

Committee of Synod to consider a petition of Rev. Robert McGill on the subject of certain grievances. In the report, signed "John Cook, Convener," appear these words :

"First.—That ever since the formation of Congregations, and the settlement of ministers in connection with the Church of Scotland, in these Provinces, they have claimed both in virtue of the Treaty of Union between England and Scotland, and the Act thirty-first George Third, commonly called the Constitutional Charter, a communication of all the rights, privileges and advantages, equally with the Church of England, and this claim has been in various ways advocated with the Government, and so far admitted as to render any infringement of it, during its pendency, an actual injustice."

The Synod appointed the Moderator and Mr. John Cook to draft a petition to the King in accordance with the resolutions, the first of which is given above. That petition contained the following clause :

"Your petitioners complain of this Act (the Rectories Act is referred to) because it places them and all the members of their congregations in the same state of disability in respect to the Church of England in this Province, as that in which Dissenters in England are placed in regard to the Established Church there; because they conceive that said Act is a violation of the Treaty of Union, which entitles them in a British Colony to a communication of all rights, &c., equally with the subjects of England, and because the Royal message to the Provincial Legislature in the year 1832, recognized the just claims of the established Church of Scotland, &c."

A pamphlet had been published a few months previous to the meeting of Synod in 1836, by the Rev. Henry Esson, which was brought before the Synod by overture, alleging that it contained opinions inconsistent with the standards of the Church of Scotland, and subversive of all religious establishments. The overture and pamphlet were referred to a Committee, of which Dr. Machar was Convener. The report states:—"That as the principles of this Synod, as a branch of the established Church of Scotland, respecting the duty of Christian rulers to support the true religion, are sufficiently declared in her standards, it is unnecessary to emit any further declarations on this subject," and ending by disapproving of the pamphlet, but with some qualifying phrases. Mr. JOHN COOK moved in amendment that these phrases should be expunged and the following substituted:—"Declare that it is contrary to the standards of this Church to teach that Government is not entitled to make distinctions in favour of particular Churches," and the report thus amended was adopted.

What did Dr. Cook say in 1837? As Moderator of the Presbytery of Quebec (at that time the only Presbytery of our Church in Lower Canada), he signed a letter of instructions from that Presbytery to Dr. Mathieson, regarding his public duties in Scotland. In that letter we find these words:—

"8th Clergy Reserves.—You will endeavour to keep alive, in the Church of Scotland, the interest already expressed in our just claims to a portion of these reserves, as belonging to an Established Church of the British Empire, co-ordinate with the Church of England. You will show the utter inefficiency of the voluntary principle in the circumstances of these Colonies, and make every exertion in your power with the Government to have our claims