

mittee on the formation of a General Assembly, which was read. The Committee reported the existence of a general opinion against the expediency of this movement at present, and agreeably to a recommendation contained in their report, the Committee is discharged in the meantime.

#### MAINTENANCE OF MINISTERS,

Returns of opinions of Presbyteries, respecting the Overture and Interim Act; anent the maintenance of Ministers, having been read, it was moved by W. Snodgrass, seconded by Dr. Mair, That the returns with the interim Act be referred to the following Committee, namely, R. Dobie, *Convener*, G. Neilson, Dr. Muir, A. Barker, and J. Greenshields that they may consider and report thereon upon Monday next. It was moved in amendment by Dr. Cook, seconded by A. Spence, That a Committee be appointed to prepare a new enactment on the maintenance of Ministers, and that the Committee be instructed in such enactment to prohibit Presbyteries from settling any minister in a congregation, without a promise of £100 a year independent of the Temporalities Fund. The motion was carried by a vote of 46 to 23.

The Report of Committee on the maintenance of ministers having been called for was read. It was moved by J. Greenshields, seconded by J. Cameron, that the following recommendation be transmitted to Presbyteries as an interim Act, with instructions to report to next Synod, and Presbyteries not reporting shall be considered as approving.

That in every case where the settlement of a minister is about to take place, it is absolutely necessary that the minimum stipend, exclusive of any allowance from the Temporalities Board, be not less than four hundred dollars; that Presbyteries be enjoined to do all in their power to see that the congregations within their respective bounds, implement all pecuniary promises made by them to ministers; and that the Synod retain all discretionary power in its own hands.

It was moved in amendment by G. Neilson, seconded by W. Miller, That inasmuch as the stipends of a large number of the ministers of this Church are inadequate for their maintenance in a position becoming their office, and as ministers hereafter to be settled may be to a larger extent dependent upon the people for support, the Synod determine that in the settlement of any minister, Presbyteries shall use their influence with congregations to induce them to insure, if possible, a stipend which, together with the allowance from the Temporalities Fund, shall not be less than two hundred pounds currency; and that Presbyteries be strictly enjoined to use their best endeavors to induce the people to do their duty in this respect, not only as to their promise to pay new ministers, but also as to the fulfillment of promises made to ministers already settled amongst them.

It was also moved in amendment by A. Mann, seconded by J. Thom, That the recommendation of the Committee be sent down as an Overture to Presbyteries, but not to be in force as an interim Act.

The first amendment was carried against the second by a vote of 18 to 11, and the original motion against the first amendment by a vote of 43 to 15. The Moderator declared accordingly. Against this decision, J. S. Douglas and A. Mann dissented because (1) the Synod is putting a yoke on the congregations of this church which they cannot bear, and (2) the motion has been passed in the absence of many members of this Synod.

#### UNION WITH OTHER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES.

The Synod heard an Overture from Dr. George on a union between this Church and other Presbyterian Churches in this Province. It was moved by the Rev. J. Macmureh, seconded by D. Watson, That it is unwise and would be perilous to the harmony and peace of this Church to entertain the Overture at present. It was moved in amendment by G. Bell, seconded by A. Stirling, That a Committee consisting of Dr. George, *Convener*, Dr. Cook, Dr. Urquhart, G. Bell, D. Morrison, A. Morris, J. Greenshields, and G. Neilson, be appointed, to consider the subject and to be ready to meet with brethren belonging to the other Synods to ascertain their views and feelings on the matter, and report to next Synod. It was also moved in amendment by J. Gordon, seconded by J. Davidson, That the Synod express their approbation of the sentiments contained in the Overture, but inasmuch as they have had no official expression of the sentiments of the other Presbyterian denominations on this most important matter, that the memorial do lie on the table. The first amendment was carried against the second by a vote of 35 to 12, and the first amendment against the motion by a vote of 31 to 17. The Moderator declared accordingly. From this deliberance, Rev. J. Macmureh, J. Campbell (Nottowasaga), J. S. Douglas, H. Niven and D. Watson dissented, because (1) the motion for union should come from the Dissenters, and not from this Synod; (2) as we are successfully establishing our Church upon an endowments basis, we view it as a forsaking of our principle to seek union with pure voluntaries; (3) it is calculated to endanger the successful progress of the Home Mission Scheme; (4) the bodies with which union is sought have tampered with standards which we solemnly hold sacred and Scriptural; and (5) the contemplated union would be dangerous to our harmony as a Church. Robert Dobie and John Davidson also dissented.