

Read an Overture from Mr. Skinner, requesting the Synod to settle the question, which was raised at the meeting of Synod in 1852, as to the representation of two or more congregations, under one pastoral charge, in Presbyteries and in Synod.

It was agreed to delay the further consideration of this Overture.

Read an Overture from the Presbytery of London, on the payment of preachers, by vacancies and stations, recommending that the Synod modify the law on this matter, as stated in the Resolutions, 1st and 2nd, page 20, of the printed minutes of 1852. Whereupon it was

*Resolved*—That while a certain sum is specified, in the first section referred to, as a point to which Presbyteries should endeavour to bring their vacancies, it was nevertheless understood, and it is now recorded, that Presbyteries were allowed a discretionary power, to accept a smaller sum in cases where that should be judged reasonable.

The Synod now resolved itself into a Committee of the whole house. Mr. Caw in the chair.

The Committee of the Whole rose. The Synod resumed. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole reported, to the following effect:—

That the Synod do recommend that the Ministers of this Church do' on the 1st Sabbath of July next, preach on the importance of the due observance of Family Worship; and on the following Sabbath, on the Religious Education of the Young. And, further, that the Presbyteries and Sessions of this Church be requested to make the topics mentioned in this report, or similar topics, a subject of conversation, at their earliest convenience.

The Synod did, and do hereby, adopt the report of the Committee of the Whole, and agreed to recommend and request in terms thereof.

Dr. William Taylor reported from the Committee to whom was referred the complaint of Mr. Jennings against Mr. Coutts, in the terms following, that is to say:—

HAMILTON, June 9, 1854.

The Committee appointed in the case of "Rev. Mr. Jennings' complaint against Rev. Mr. Coutts," met according to appointment of the Synod: Rev. Dr. Taylor in the chair. The proceedings were opened with prayer by the chairman.

The members of Committee expressed their sentiments in succession. Parties were heard; and the following agreement was ultimately arrived at:—

The Rev. Mr. Coutts hereby retracts the charges which he brings against the Rev. Mr. Jennings, in two numbers of the *North American Newspaper*, dated March 7th and 9th, 1854, over the signature of "A Member of Presbytery"—so far as said charges affect his moral and professional character, and expresses his sorrow for having made them public in such a way.