

did take direct action; and the writer was the mover of it in the Synod held in July, 1847, and it stands recorded. (See printed minutes, page 61.) And as another proof, he will find, on page 129, "that the Formula for ordination of ministers and elders, as in use in the U. P. Church in Scotland, be adopted by this Synod," was carried, on motion of Revs. Messrs. Skinner and Dick.

We certainly receive "A Layman's" remarks in the spirit of love, but, at the same time, in all the firmness of a Presbyterian, we have given him our answer. We believe him to be an intelligent, good man, but just in too great a hurry to satisfy his likings. And we ask him if, without a vote of Synod, we could not, and did not, alter the name of the Church, or adopt even the formula for ordination, can we, without sanction of Synod, admit the Hymn Book? We leave it to his good sense to reply.

Now, a word in conclusion. If the Hymn Book is introduced in a constitutional way, we shall advocate it. If its sanction comes up before the Synod, we shall support it; but, *as is the case*, if any minister has used it before that time, and another minister impeaches him at the bar of Synod, we will be bound, on our constitutional principles, to sustain such impeachment. That, *that is the point*, and however others may differ from us, we cannot, as we read the gospel, find that it can advance the praise of God to have a quarrel among brethren. The whole subject, we are perfectly convinced, will be amicably and satisfactorily settled in June, and for the peace of the Church, it is surely not a long time to wait, to gain so desirable an object.

TORONTO PRESBYTERY.

The Presbytery of Toronto met on the 8th instant, Rev. Mr. Jennings Moderator. The Committee appointed to examine Mr. Bruce, student, gave in their report, which was received and sustained. The Rev. Mr. Sinclair being present, was, according to the rules of the Church, received into full connection with the church, and his name placed on the list of Probationers. The deputation appointed at a previous meeting of the Presbytery, to visit those congregations receiving aid from the Mission Fund, was enjoined to fulfil their appointment as soon as possible, and to report to the Committee on Missions, without delay. Mr. Lees, student, was examined on the exercises assigned him at last meeting of Presbytery. They were received very favourably, and regarded as highly satisfactory, and Mr. Lees was encouraged in his studies.

Mr. Fotheringham, student, transferred from the Presbytery of Durham, was received under the inspection of the Toronto Presbytery—and exercises were assigned him and Messrs. Lees and Bruce, to be prepared and delivered at next meeting of Presbytery.

The Presbytery had also laid on the table a Petition signed by twenty persons in Toronto, requesting to be organised into a second congregation, under its inspection. The usual course, according to the rules of the Church in such cases, was taken, and the Rev. Mr. Pringle appointed to preach to them on the Tuesday after the first Sabbath of March, make the usual investigations, and report to the Presbytery at next meeting, which takes place on the third day of May next.

D.

[To the last paragraph of the above official report we may add a little. For about three months past, there has been a report floating, even at distant parts, that there was to be a disruption in the U. P. Church, Toronto; and from some quarters we heard strange versions of what was, and what was to be. Now, there it is in an authentic shape. After three months' planning, and working, and canvassing, twenty persons have subscribed a petition for a second church; and of these twenty, fifteen were at any time connected with the present church.

The petitioners set forth not one word against the present congregation or minister; but chiefly that the great body of the Presbyterians in this city, are attached to our principles—and almost all the Free Church people in particular—and would connect themselves with our Church. If so, it is singular that they do not connect themselves with the Church that is in existence. If so, it is remarkably singular that so few signed the petition. However, we can't account for things. But, as the hope of the petitioners was founded on the Free Churchmen, in particular, turning United Presbyterians; and as the movement of the petitioners

was out of regard to the spiritual benefit of Free Churchmen, in particular, we trust the members of that communion will duly appreciate what has been done for them, and gladly shall we hail them to our ranks. It seems, now, that the threatened disruption is not in the U. P. Church, but in the Free Churches—all are ready for us—and we admonish the Rev. Mr. Irvine and Dr. Burns to prepare for the worst. They had better just come along with their people.

In regard to the whole matter, we shall only add—

1. That, of course, it is a movement, being in reality what it professed to be—to give the means of grace to a population that has already a Church to every 1500 inhabitants, to give a Church to the Presbyterians, who have already one to every 300 of the number, and especially for the benefit of the Free Churchmen, who are all, or almost all, ready to join our communion.

2. That, of course, it is to be taken for granted there is none of the spirit of a vanquished Diotrophes in the matter.

3. Surely there are no doctrinal sympathies and affinities in the case.]

PRESBYTERY OF DURHAM.

The above reverend body held their regular quarterly meeting at Newton, in Clarke, on the 4th January; and it is pleasing to have to record the fact, that every member of Presbytery (with the exception of one elder) was present. Among other matters of routine business, the following, presenting somewhat of general interest, engaged the attention of the Presbytery, viz: A paper from the congregation in Amherst Island, containing the statistics of that congregation, with a petition to the Committee on Missions for the supplement of \$15 currency, to their minister's stipend. The progress of the cause in that Island has been most satisfactory, and if the present state of activity is maintained till the embarrassments from building, &c. are removed, the congregation, to all appearance, will be likely to become even more prosperous than it has been during the short period in which pastoral labours have been enjoyed. Among the surest indications of this nature, are the prayer-meetings and the prosperous Sabbath school. The Presbytery agreed unanimously to recommend the application, in the usual way, to the above Committee, and instructed the Clerk to transmit accordingly.

A petition from the congregation of Lindsay and Verulam was also received. The prayer of the petition was, that an appointment might be made of a member of Presbytery, to moderate in a call to one to be their pastor. The Commissioner, Mr. E. Fisher, was fully heard in support of the petition, and in reference to the unanimous wish of the people in this matter, and also respecting the arrangements they had been making in regard to ministerial support. It was also intimated that the station at Mariposa desired to unite in this movement.

To and in arriving at a proper judgment in this case, the Presbytery received, at this stage of the business, the report of Mr. Thornton, who had been previously appointed to congregate the Mariposa station. Mr. T. intimated that he had, in terms of his appointment, constituted the said station into a congregation in connection with the Presbytery, and assured the Presbytery that the members were most anxious to unite in the call. After due deliberation, the prayer of the petitioners was granted, and the Rev. J. Ewing of Eady, was appointed to moderate at Lindsay on the Tuesday after the fourth Sabbath of January, at 12 o'clock, noon.

A formal inquiry was laid before the Presbytery, respecting the introduction of the Hymn Book, lately published under the sanction of the U. P. Synod in Scotland. The Presbytery, after entering fully into the consideration of the relative position of the U. P. Church in Canada, and that of the Parent Church, and of the uniform procedure here, in reference to matters of common interest, unanimously resolved, "That it is the opinion of this Presbytery that any Session and Congregation in the bounds, concurring in the matter, have an indisputable right to adopt the Hymn Book published under the sanction of the Home Synod," which was accompanied with a recommendation to pay a due regard to unanimity and general edification.

The remainder of the Session was occupied with the exercises of the Students within the bounds of the Presbytery. Mr. Gilbert Tweedie delivered the whole of his trials for License, and after lengthened exam-