

At this conference, it will be observed, judgment was passed upon the church as the subjoined account of the proceedings will show.

A united meeting of the pastors and deacons of the churches thus addressed met on December 23rd at the residence of Rev. H. D. Powis to unitedly consider the above resolutions. It was agreed to submit to the respective churches the following:—

“A careful consideration of the resolutions passed at the meeting of the Bond Street church on the 8th of December, 1880, leads to the conclusion that the said resolutions are not fitted to restore the confidence which has been broken, seeing that regret for the ‘results’ is mentioned, but any expression of regret for the actions which necessarily led to those results appears to have been studiously avoided.”

“We desire to say that, recognizing the right of a church to regulate its affairs, whatever individual opinion may be, we would not have made the unhappy events which have occurred in connection with the church in Bond street the present subject of church action, had not that church requested our pastor and office-bearers to meet with them in formal conference, and subsequently have laid these resolutions before us; it is therefore forced upon us to allude to those actions by which the Bond street church placed itself outside the Congregational Union and of the fellowship of their sister churches, and to that constant justification of the course which perpetuates the alienation.

“We believe the Bond street church to have acted not only ‘unfortunately,’ but unwisely even to wrong-doing, in forming a connection with their late pastor, with his known antecedents, and the peculiar relation in which he stood to the denomination to which he belonged when the call was given to him; we also believe that the action of the majority towards a large and worthy minority, who protested against the induction of the late pastor, and were in consequence of that induction obliged to withdraw from the church, was unkind; that the persistency of the church in retaining Mr. Handford in spite of reports which had become matters of public notoriety, even to their finding their way into the public press, was at least most strange; we also think that the action of the Bond street church in refusing to meet with the committee appointed by the Union was wrong and uncourteous, calculated at once to destroy all fellowship, and we believe that the results which have been so injurious not only to the Congregational body in Canada, but also to the Christian churches of Toronto, and which the resolutions deplore, have been the inevitable results of the unwise and unkind action above referred to, and that, therefore, the separation which exists between that