authority beyond the bounds of their own congregations—and therefore Mr. Hagerman's assertion that we wish "to place the Church of Scotland where the Church of England now is"—must appear, as it really is, an unfounded calumny.

Mr. David Brodie, seconded by Mr. Jas. McDonald, moves that it be Resolved—

5. That this Meeting can bear ample testimony to the fact, that instead of their

Clergy and People being actuated by selfish and worldly motives, as have been attributed to them by Mr. Hagerman, they had no other object in asserting their rights than to see their fellow countrymen who are widely scattered throughout the Province, worshipping God and enjoying the blessings of a preached Gospel after the manner of their forefathers.

Mr. John Taylor, (Grafton,) seconded by Mr. P. McCallum, moves that it be Resolved—

6. That this Meeting cannot but bear testimony to the unassuming conduct of their Clergy and to their disinterested zeal in travelling to remote and poor settlements of their countrymen with no other view than that of communicating to them the glad tidings of Salvation.

Mr. Andrew Milne, seconded by Mr. William Lauder, moves that it be Resolved—

7. That this Meeting cannot avoid exposing the unfounded statement which the Solicitor General makes when he asserts that the Clergyman of the Scottish Church in Cobourg receives £70 a year from Government, when the truth is—that he does not receive any pecuniary aid whatever except from his own Congregation.

Mr. William Brown, seconded by Mr. K. Mackenzie, (Haldimand,) moves that it be Resolved—

8. That the members and adherents of the Scottish Church have been at all times most anxious to cultivate a friendly spirit towards the Church of England and other Christian denominations, and therefore regret the unwise attempt made to establish an exclusive and dominant Church in this Province, which cannot fail to excite a feeling of jealousy in that beloved by the blessed founder of our Religion—which incalculates "Peace on earth and good-will towards men."

Mr. D. McLeod, seconded by Mr. Allan McIntosh, moves that it be Resolved—

9. That this Meeting cannot omit noticing the assertion that "We have no sympathy for other denominations;" and to refute so unfounded a charge, they need only refer to the spirit of the Petitions sent by the different Presbyterian Congregations, and the report made upon them by a select committee of the House of Assembly signed "Thomas McKay, Chairman," wherein an "equality of Religious Privileges to all" is distinctly asserted, and regret that other denominations have not positioned, as they have done, against the principle of establishing a dominant and exclusive Church in these Provinces, which appears to us, *unwise, unjust and impracticable.*

Mr. Thomas Scott, (Cobourg,) seconded by Mr. Leitster, moves that it be Resolved—

10th. That this meeting fully feel the force of the Solicitor General's remarks regarding the disabilities of the Scottish Clergy, and their being obliged to petition, what he is pleased to call "The contemptible Court of Quarter Sessions," in order to empower them to solemnize marriages amongst their own people, and that they are therefore determined to resist by every constitutional means such humiliation never contemplated by the British Government.

Mr. James Harvey (Peterboro') seconded by Mr. George Gillespie, Junr., moves that it be Resolved—

11th. That this meeting are convinced, that many of the members who voted on the above occasion for an exclusive and dominant Church would not have been returned had they expressed themselves to that effect previous to the late Election, and they feel confident that such would have been the case with Henry Rutan, Esq. one of the members for the County of Northumberland, who had publicly avowed his determination not only to support the Church of Scotland but to advocate equal rights for all.

Mr. Macdonell, seconded by Mr. Samuel Campbell, moves that it be Resolved—

12th. That this meeting cordially concur in, and are determined to support the resolutions proposed by Mr. Mackay in the House of Assembly, though unfortunately negatived, which conclude as follows:

"That with a view to restore peace and contentment to the inhabitants of this portion of His Majesty's dominions, and to remove this cause of complaint, by placing all classes of His Majesty's subject on a footing of equality as to religious privileges, an humble Address be presented to His Majesty by the Commons' House of Assembly of this Province, beseeching His Majesty to lay before the Imperial Parliament the subject of these Resolutions; and its humble but earnest desire, that the power given by the Act 31. Geo. III. Chap. 31, to establish and endow Rectories in Upper Canada may be abolished, and also, that those already established, may be done away, and that no denomination of Christians be endowed, sanctioned, or acknowledged as an established Church within this Province."

Mr. Robert Murray, seconded by Mr. John Taylor, moves that it be Resolved—

13. That the thanks of this meeting be presented to the Honourable Archibald McLeod, Speaker of the House of Assembly, to Donald Macdonell, Esq. M. P. P., for the County of Glengarry, to Thomas McKay, Esquire, M. P. P., for the County of Russell, to Malcolm Cameron, Esquire, M. P. P., for the County of Lanark, as well as to the other Members of the House of Assembly who stood forth in the defence of the rights of the Scottish Church—of the character of her venerable Clergy—and of her people, when most unwarrantably assailed on the evening of the 9th instant.

Mr. Robert Thompson, of Monaghan, seconded by Mr. James Anderson, of Otonabee, moves that it be Resolved—

14. That this meeting now form themselves into a Society to be called the Newcastle District Presbyterian Association for the purpose of carrying into effect the foregoing Resolutions.

William Oustun, Esq. seconded by Mr. John Stewart, of Otonabee, moves that it be Resolved—

15. That a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and three Secretaries, together with a Committee of fifteen members, be now elected, five of whom to be a quorum, with power to add to their number, and that they be authorized by this Association to correspond with their brethren throughout the Province, recommending the formation of similar associations for the purpose of producing unanimity of sentiment, that one united effort may be made by Petition, or otherwise, to secure equal rights and privileges.

Mr. Thomas Short, seconded by Mr. Archibald Johnston, moves that it be Resolved—

16. That the following gentlemen be appointed the office bearers and committee of the Association now formed.

JOHN STEELE, Esq. *President.*
ANDREW JEFFREY, Esq. *Vice President.*
MR. JAMES MACDONALD, *Treasurer.*
Messrs. ROBT. HUDSPETH,
ROBERT MURRAY, } *Secretaries.*
DAVID BRODIE,
and a committee of 15.
(Signed) JOHN STEELE,

Chairman.
DONALD MACDONALD,
Secretary.