

STANDING COMMITTEES.

COMMITTEE ON STATE OF RELIGION.

The following were appointed as the Committee on State of Religion for the ensuing year.

Messrs. D. D. McLeod (convenor), McKinnon, Waite, Thompson (Sarnia), Goldsmith, Anderson (Tiverton), Ross, and Hartley, ministers; and Messrs. J. Henderson, Barr, Gordon, G. Black, Mundell, Ballantyne, and Montgomery, Elders.

COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE.

Messrs. John Straith (convenor), Arch'd McLean, Goodwillie, and W. A. Wilson, Ministers; and Messrs. A. Mathieson, D. K. McKenzie, and Hon. A. Vidal, Elders.

COMMITTEE ON S. SCHOOLS.

Messrs. M. Fraser (convenor), J. McEwen, B. Hamilton, and Becket, Ministers, and Messrs. Hossie, D. D. Wilson, and Dr. McDonald, Elders.

PETITION OF REV. D. MANN.

A petition of Rev. D. Mann, regarding certain acts of the Presbytery of Stratford, and praying the Synod to take such steps as in its wisdom it might see fit, for the protection and defence of his ministerial character, was next read.

Mr. Mann was heard at length in support of his petition.

It was thereafter moved by Mr. McMullen, seconded by Mr. A. D. McDonald, "Having heard the petition of Mr. Mann, and having heard the petitioner in support of the same, the Synod receive the petition, and appoint a commission of Synod, with power to call for documents, cite parties, and issue the case.

It was moved in amendment by Mr. John Laing, seconded by Mr. James Gordon: The Synod having heard the petition of Mr. Mann, and heard Mr. Mann in support of the same, resolve that inasmuch as it is manifest that the dealings of the Presbytery of Stratford have failed to allay the unhappy troubles in the congregation of Biddulph—that the character of Mr. Mann has suffered in consequence of what has occurred, and that the peace of the congregation has been endangered, thereby resolve, that the Synod take the whole matter out of the hands of the Presbytery, and appoint a commission of Synod, with power to call for persons and papers, to proceed to Biddulph, meet with all parties, investigate the whole matter, and dispose of it.

On the vote being taken between the motion and amendment, the motion was carried and became the judgment of the court.

From this decision Mr. Laing dissented for the following reason: I record my dissent from this decision in my own name and in the name of those who may adhere to it, because the Synod has thus received a petition, which the Presbytery of Stratford had deliberately refused to transmit, because of statements contained therein, without first having passed judgment on the reasons for the Presbytery's refusal to do so, thus ignoring the Presbytery's unquestioned right to judge of the terms in which a petition is expressed which contains grave reflections against them.

Messrs. McPherson, Croly, Whimster, Hamilton and McEwen joined Mr. Laing in his dissent.

It w
mission at

F

The
against a d
a place cal
The
The
Leak; for
son, and M
the Presby
Whi
arrived, an
Moderator

Zion
hundred s
pursuant
at the regi
The

The
Mullen, co
James, Dr
elders.

The
Church th
the comm
interests.

Dr.
in a repor
the efforts
After
moved by
the report
diligence;
in this mo
take such;

The
apud acta