

The other overture was transmitted by the Presbytery of Ottawa, and was with reference to the desirableness of a Synodical observance of the Lord's Supper at the annual meeting of Synod. The overture was read, and was supported by Mr. T. Wardrope and Mr. Goulay. The overture was favourably received and was referred to a Committee to report at an early sederunt. We may here state that this Committee reported at a subsequent sederunt, their report embodying a recommendation that the ordinance of the Lord's Supper be dispensed in connection with the meeting of Synod in Hamilton next year, and that a Committee be appointed to mature a plan to be submitted at an early diet of next Synod for the carrying out of this desirable object. The ministers of the several churches in Hamilton and the representative elders were appointed a Committee for this purpose, Dr. Ormiston, Convener.

At the morning sederunt of Thursday, 5th, the Synod proceeded to fix the time and place of the next ordinary meeting of Synod. After considerable discussion it was agreed that Hamilton and the Central Church there (Dr. Ormiston's) should be the place of meeting, and that the time should be the first Tuesday of June, 1863, at half-past seven p. m.

CASES OF APPEAL, &c.

The Ashburn Case.—In connection with this case there were several appeals, &c.

1. A protest and appeal of Mr. Thomas Sharp, minister at Ashburn, against the action of the Presbytery of Ontario in appointing a special meeting at Ashburn for the purpose of investigating certain difficulties between Mr. Sharp and members of that congregation.

2. Appeal of Mr. Sharp against the Presbytery of Ontario in recognizing Mr. William Heron as a representative elder, and a member of Presbytery.

3. Complaint of Mr. Sharp against the Presbytery of Ontario for denying to him certain rights and privileges as a member of Presbytery and for granting certificates to certain parties.

4. A reference by the Presbytery of Ontario of the whole Ashburn case.

The several parties in these appeals, &c., were heard at length, and all papers read.

With reference to Mr. Sharp's first appeal three motions were submitted. The first by Mr. Kemp, was to the effect that the Synod dismiss the dissent and complaint of Mr. Sharp and declare the action of the Presbytery competent and lawful. An amendment was moved by Principal Willis to the effect that the Synod sustain the appeal to the effect that in the resolution against which the appellant reclaims there was some ground for dissatisfaction in so far as the Presbytery's visitation of Ashburn, although competent, was liable, at the stage at which the matter had arrived, to be misinterpreted, as a re-opening of the entire question of Mr. Sharp's continued relation to his congregation, instead of a measure for determining the question as to separate supply of religious ordinances to the dissentients, or effecting such reconciliation of the parties as the Presbytery seems honourably to have aimed at. Another amendment was moved by Mr. William Inglis to the effect that the Synod sustain the protest and appeal and declare that the Presbytery of Ontario having, with the assistance of Synodical assessors, come to a decision on the whole case, were not justified, without new matter having emerged, to reopen what was already *res judicata*.

The amendment of Principal Willis was ultimately carried and adopted as the deliverance of the court. Against this decision a large number of members dissented for reasons given in.

On the second point, viz: the recognition on the part of the Presbytery of Mr. Heron as a member of the court four different motions were brought forward. That by Mr. Kemp was adopted. It was to the following effect: dismiss the dissent and complaint of Mr. Sharp against the decision of the Presbytery regarding Mr. Heron and confirm the action of the Presbytery.