

The Synod having considered the returns from Presbyteries and Sessions on the overture of Knox Church, Montreal, in reference to the introduction of instrumental music into the service of praise, and finding that a majority of Presbyteries and a still larger proportion of the Sessions decline to grant the liberty craved.

Therefore, Resolved—That the Synod, without pronouncing the use of instrumental music in public worship inconsistent either with the word of God or the standards of this Church, having respect to the peace and unity of the church, and to the importance, in a matter of such moment, to give full time for the careful consideration of a proposal, affecting a long established usage of worship in the denomination,—decline to grant the prayer of the overture.

9. Moved by the Rev. Dr. Willis, seconded by Rev. J. McTavish :

That, having considered the reports on the remits to Presbyteries and sessions, on the subject of the use of instrumental music in the worship of God, the Synod finds that a large majority disapprove of granting the prayer of the memorial before the house ; and that, though a variety of sentiment is ascertained to exist, throughout our congregations, the introduction of a practice so alien from Presbyterian usage, and to unknown to the church generally, for ages after Christ, would be deeply offensive to many consciences, and endanger the present peace and unity of this church. The Synod do therefore decline to give the sanction asked ; and gratified at the respect so far already evinced by the congregations, themselves favourable to the practice referred to, to the authority of the Courts of the church, would earnestly urge on such congregations to have continued regard to those general interests of order and peace, which we doubt not, they, in common with the Synod, appreciate as a duty of christian fellowship,—more especially in a Presbyterian Church. The Synod, moreover, sympathizing with the honorable desire to improve the singing in our congregations do earnestly recommend attention to this part of the service of the House of God, so as to secure general concert in praise, with all due care for the honour of God, and edification of the church, as well as deference to a well cultivated taste.

10. Moved by Dr. Jennings, seconded by Rev. W. Gregg,

That the overture on the use of instrumental music in worship be laid on the table.

11. Moved by Rev. A. Tolmie, seconded by Rev. J. McMillan,

The Synod having taken up the returns from Presbyters and Sessions anent the overture from Knox's Church, Montreal, and finding from these that the voice of the Church is against granting the prayer of said overture, agree to express no judgment in the meantime as to the scripturality of the use of instruments in the public worship of God, yet believing that, should Synodical action be given to the use, the peace and unity of the Church would be endangered : be it therefore resolved, that the prayer of the overture be not granted.

12. Moved by Hon. C. Vidal, seconded by Mr. McKay,

That the motion of the Rev. T. McPherson be amended by striking out all of the words "therefore resolved" and substituting the following : "That the introduction of instrumental music as an aid in singing praise to God in the public worship of the congregations of this Church is an unnecessary innovation upon its long established usage ; but that inasmuch as it is not unscriptural, the Synod cannot make a difference of opinion or of practice in respect thereto, a barrier against receiving congregations in which the practice prevails, nor authoritatively interfere with the christian liberty of congregations to adopt the use of instruments of music when there may be unanimity or a near approach to unanimity in a congregation in respect to its desirableness."