

duly seconded, viz. : Papers being read, and commissioners from St. Andrew's congregation having been heard; and also a paper from Mr. Scott, expressing his earnest adherence to his resignation, the Presbytery accept the said resignation, and declare the pastoral relation between the Rev. John Scott and St. Andrew's congregation dissolved, said dissolution to take effect on the 2nd Sabbath of April next, and that the clerk, Dr. Proudfoot, Mr. Duncan, ministers, and Mr. Staveley, elder, be appointed a Committee to draft a minute expressive of the Presbytery's esteem and affection for Mr. Scott. It was moved in amendment, by Mr. Cuthbertson, and duly seconded, That papers being read, and having heard commissioners, as also a written statement from Mr. Scott pressing the acceptance of his resignation, having also respect to a resolution submitted by the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, London, the Presbytery agree to express their deep-felt distress at the course of circumstances that has occurred within the last two years to disturb the peace and hinder the prosperity of the congregation, bringing them into undue prominence before the Church and the world. The Presbytery express further their unqualified disapprobation at the sentiments entertained and expressed to one another, and to Mr. Scott, by sections of the congregation; and the failure of carrying out solemn obligations made by them, with the expressed intention of lessening Mr. Scott's labours, and retaining his presence among them. The Presbytery thus express themselves from the fact that the issue of this case will act disastrously to the congregation itself, and injuriously to the interests of Presbyterianism at large: yet agree to accept, as they hereby do accept, with deep regret, Mr. Scott's resignation, only at his own earnestly expressed desire so to be relieved. The vote being taken, the motion of Mr. McKinnon was carried. The clerk was appointed to preach and declare the pulpit vacant on the 3rd Sabbath of April, and Mr. McDonald, of Dorchester, to act as interim moderator of session thereafter. Mr. Bailey's appeal and other matters were left to be considered at a meeting to be held during the meeting of Synod in May next.

GEO. CUTHBERTSON, *Clerk.*

Communications.

THE LATE DR. THORNTON.

In our last issue we briefly noticed the death of the Rev. Robert H. Thornton, D.D., of Oshawa, which took place on the 11th of February. The death of such a minister, however, demands a fuller notice; and we avail ourselves of the materials furnished in a biographical sketch of the deceased, published in the *British American Presbyterian* of the 5th ult., to present to our readers the following notice of the life and labors of Dr. Thornton.

He was born in 1806 in the parish of West Calder. His parents were eminently godly, and their instructions, prayers, and example were, by the blessing of God, effectual in turning him in early years to the ways of God. From a child he knew the Scriptures, and having given himself to the Lord, he set his heart in early life on the gospel ministry. Having received the more elementary parts of his education in his native parish, he removed when about fourteen years of age to Falkirk, where his elder brother conducted an educational seminary. Here he assisted in the duties of the school, and at the same time diligently prosecuted his own studies.

In due time he became an alumnus of the University of Edinburgh, where he distinguished himself, especially in Professor Wilson's class. Part of his literary course he took at St. Andrew's. Having finished his literary course he entered the Divinity Hall of the Secession Church,