

friendly than he! Caesar, assailed by conspirators, exclaimed, "This is violence!" And this unprovoked assault upon the pastoral relation at Lingwick is nothing short of violence. It is even worse than violence. To be cut off by envious daggers at a moment's notice would not be an impossible death for many of us, but to be hewed as a carcase fit for hounds, to be hunted with the pangs of death dispensed in the name of religion, and executed through refined cruelty having the sanction and dignity of ecclesiastical procedure affecting a minister's whole life and work, is a modern and intolerable form of persecution leading toward a cleavage which will prove disastrous to the Presbyterian Church in Canada or elsewhere. An unscrupulous leader or aspirant to leadership who, under such a system, can command a majority for the moment, may at once get rid, without cause assigned, of any presbyter who dares have a mind of his own.

Obedience is not Servility.

While proving obedience to authority from a child, I have not learned of the Lord to become senile and servile to such a situation as this! To bow to a despotism that represses thought and effort indicates a feeble conscience, the sandbank of arbitrary reformers. I and my congregation at Lingwick worked together in harmony, making progress in the Lord's work. The year ending March 31st, 1909, witnessed 14 new members added to the Church, it showed the greatest contribution to Church schemes, and the largest balances in all our treasuries. Suddenly and unawares the congregation, or, rather, the most weak-minded among us, were secretly raided by an infamous petition, the creation of conspirators who did not belong to this congregation. The petition, if such it may be called, was an outrage on the feelings of my congregation and community. It did us some injury, but it will injure most its authors and abettors. There is a time when silence is golden, while holding powers in reserve which is held in leash. There is also a time when men of will who have suffered long in silence are constrained to speak aloud. That time is now come.

Petition to Synod.

"To the Very Reverend the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa:

"The petition of the Kirk Session of Lingwick respectfully represents:

"(1) That the Rev. the Presbytery of Quebec, at a meeting of Presbytery, held at Sherbrooke, March 7th, 1905, did receive and cause to be read in open court a document purporting to be an appeal by Angus G. McKay, a member of this congregation, which was not transmitted through Session. That the said document was found defamatory, libellous, and false in every particular. That the floor of the Presbytery was irregularly made use of to circulate libellous and defamatory statements.

"(2) That at a meeting of Presbytery, held at Richmond, December, 1906, the Rev. the Presbytery of Quebec did receive a document purporting to be an appeal by the said Angus G. McKay, not transmitted through Session, and, in the face of a protest by pastor, the Presbytery, without hearing the Session, did issue their own deliberate judgment, which directly interfered with the Session in the just and proper exercise of discipline in the case.

"(3) That the Rev. the Presbytery of Quebec, March 6th, 1907, at a meeting of Presbytery, held at Quebec, did enjoin the Session of Lingwick to disjoin the said Angus G. McKay by certificate from the congregation, and, in obedience to this order, the Kirk Session of Lingwick, on April 2nd, 1907, disjoined the said Angus G. McKay by certificate from this congregation, and that since disjoining the said Angus G. McKay from this congregation, the Presbytery of Quebec allowed the said Angus