

this matter, or to take any part in its deliberation or proceedings. We have, indeed, heretofore heard casually that a meeting of the Presbytery, held at Goderich, on the 8th of September last, and subsequent days, the most important interests of this congregation were deliberated upon, and disposed of without any reference to ourselves as a congregation; that these proceedings led to the resignation of our Pastor, and have been followed by much confusion and perplexity, chiefly owing to the irregularity with which they were initiated; but your memorialists, as a congregation, were never cited to take a part in these deliberations, and their concurrence in these irregular proceedings was only required after their most important interests had been disposed of. That concurrence your memorialists have deemed it proper to withhold, for reasons which they are now prepared to offer, and before entering upon any conference with the Presbytery on the course which it may now be prudent in the circumstance to take, we claim the privilege, which we think is due to us at our first regular appearance at your Bar, to express our sentiments in relation to the enquiry upon which the Presbytery have entered, and to the action already taken by the Presbytery in pursuing this investigation. Acting on this privilege we are constrained to acknowledge that we regard with sorrow and alarm the course which this Presbytery has taken in the inquiry enjoined on them by the Synod, in the matter contained in the memorial of Thomas Kydd. With sorrow, because we believe that course to have been irregular and at variance with the laws of the Church, and that it may be productive of much injustice to the parties principally concerned; and with alarm, lest the injustice already committed may have the effect of disturbing the harmony and even imperiling the existence of the present congregation.

Called upon as we are, for the first time, to take a part in the proceedings of the court in this momentous crisis of our affairs, it is incumbent on us, with the view of clearly explaining our position and intentions, hereby to review the action that has already been taken, as well by the Synod as by the Presbytery, in the matter of Thomas Kydd's memorial.

That memorial appears to have been presented to the Synod in a very unusual and irregular manner, and under circumstances, which, had they been known to the Synod, would have justified its summary rejection. It was not even sustained by the personal appearance of the complainant—a fatal objection to its reception, but for the generous waiver of the party complained against—and when the difficulty was so surmounted, the Synod, without further enquiry into its merits, without at all entering upon their consideration, without even having read the long statement that accompanied the short memorial of two pages, without considering it further than that its subject matter involved an enquiry which properly and legitimately belonged to the Presbytery, sent the memorial and the long written and printed statements, and other papers that accompanied it, down to the Presbytery of London, in order that they, as a court of competent investigation and adjudication, might make due enquiry into the whole matter complained of in the memorial. But as the memorial also charged the Presbytery of London with a design to stifle enquiry, and to obstruct the course of justice, the Synod at the same time issued a commission directed to three respected members of the Synod, who were instructed to advise with the Presbytery of London in their investigations, and to act as the assessors of the Presbytery in adjudicating on the subject matter of the complaints. As the memorial did not affect the appearance or form of an appeal to the Synod from a deliverance of the Presbytery, but was in fact, a complaint made directly to the Synod of matters which belonged legitimately to the Presbytery, as a court of original