

Convenor wrote to the parties appointed Trustees who were not present at the Synod, requesting written permission to insert their names in the Trust. One or two of these gentlemen declined and the Committee using a discretion unavoidable in the circumstances obtained the consent of others to take their places. From one gentleman only the Convenor did not receive any reply to his communication; but from previous conversations on the subject with him he was led to suppose that his silence might be interpreted as consent; subsequent developments, however, have shown that this inference was not correct.

The Bill was finally introduced into Parliament, and having been read a first and second time, was sent to the Committee on private Bills. Up to this stage of the proceedings not a whisper of opposition was heard. Hopes were accordingly entertained that the Act would be passed through both chambers of the Legislature without opposition, and receive the Royal assent before the meeting of the Synod in June, 1858.

In this expectation the promoters of the Bill have been disappointed. At the first meeting of the "Private Bill Committee" a member of Parliament connected with our Church entered a serious objection to what was considered by its promoters to be the very principle of the Bill. With due consideration for the interests of parties concerned, a delay of a few days was granted by the Committee for its consideration. In the meantime enquiry was made by members of the Synod's Committee as to the grounds of the opposition now raised against the most important clause of the "Act." It was considered that every care had been taken to prepare the Bill with a due regard to the well-founded antipathies of the Protestants of this country to ecclesiastical incorporations. In the matter of real estate we had limited ourselves to the holding of only so much as was necessary for College buildings and grounds, and in the event of our obtaining bequests of real estate we were willing to bind ourselves to alienate or dispose of them within three years under the penalty of forfeiture. To avoid besides the possibility of taking advantage of death-bed bequests we were willing to regard those bequests only as legal which had been made six months before the death of the party bequeathing. These provisions it was conceived would effectually guard us from the allegation of giving any sanction to the objectionable corporate powers claimed by Popish institutions.

It appears, however, that many of our friends in the *House*, detected in our "Act" a clause which they deem highly objectionable, and the passing of which they determined to oppose both in Committee, and on the third reading in the House. The second clause is that to which they objected and is as follows:—

The principles and doctrines to be taught in the said College by the professors and tutors, or other persons who shall, from time to time, and at all times hereafter be employed or appointed in giving instruction in said College, shall be such and such only as are consistent with the "Confession of Faith;" "The larger and shorter Catechisms," and "The Form of Church Government," all of which are called "The Westminster Standards;" Provided always, that the said "Confession of Faith" be understood and taken with the explanatory note thereto agreed upon by the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, met at Toronto in the year of our Lord, 1854; Provided also, that the said Westminster Standards be taken and understood, together with such other or further directions and rules as to Church government, discipline or worship, as may from time to time be prescribed or ordained by the Synod of the said Presbyterian Church of Canada, and that such directions and rules be duly recorded in the Minute Book of the said Synod, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk for the time being of such Synod; Provided also, that in case of difference of opinion in regard to the true meaning of the said principles, doctrines, standards, directions, and rules, or any of either of them, the same shall be taken and deemed to be in accordance with the interpretation thereof respectively by the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada at a regular meeting thereof, of all which directions, rules, or interpretations, a copy certi-