

XIII. SEDERUNT.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY,

June 22, 1853, 2 o'clock, P. M.

The Synod of the United Presbyterian Church in Canada met, and was constituted by the Rev. Mr. Barrie, Moderator.

The Roll was called, and the minutes of the last Sederunt were read and sustained.

The Rev. Mr. Jennings here handed in the reasons of protest for himself and the Session of the Toronto congregation, against the Resolution of Synod, passed immediately after the reading the minutes in the morning, in relation to their case, as follows—viz:

Toronto Session;
Protest of.

The Rev. Mr. Jennings, in his own name, and in behalf of the Session of Toronto, dissents and protests against the decision for the following reasons:

1. Because he and the Session dissented and protested, when the decision was come to, on the ground that they would appear before no select committee, having the strong desire that the whole case should be examined in public.

2. Because the Synod had, at a previous Sederunt, agreed to take up the whole case, having summoned the parties to the Bar; and that therefore the decision to proceed by private committee was a deviation from a course previously agreed on.

3. Because any party has a right to dissent and protest at any and every stage of the proceedings affecting their case.

In behalf of the Session of Toronto,

(Signed) JOHN JENNINGS, Moderator.

The Committee on public questions, with especial reference to the questions of—1st, Slavery; 2nd, Sectarian Schools; 3rd, Right of Public Discussion—reported,

Public questions

First, on the question of Slavery, they submitted the following resolutions for the adoption of the Synod:

Report of
Committee on
Slavery.

1. That the Synod feel called upon to express the unqualified and unmitigated abhorrence with which they have always contemplated Slavery, as repugnant to the light of reason, the principles of natural justice, and the spirit and precepts of our holy religion.

2. That the Synod are grieved to know that Slavery still prevails among nations which have made great progress in civilization, and are distinguished for their religious privileges and professions. And the Synod cannot refrain from referring, in particular, to many of the United States of America, where church members, and even office-bearers, are said to be deeply implicated in the matter.

3. That the Synod deeply regret, that comparatively few of the churches in the United States have taken such energetic action on this subject as the Synod consider to be demanded; while some of them have altogether connived at this evil, and others have almost directly given it their sanction. That the Synod are persuaded, that decided practical testimony borne by the religious portion of the community against this great enormity of Slavery, is likely to prove one of the most effectual means of its suppression; and that there is little hope of that object being accomplished so long as that testimony is withheld.