

After friendly conference, the Committee adjourned, to meet in the United Presbyterian Church, Bay Street, at half-past 8 o'clock, P.M.

Eodem die, half-past 8 o'clock.—The committee met, according to adjournment. Present as above, except Rev. W. Ormiston.

Prayer having been offered, consideration of the important matter before the Committee was resumed. After mature deliberation, characterised by the greatest harmony and brotherly kindness, it was unanimously agreed to unite in bringing forward the following statements as a declaration in terms of the minute referred to above.

I. Of the Headship of Christ.

We maintain that the Lord Jesus Christ is the only King and Head of his Church; that the laws by which she is to be governed are contained only in the Inspired Scriptures; that Christ has made her free from all external or secular authority in the administration of her own affairs; and that she is bound to assert and defend this liberty to the utmost, and ought not to enter into any such engagements with any party whatsoever as would be prejudicial to it.

II. Of the Liberty of Conscience.

We maintain that "God is the only Lord of the Conscience," and that therefore every person ought to be at full liberty to "search the Scriptures" for himself, and to follow out what he conscientiously believes to be the teaching of Scriptures, without let or hindrance. But if any person, under the plea of liberty of conscience, presumes to disturb the peace of society, or to set aside the lawful authority of the magistrate, or to blaspheme the name of God openly and wantonly, or to disturb the public religious worship of his neighbor, we declare that these are abuses which the magistrate ought to repress, both for the glory of God and the public weal.

III. Of the Duties of the Civil Magistrate.

We maintain that while the Civil Magistrate, as such, is not an officer in the Church of Christ, and may not therefore assume any ecclesiastical functions, or claim power to act as an interpreter of the Word of God, or as an administrator in matters spiritual and ecclesiastical, he has yet an important part to act in his official capacity in relation to the kingdom of Christ; that it is his duty in his public, as well as in his private capacity, to acknowledge the authority of Christ as the supreme governor among nations: and that in this view, without taking cognizance of offences against morality considered as sins against God, he ought to see that, in aiming to promote the social well-being in subordination to the Divine Glory, the laws of the land, in their enactment and administration, are avowedly in accordance with the principles of justice and morality inculcated in the Scriptures.

At the present time we think it necessary especially to declare, that he is bound to acknowledge the divine authority of the Christian Sabbath, and to secure all his subjects their right to enjoy the sacred rest of that day.

NOTE.—It is to be understood that the sections in the Westminster Confession of Faith, bearing upon the relation of the civil magistrate to matters of religion, are received by us in accordance with the above given statements.

The Committees would also here take occasion unitedly to record their gratitude to God, who, they believe, has thus graciously guided them in their deliberations; and the satisfaction they feel in the prospect of success about to crown their unworthy efforts: And further, they would earnestly recommend to their respective Synods the prosecution to completion of the object contemplated, fraught as they conceive it to be with the prosperity and success of the Presbyterian Church, and with the glory of God, in these lands.